

Isaiah 55:10-13
“The Purpose of God’s Word”

Intro./Context

I. 2 “parts” of Isaiah

A. Ch.1-39 – Judgment of God

B. Ch.40-66 – Redemption through God

- 1.) 40:1 = new message of comfort and hope: He was still their God and they were still His people.
 - a.) New message of hope & comfort would come through the redemption made possible through the Messiah.
- 2.) Is. 55 – This salvation was/is for all people, as is revealed through God’s personal invitation/words.

Body

I. The purpose of God’s word

A. V.10-11 – it’s purposeful; it isn’t random; **it’s pointed** (Heb. 4:12); *all* of it *always* serves a purpose – 2 Tim. 3:16.

- 1.) *Rain & snow each have a primary purpose: they water the earth.*
- 2.) *Why does the earth need watering? To produce & sustain life and food.*
- 3.) *Just like the rain & snow fall for their purpose (they just don’t fall & return to the sky; never wasted), so too does God’s word fulfill His purpose of producing & sustaining spiritual life & food:*

a.) **V.10-11 – “For as the rain comes down and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth...”** – Luke 8:11 – *the seed is the word of God.*

i.) Col. 1:3-6; John 5:24; 6:63, 68; Deut. 8:3; James 1:21; 1 Pet. 1:22-2:3; Ps. 119: 25, 50, 93, 103, 107; Mark 4:1-20.

b.) *But just as with physical food, if we don’t take & eat of God’s word, we won’t experience the nourishment it provides = why so many are starving to death spiritually: they’re feeding on everything but God’s word – V.2.*

B. V.11 – “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth...”

- 1.) It won’t return void (empty) – Num. 23:19; Ps. 89:34; Jer. 33:20-21. (**The words my earthly father**).
- 2.) It will accomplish what **He** pleases/desires – Is. 14:27; 43:13; 46:9-11; Dan. 4:35. (**God doesn’t work within a democracy**).
- 3.) It will prosper (be fruitful) for the purpose He sent it. (**Which is what?**)

a.) **V.12 – Joy & peace – Ps. 19:8; 119: 111; 162; 165**

i.) **Joy** for the captives of Israel being liberated from their slavery, past and future (Is. 42:5-9; 44:21-23; 52:7-10) and **Joy** for the captives today – v.1 – “**Everyone who thirsts...**” – 2 Pet. 3:9; John 3:16.

aa.) Hope for the hopeless; rest for the restless; sight for the blind; strength for the weak; life for the dead.

ii.) **Peace** = that passes all understanding – Phil. 4:7 = God’s peace – John 14:27 = **internal** peace in the midst of **external** chaos!

aa.) Is. 55:6-9 – Sinful man could never fathom God’s plan of salvation! – 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Eph. 3:20.

ab.) *Joy & peace accrued from God’s word the same way as life & food: you have to accept it & consume it* – Is. 55:1-3; Jer. 15:16; 1 Thess. 2:13.

b.) **V.13 – Transformation**

i.) Cypress tree in the place of the thorn; the myrtle tree in the place of the brier – Is. 41:17-20

ii.) *In spite of who/what we are & what we have done, God replaces our sinful wages with the fruit of His eternal life. Life in place of pain, suffering & death* – Rom. 5:20; 2 Cor. 5:21; 8:9.

c.) **V.13 – An eternal testimony = God’s glory**

a.) Is. 42:6-7; 43:10-13; 49:6; 60:1-3; Mal. 1:11; Luke 2:25-32; Acts 13:46-47

b.) Matt. 5:13-16; John 10:27-30