

TITLE AND NUMBER: 154. Praise the Lord



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Isaiah 25: 1-4a

LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. You have made the city a heap of rubble, the fortified town a ruin, the foreigners' stronghold a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will honour you; cities of ruthless nations will revere you. You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.

LOOKING FURTHER: Isaiah 53:4-7; 7:14; 9:6

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Isaiah starts with praise and worship, declaring that the Lord is his God and He has been faithful to His people, doing amazing things that He had planned long ago.

Isaiah the prophet was a man who heard from God and shared with the people how God had not forgotten them in their troubles, even though they had deserted Him so often. All through the book of Isaiah, the Israelites are made aware of their sin and are told that there is a way out of their situation through God's mercy and forgiveness. There would be deliverance even from the destruction of Jerusalem and their captivity in Babylon. God always has a plan for His people, even in the most dire circumstances. God is in the business of restoration.

In the book of Isaiah, we are told of God's plan for our own salvation through the coming of Jesus (Isaiah 53:4-7; 7:14; 9:6). This is what gives us hope today. The birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus is how we can have eternal life with Him. Not only that, God has given us His Holy Spirit to live in us. He enables us to live a life that pleases God and benefits others as we share the Good News of Jesus.

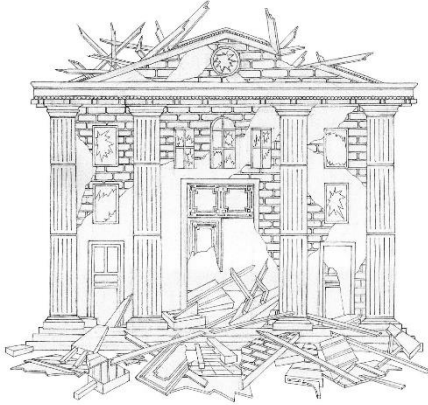
Sometimes, our situation is not what we would wish for. But, even in such circumstances, God has a plan for us. God has not forgotten us, but maybe we have ignored Him. Today, this can all change if we choose to turn to Him, ask for forgiveness and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. His response to us is instant: new life now and for eternity.

Reflections:

- Thank God that He knows you and desires the best for you.
- New life in Jesus is available for everyone. If you have not done so before, turn to Him in prayer and receive His forgiveness. Share your news with the Chaplain and ask for further help and support.
- Even those who have been Christians for a long time can sometimes lose hope. If you are struggling with a situation, bring it to God, remembering that He has 'done wonderful things' and still does so today.



Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

