

# Our Wonderworking God!

Isaiah 25:1-12

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## **Introduction**

The world was such a mess in Isaiah's day.

- We have seen this in His prophecies!
  - He lived in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries before Christ...
    - And it was a time when God's covenant people had so entangled themselves in sin that they could not hope to extricate themselves.
  - The covenant people were like this!
    - They were the ones in whom God had begun His powerful grace that was going to eventually spread into the whole world!
    - They were the ones through whom Jesus Christ was to come!
      - The hope of the whole world was in these people!
  - But we have seen what they were like!
    - They had become like the nations that God had driven out when He brought them in.
    - They were idol worshippers, they were immoral, they were corrupt.
- And it was largely because of them that the Lord had purposed to raise up cruel and ruthless world powers to wreak havoc among the nations,
  - Nations that would bring Israel and then Judah into captivity.
  - Recently, through Isaiah's prophecies, we have seen the dreadful things that would befall each nation,
    - First by the hand of Assyria and then by the hand of Babylon.
    - And we saw that the suffering of the nations surrounding Judah was not without purpose for them...
      - in many cases that it was sent to humble them so as to prepare them to receive Christ when He came.

Last week we came to chapter 24 where Isaiah, having spoken of the nations individually, now speaks of them in a general way—

- He speaks of judgement coming upon the whole world.
- You will remember that he referred to them as a city...
  - a city of confusion or *tohu*—without purpose or direction.
  - And he told of such destruction as would nearly wipe them out and as would put an end to their rebellious songs.

- But in verse 14 (I'm still talking about chapter 24), there was another song that arose over the entire world out of the ruins of the nations!
  - It was a song of praise...
    - A song whose theme would be "Glory to the righteous one,"
      - referring to the Son of God who would come to bring salvation to the world and who would become a banner to the nations.
      - He would bring righteousness into the world of rebellion and destruction.
        - Out of their suffering, there would be a remnant from among them that would turn to the LORD.
- Yet, we saw that Isaiah, still seeing the present rebellion of his people and of the nations, was full of pain and distress...
  - In his clear prophetic vision, he saw the dreadful things that were yet to come upon the people and it caused him great anguish.
  - Nevertheless, he also saw that at last the wicked would be overthrown and that the final outcome would be the glorious reign of the LORD of Hosts on Mount Zion!
    - He saw that at last everything would be brought under the feet of Jesus Christ so that His will would be done on earth as it is heaven!

And now as we come to chapter 25, we have the personal response of Isaiah to God's gracious work that he has seen in his vision as a prophet...

- It is a song of praise to God, written in the first person—
  - If you look at chapter 26 (which we will look at next week),
    - you can see that it is a corporate song that will be sung by the redeemed people in the days to come...
    - But here in chapter 25, we have Isaiah's song.
  - But of course in saying that this is Isaiah's song,
    - I don't mean to suggest it has no use for us.
    - It is recorded in scripture for us because it is profitable and useful for us.
      - It teaches us about our God, and it does it without any misrepresentation of Him in any way...
        - As it is found in scripture, we can be certain that Isaiah, in writing it, was carried along by the Holy Spirit so that all that he wrote is without error of any kind.
        - It is given to us as God's revelation for our comfort and edification.

So let us turn now to look at this song...

- I want you to see first of all how Isaiah,
  - having seen God's work in the world from start to finish,
    - expresses his delight in the LORD as his God.

**I. Learn here, from the example of Isaiah, to express delight in the LORD as your God.**

A. You see how Isaiah begins with an address of delight to the LORD that He is his God.

- Isa 25:1: “O LORD, you are my God!”

1. He uses His great covenant name, **Yahweh**, or **Jehovah**.

- That name is designated in most English translations of the Bible by the word LORD written with all capital letters...

- It is the personal name that God revealed to His people to distinguish Him from all the false gods that were worshipped in the world.

- The name means, “I am that I am” and speaks of Him as the only one who is self-existing...

- as the glorious Triune God who alone is uncreated, unchanging, and dependent on nothing outside of Himself.

- He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end...

- He is the one who will establish that glorious kingdom that Isaiah has seen in His vision and who will reign gloriously forever and ever.

2. And Isaiah addresses Yahweh with great delight that He is *his* God!

- Isaiah saw the nations and even the people of Judah worshipping their false gods who were nothing more than demons at most...

- Their very existence was totally dependent on Yahweh, and their plans and purposes would be completely overthrown.

- Whatever powers they might have exhibited in the earth were only temporary and would come to naught, even as the rebellious nations who severed them would.

- But Isaiah’s delight is that *his* God is Yahweh, the self-existing one who is over all!

- Do you have this delight in God as your God?

- How grand it is to know Him when so many have other gods—sometimes even their own belly is their god—

- they have nothing but the consumption of this world and are strangers to Him!

- But if you know Him, He has come to you in His grace and has declared Himself to be your God...

- And you have the privilege of knowing Him and serving Him and having His gracious care.

- Join Isaiah and say to Him with delight:
  - “O LORD, you are **my** God!”
  - It is a very personal confession.

TRANS> See further how...

B. Isaiah purposes that he will both exalt Him and praise Him!

1. As God’s prophet, he has seen what God is going to do in establishing His kingdom...
  - and seeing this, it is His purpose to make known the greatness of His God!
  - That is what it means to exalt Him!
    - As fallen sinners, we do not see the glory and the perfections of our God.
    - We are dull even to blindness until God opens our eyes...
      - But once our eyes have been opened, we want nothing more than to make Him known in all the earth!
  - We want to lift Him up—to exalt Him—to cause people to see what He is really like—what they are missing!
    - We want them to stop thinking of Him in ways that are inferior to all that He is.

TRANS> But not only does Isaiah purpose that he will exalt His God...

2. He also purposes that he will *praise* Him!

- The word he uses here (translated praise) is one we run into a lot in the Psalms: *Yawdaw* in the original.
  - Many of you will recognise it because you have heard me speak of it.
  - *Yawdaw* means “to confess,” or to say what is true about something.
    - When we *yawdaw* about ourselves, we are often confessing our sins because that is what is true about us.
    - But when we *yawdaw* God, we are praising Him and thanking Him.
      - Because all He is and all He does is excellent and perfect!

TRANS> And you see here that...

C. Isaiah gives the reason that He is going to praise and thank God!

1. It is because the Lord has done wonderful things!
  - a. The word “wonderful” is the Hebrew word *pele*.
    - We ran into it back in chapter 9, verse 6, where we are told that Jesus name will be called:

- “Wonderful (pele), Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
  - In Psalm 98, we also sang this morning about “the *wonders* (pele) He has done”,
    - and in our call to worship from Psalm 105, we were told to “Remember His wonders (pele)”
- b. What does this word mean?
- It speaks of works that only God can do—
    - works that are too great for us—
    - works like calling the world into existence or
      - in this case...
        - works like taking a whole world of fallen sinners and establishing from them an eternal kingdom of glory!
        - He can take sinners and redeem them!
- c. Isaiah, having seen in a vision what God is surely going to do in establishing Christ to reign gloriously...
- speaks of it as a thing that has already been accomplished...
    - He says, “You *have done* wonderful things!”
    - His own God is going to do these wonderful things and Isaiah is going to confess Him before the nations as his God!
      - And he is going to give thanks and praise to Him for these wonderful things that he has seen in his vision!
2. Oh my brothers and sisters...how you ought to praise God!
- a. You have **already** seen the beginning of the wonderful things that God has done!
- You know that Jesus Christ, the very Son of God, became flesh for us and went to the cross for us to bear our sins!
  - There is no work so wonderful, so divine, as that...
    - Who but our God would bear the curse for His own sinful people?
      - Such love as this is surely divine love!
      - And what power—that He has conquered death, Hell, and the grave and has broken the power of Satan!
      - Praise Him for the wonders He has done!
- b. And like Isaiah, you too know the future...
- You do not know it through personal vision, as he did, but you know it through the scriptures which cannot be broken...

- The Spirit of God has revealed to you what God has prepared for them that love Him!
  - You know that Christ is going to establish a perfect kingdom of righteousness and that sorrow and sighing will flee away...
    - You know that He will reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet and has perfectly established this kingdom!
    - Praise Him for the wonders that He is going to do!
      - For the wonders He has done, and for the wonders He is going to do.
3. You see that Isaiah expresses the certainty of what the LORD has revealed...
- At end of verse 1, Isaiah says:
    - Isa 25:1: “Your counsels of old [or plans] are faithfulness and truth.”
  - a. God has planned what He will do from of old...
    - This means that the wonderful works of God are not reactionary or rash...
      - They are the outworking of eternal purpose and decree.
    - We are mere creatures and we do not understand all that He does, but we can be certain that what He has spoken He will certainly do!
      - Everything decreed by Him is firm and unchangeable!

TRANS> And so, because of their reliability,

- b. Isaiah describes His works as “faithfulness and truth”
  - He actually uses the root word in Hebrew that is like our word Amen in the two words he uses to describe God’s counsels...
    - “faithfulness and truth” is אמונה אמן (*em-oo-naw oh-men*)
  - It is very much like what Paul says in 2 Cor 1:20:
    - 2 Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.
  - They are certain and sure to occur because Yahweh Himself has spoken
    - He is absolutely reliable and there are no grounds for questioning Him or doubting Him.
- c. What Isaiah has seen as a prophet is certain to occur...
  - And what is revealed in God’s word is certain to occur...
    - It is faithfulness and truth...
      - His wonders are the outworking of His plan and purpose, part of which He has revealed to us and to our children...
      - We can totally rely on them!

TRANS> So Isaiah, having seen how God is going to establish the glorious reign of Christ upon the earth,

- is filled with delight and praise for his God, even as we should be...
- And now as the song progresses along, Isaiah begins to declare the wonders themselves that God is going to do...in verses 2-8...
  - You see how he concludes this subsection in verse 8 with the words:
    - “For the LORD has spoken.”
    - Here again is that certainty in what God has promised!

## **II. Now let us consider this list of wonders that our God has purposed to do that we may delight in all that He is to us as our God.**

A. First, you see that He is our champion who destroys our enemies!

1. Isaiah and the people of his time had to face “terrible nations”
  - You that in verse 3.
    - Isaiah uses the word *terrible* in verse 3, verse 4, and verse 5.
    - He is definitely making a statement here about them!
  - These nations are called *terrible* because they struck terror in the hearts of the people.
    - We have some terror from Al Qaeda,
      - but just think what it would be like if Al Qaeda came to have supreme dominion among the nations!
      - And if we knew that they were on their way to come after us as they took one nation after another.
  - That was almost what it was like under the Assyrians who enjoyed tormenting those they conquered...
    - piling their heads up in front of the city gates,
      - and skinning their kings while they were still alive.
2. But Isaiah sees that Yahweh our champion, our wonderworking LORD, is going to come and make them a ruin...
  - Isaiah speaks of all the enemies of God as a city...as we saw in chapter 24...
    - They are united together against the LORD and against His Christ...
    - But despite that, He is going to make them a ruin that will never be rebuilt!
  - Satan is the prince of this world,
    - He is the leader of the city of rebellion...

- He is strong and we cannot overcome him—
  - destroying him is a wonderful work that is too hard for us...
- But the Son of God comes and crushes Satan under our feet.
  - No sooner did we fall than God promised that the seed of the woman would come and crush the serpent's head.
    - We were in bondage to him and we could not free ourselves, for we sold ourselves in Adam to him when we joined in his rebellion.
  - But Jesus comes with His mighty sword to destroy him and all his works and all those who are in league with him!
    - Verse 3 explains that God gets glory to himself even from the strongest of the terrible ones so that they themselves are the ones who are terrified.
      - Like Pharaoh whom God raised up in order that He might gain glory by him,
        - so the city of man under Satan swells with pride until at last they tremble and are brought under His feet.

TRANS> How glad we ought to be to have Him as our God!

- He is our champion.
- He alone is able to destroy our enemies.
- But that is not all He is to us.

B. Secondly, Isaiah describes Him as our protector who keeps us and preserves us.

1. This is explained in verses 4-5...

- You see that it says that the LORD Himself is the strength of the poor and needy in their distress...
  - when on our own we would be overwhelmed and helpless and completely unable to stand before our foes...
    - when we would be swallowed up by them...
    - Our wonderworking God comes and works wonders to preserve us.
- He is described as a refuge in the storm...
  - And a shade from their heat when it blasts against us as our enemies spew out fire to consume us.
    - Under God's sheltering protection,
      - the blast of the terrible ones is like a storm against a wall—
        - it hits the wall and it is not able to cause harm...
    - They come against us with great noise and great heat,



- but the LORD puts us under a shadow of protection and diminishes their song!
  - The song of the terrible ones is diminished!
2. If we but consider how powerful our enemies are,
- How we are surrounded by temptations that attract us...
  - How we have a world that desperately wants to silence our testimony of the true God...
  - How there is a devil who is crafty and powerful and who,
    - on the one hand walks about a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour to intimidate us...
    - and on the other appears as an angel of light to deceive us...
  - I say, when we consider all this...
    - It is one of the most remarkable things that we are able to stand in the day of evil when these inveterate enemies come against us.
  - Those who truly come to Jesus Christ are given an imperishable seed, and though they may falter, they will never perish.
    - Christ our protector and guardian keeps us so that though a thousand fall at our side and ten thousand at our right hand, it will not come near us.
    - Even though we may fall, we will not be utterly cast down because our wonderworking LORD upholds us with His hand. (Psa 37:24).
3. What a marvellous thing it is to have a wonderworking LORD to protect you and keep you.
- When you see a truckload of trials coming against you, flee to Him for your refuge and safety...
    - If a truckload of trials comes, look for His truckload of grace and protection.
      - The Lord is your high tower. Run to Him and be safe!

TRANS> He is our champion to destroy our enemies, but He is also our protector to preserve us when our enemies are all around.

- Do not lose heart in the day of battle!
  - Keep looking to Him and He will enable you to stand in the evil day.
  - But this is not all that He is to us!

C. Isaiah next presents Him as our excellent host!

1. He describes the LORD as preparing a feast of the most excellent food and drink upon "this mountain"...

- Surely he speaks of Mount Zion from the last verse in chapter 24...
  - Mount Zion!
    - the place where Christ was revealed through the ages—
    - the mountain to which we come figuratively when we come to Him...
- In verse 6, Isaiah says:
  - Isa 25:6: And in this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees.
    - “Choice pieces” speaks of the finest of meat...
    - And “wines on the lees” speaks of wine that has aged upon the sediment and then been filtered or refined so that it is most excellent of wine.

## 2. This is God’s way!

- This is a feast that delights!
  - A feast that not only provides nourishment, but a feast that gives us much pleasure!
  - God’s grace overflows upon us—it is lavished upon us—
    - He spares no expense, but brings forth, by His divine power, that which is most excellent and satisfying.
- The LORD presents this feast to us in stages...
  - In the Old Testament, they fed on Christ as He was presented in the ceremonies and sacrifices...
  - In the New Testament, we feed upon Him as the one who was crucified for us and who brings us into sweet fellowship with God...
    - We rejoice in the forgiveness of sin, are nourished up for new life in Him, and rejoice in the inheritance that is promised to us.
  - We have that now...
    - But the great feast is yet to come in the New heavens and the New earth when we will eat with Christ and at the great wedding feast of the Lamb!
      - We shall be wholly satisfied!
- And you will notice that this feast, though it is on Mount Zion...
  - is a feast for all people!
    - It is for people from all nations—all who will come to Mount Zion to feed on Christ will be able to partake!

- It is not closed to anyone but to those who refuse Christ!
  - Do you remember in Isaiah 2 how Isaiah speaks of the nations coming up to Mount Zion with great eagerness to receive the LORD's grace and blessing...
    - He says:
      - Isa 2:3: "Many people shall come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob."
3. So my friends, do not feed on the husks of this world! Come to Mount Zion!
- While the nations were raging in Isaiah's day, the LORD was preparing a table for His people who would come from all those nations!
  - And now Jesus Himself has gone to glory and is preparing a place for us and tells us that He will eat new with us in the kingdom of heaven.
    - Don't fill your belly from the garbage of this world...
      - Come and feed upon His word that He has sent forth for you!
  - Some of you hear the gospel, but you do not take and eat of Christ who is offered to you...
    - I tell you, there is no satisfaction until you come to Him!
      - He is the bread of life who came down from heaven to give life to the world.
      - Open your mouth wide and He will fill it!
        - Only He can bring you final satisfaction...
        - It is a wonderful work that only He can do—
          - Do not make excuses—come and feast!

TRANS> So Isaiah has shown us that He is our champion, our protector, and our excellent host.

- How excellent it is to have Him as our God!
  - But this is still not all...

D. Isaiah next presents Him as our teacher...

1. As our teacher, He works teaching wonders that no man can work...
  - In verse 7,
    - Isaiah speaks of a covering that is cast over all people and of a veil that is spread over the nations...
    - Truly, the nations sit in the darkness.

- We have been cut off from the glory of God and we are cursed with blindness...
    - We cannot see the glory of our Maker.
    - We are full of deceit and lies.
    - We ourselves walk in the darkness, living lives of vanity.
    - 2 Cor 4:4 tells us that:
      - 2 Cor 4:4: The god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe.
      - It is a pitiful condition we are in.
  - But on the same mountain where He prepares His choice feast (Mt Zion),
    - our wonderworking LORD also destroys the veil...
      - He opens our eyes so that we see the glory of God.
        - 2 Cor 4:6 says: For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
      - It is a species of the same divine power that spoke the world into existence that shines into the darkness of the sinful human heart.
        - It is a wonder!
2. And again, you see that it is only on the mountain—where Christ is revealed.
- We do not learn of God through the philosophy of man...
    - We do not learn of Him through practical wisdom...
  - We behold His glory in the face of Jesus Christ who is revealed to us in the gospel...
    - The gospel that tells us of His coming to this world as the sun of righteousness with healing in His wings—
      - When his wings or rays reach us, they give light and show us the way.
  - In His light, we see first that we are in the darkness of sin—we really see it...
    - And then we see what Christ did to redeem us, and we really understand it.
      - We see that it is the only way—absolutely the only one.
      - And we see that it is a most excellent and desirable way, for God has shown it to us!
3. Isn't it a tremendous blessing to have the veil removed?
- When you come to Christ, you know that you now see!
    - You know that you have been brought out of the darkness and that you now understand what you did not understand before.

- In other words, you get it—and you know that you get it!
- When you talk to those who don't know it, it is like it is when you explain a riddle to someone and they don't get it...
  - They say it just doesn't make sense, but you know that they just don't get it yet...
    - You try to explain it, but they just do not see because the veil is still upon them.
    - But once they come to Christ, the veil is taken away and then they know that they know...
      - And once you know, nobody can make you not know.
      - You see what others do not see, not because you are more clever or intelligent than they are,
        - but because God has revealed His Son to you...
        - Again we may look at Isaiah 2:3:
          - "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
  - When the LORD send Paul to the Gentiles, did He not say to him that we he was sending him to them...
    - Acts 26:18: 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'?
- Now we see God as we could not see Him before!
  - We see Him as He is revealed in Christ and we are filled with great delight in what we see!
    - There is none so loving, none so powerful, none so faithful, none so kind, none so holy, none so just, none so wise, none so merciful and gracious, none so pure as He...
      - All this we see in Christ crucified for us and risen again!

TRANS> And so you see how much the Lord is to us—as our champion, our protector, our excellent hosts, and our teacher...

E. And now, lastly, Isaiah presents Him as our priest who provides life and comfort.

1. Not only does He swallow up the veil of ignorance,
  - but He also swallows up death—as Paul says in 1 Cor 15, He swallows up death with victory!

- Death had taken hold of us—it had filled us at the fall...
    - We were saturated with death in every part of us.
    - We were dead in trespasses and sins and we had no way to breathe life into ourselves again.
    - A dead man can't resuscitate himself.
      - Only God can give life to the dead, and only through our dear Saviour Jesus Christ.
  - Jesus is the One who came to swallow up death
    - First, by satisfying the penalty that the curse demanded...
    - And then by pouring out His Spirit upon us to regenerate us (or make us alive again).
2. Look at how His work as our priest is described in verse 8...
- a. First, it says that He will swallow up death forever!
    - This is not a mere resuscitation until death overtakes us again, but it is the impartation of eternal life by the merits of Christ our surety.
      - It is eternal life, grounded upon the sacrifice of Christ so that we will never perish.
  - b. And look secondly at how tenderly He reaches out to us to comfort us...
    - It says that He Himself personally wipes away the tears from each face.
      - Isn't that amazingly wonderful?
      - It is His supernatural divine wiping away—a removal of sorrow that none but God can achieve.
        - Other comforters fail us, but His comfort is eternally satisfying!
        - The poet, Robert Burns, declared that he could not read this passage without being moved to tears.
  - c. And besides that, it says thirdly that He takes away our rebuke...
    - We are surrounded with shame, because of our guilt, because of our wickedness...
      - Just look at the corruption that is even in you now—
        - at the selfish thoughts,
        - at the pride,
        - at the greed,
        - at the malice,
        - at the covetousness that can't rejoice in the prosperity of others,

- at the tongue that speaks so many hurtful things—and so many empty things,
- at the heart that cannot take the delight it ought to take in the glory of God...
- But our wonderworking God takes away all our rebuke!
- The greatest wonder of all is that He rolled our guilt and our shame upon Himself and bore it for us.
  - Now it is rolled off of us, and its removal will be complete when He brings us to perfection in glory at the last day.
    - Then death will be swallowed up in victory!

TRANS> Ah, how good it is to have the LORD as our God!

- What wonders He works for us—
  - As a wonderworking champion...
  - As a wonderworking protector...
  - As a wonderworking host...
  - As a wonderworking teacher...
  - As a wonderworking priest!

### **III. What a difference it makes to have Him as our own God!**

- Isaiah concludes his song by presenting to us the great contrast between...
  - those who wait on Him for salvation—who have Him as their God...
    - and those who in pride refuse to submit to His salvation, represented under the name of Moab.
- See how Isaiah presents the contrast

A. First, he speaks of those who have waited for His salvation...

1. Indeed, things have not always been all that different for them in this world.
  - They suffer many things—at least as many as the wicked...
    - That is why they must wait for Him...
  - They do not receive immediate deliverance,
    - but wait for the deliverance that Isaiah and the other prophets have seen and have recorded for us in God's word.
    - To wait is to look to Him, waiting for His salvation because we *know* there is no other salvation to be found.
2. And Isaiah is sure of the goodness of the LORD and certain that He will perform the wonders that for His people that Isaiah has described.

- Verse 9 shows us his confidence—
  - He knows that the day will come when all those who have waited for God’s salvation will rejoice in that salvation and be glad that they waited for it...
    - He says that in the day when God swallows up death...
      - Isa 25:9: And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."
    - You see how this takes us right back to verse 1!
      - The redeemed join with Isaiah...
        - “Behold this is our God.”
          - Now they are so glad that He is their God...
        - “This is the LORD,”
          - Yahweh, the self-existing one who does wonders...
- And now the day has come when it really matters more than ever that they have waited for Him...
  - The day when He swallows up death and wipes away their tears!
    - In that day, they say,
      - “We have waited for Him and He will save us!”
      - “We have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”
    - How much it will mean to them in that day when their salvation fully comes!
      - How much it will mean when they see others being sent off to the Lake of Fire...
        - “Behold—He is our God!” “This is the LORD.”
  - Verse 10 explains that His hand has been upon them!
    - The hand that works wonders to destroy their enemies, to protect them, to prepare a table for them, to teach them, and to comfort them and give them life!
    - They will rejoice forever in their God!

TRANS> What a difference for them who have waited on Him, who have this wonder-working God as their God—

- and those who have rejected Him...



B. In verse 10-12, the rejecters of God are presented in contrast to those who have waited for Him...

1. You see that though God's hand of salvation rests upon the mountain of His people to save them by His powerful hand...

- He is said to trample upon Moab like straw trampled down in refuse—in a big pile of manure.
- God who reaches out His arm to save those who wait on Him will stretch out His mighty hands to bring down those who refuse His grace in their pride...
- His divine energy is exercised to bring down all that they have lifted up against Him...
  - It says,
    - He will stretch out His hands to bring down three things...
      - to bring down their pride...
        - they themselves were lifted up against the LORD...
      - to bring down the trickery of their hands...
        - they lifted up their cleverness against the LORD...
        - Men think they have pulled one over on God.
          - But He brings that down
      - to bring down the fortress of the high fort of their walls...
        - they lifted up the walls that they had built against the LORD...

2. But you see that everything about the LORD is engaged to bring all these high things down.

- Verse 12 concludes with the words...
  - Isa 25:12: He will bring down, lay low, And bring to the ground, down to the dust.
  - This is not just to weaken—this is to completely take away all that they boasted in—to reduce it absolutely—not even to rubble, but to dust!
    - Flat to the ground!

3. My friends, there is only one thing that will ruin you at last!

- It is pride...
  - Moab was chosen to represent the city of man because they were so full of pride and self-sufficiency that says,
    - “we don't need any saviour.”

- “I can do it myself.”
- Perhaps you remember that when Isaiah dealt with Moab in chapter 16, He mentioned that Moab was “very proud”...
  - Moab was a place of ease, a place of lush vineyards, a place that was out of the way of danger...
    - And this led to banal self-sufficiency—a haughtiness that brings sure destruction if there is no repentance.
- Beware of pride—
  - It alone keeps you away from Christ...
    - and from all the wonders that He does for those who look to Him.
  - The asinine idea that you can somehow get along—
    - that you would even dare to try to get along for one moment—
      - standing in opposition to the God who works wonders.

**Conclusion:** So put away pride—all of you—and come to the wonder-working Saviour.

- You will never be disappointed if you do.
  - He will work wonders to lift you out of your sin and misery if only you will bow to Him as your God.