

Is. 25:1-9 “Plans from Long Ago”

For the Children: It can be quite boring waiting for someone to turn up – especially if you don't know what time they are supposed to be there or what is keeping them. Is it because they planned all along to do certain things before catching up with you? Or is it because something outside their control has delayed them? Well, we don't know when the Lord is coming back. But we do know that He is doing exactly what He has always planned. We know that His plans are for our good – to deal with our enemies and to bless us through the Lord Jesus. We also know that He always keeps His promises. So we can wait for Him with eager expectation, without getting bored or scared. **Questions:** Which enemies has the Lord Jesus dealt with? What blessings does He promise His people? How should we respond?

First Point: What Happens to Our Enemies

- 1) The Enmity of the Ages: Satan has been seeking to destroy the church all along – from the serpent in the Garden, to the “dragon” in Rev.12; the “beasts” in Rev.13; “Babylon” in Rev. 17-18. He also used the Assyrians and Babylonians against the OT church. But the Lord was overruling all the time.
- 2) Opposition Swept Away: All such opposition will end in ruins (vss. 2,5). What was true of hostile nations in the OT will be true of all forces arrayed against the church. See Rev. 16-20. In the meantime, the Lord will defend His people (Is. 25:4).
- 3) Enemies becoming Friends: The Lord also deals with hostility by causing strong enemies to become His friends and so also part of His church (v. 4). That has been seen throughout history and it will continue in the Last Days.

Second Point: What Happens to God's People

- 1) The Blessing of the Banquet: V. 6 promises a great banquet, full of the choicest food, for “all the peoples.” The banquet will be “on this mountain” i.e., Mt. Zion, which symbolizes the presence of God, dwelling in the midst of His people. See also 24:23; Ex. 24:9-11; Rev. 19:7-10. The same truths are expressed in the Lord's Supper – namely, that we have close fellowship with God through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. Now that Christ has come and the Gospel has been spread abroad, people from all nations are enjoying that fellowship – though it will be most fully expressed at the “wedding supper of the Lamb.”
- 2) The Veil Swallowed Up: Vss. 7-8 promise that all the nations would have the “veil” swallowed up. Most likely this refers to the death and misery of sin. All will have their tears wiped away. The shame of His people will also be removed. This also comes about by Christ's work. See Rev. 20:14, 21:4. Christ has already accomplished these things in principle, blessing us through all the tribulations of the Last Days. The consummation of these blessings awaits His return.

Third Point: How We Respond

- 1) The Response of Praise: We can already offer praise to God, even in the midst of tribulation (Is. 25:1, 9). The praise could even be offered in Isaiah's time, as well as in the Last Days – note the future tense of v. 9, “It will be said....”
- 2) Reasons for Praise: We are to praise God for His wonders (v. 1) – His works of salvation and His defeat of our enemies through the work of His Son. We can praise Him for His perfect faithfulness to His plan of salvation – plans formed from long ago, in eternity. The trials and tribulations of the Last Days are part of that plan.
- 3) Waiting for the Lord: Knowing of these plans and the Lord's faithfulness to them, we can wait for Him in trust, as Isaiah states in v. 9. He has already accomplished our salvation with Christ's first coming. Now we only await the consummation.

Conclusion:

