

Isaiah 27
The Future of God's People

In that Day – Israel's enemies (1)

Sword of the LORD (Genesis 12:3) – against those who curse Israel

Serpent slain (Job 41:8-11) – only our Maker can control leviathan

In that Day – Israel's Maker (2-5)

Watching over His people (Psalm 121:4)

Watering continually (John 7:38-39 / Ephesians 5:26)

Willing to confront (Ephesians 6:13 / I Corinthians 15:54-56)

Willing to forgive (II Peter 3:9)

In days to come – Israel's future (6-11) – (Jeremiah 29:11)

Promises fulfilled (Ezekiel 37:21-28)

Punished to purify (Malachi 3:2-6)

In that Day – Israel's hope (12-13)

Confronting the barriers (Romans 11:26-27) – sin is the greatest barrier

Calling His people (I Thessalonians 4:16) – the trumpet call

Coming to worship in Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:16)

Discussion questions

Describe powers and circumstances that are beyond our ability to change or control? How does our God view and use these challenges in our lives? (Ephesians 6:12 / Amos 4:10 / James 3:8 / Psalm 103:1-5 / Hebrews 12:7)

How does God provide for His people to grow? What steps can we take to participate with God in our growth? (Hebrews 13:5 / II Timothy 3:16-17 / James 4:6-10 / Ephesians 4:22-24)

How is punishment used to purify His people? What response is God seeking? (Ezekiel 20:32-40 / Hebrews 12:10-12)

What barriers hinder people from coming to God? How are these overcome? (Psalm 66:18 / II Thessalonians 2:10 / I John 2:15-17)

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The Future of God's People

In that Day – Israel's enemies (1)

Sword of the LORD (Genesis 12:3) – against those who curse Israel

The enemy seeks to destroy Israel – that will not happen

Serpent slain (Job 41:8-11) – only our Maker can control leviathan - ***powers against us***

Egypt, Assyria & Babylon – without God Israel would have been destroyed

In that Day – Israel's Maker (2-5) – ***revealing God's character: He is love***

Watching over His people (Psalm 121:4)

Never sleeping – always there

Watering continually (John 7:38-39 / Ephesians 5:26)

His Word and His Spirit – available to satisfy our thirst

Willing to confront (Ephesians 6:13 / I Corinthians 15:54-56)

He will help us stand – He will lead us to victory

Willing to forgive (II Peter 3:9)

He is patient, even with His enemies – giving opportunities for repentance

In days to come – Israel's future (6-11) – (Jeremiah 29:11)

The plans He has for His people

Promises fulfilled (Ezekiel 37:21-28)

They shall take root, blossom, and bear fruit for His glory

Punished to purify (Malachi 3:2-6)

In that Day – Israel's hope (12-13)

Confronting the barriers (Romans 11:26-27) – sin is the greatest barrier

God is willing to fight for us against the things that keep us from Himself

Calling His people (I Thessalonians 4:16) – the trumpet call

God uses the trumpet to call His people to the place prepared for them

Coming to worship in Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:16)

All the peoples of earth will be given the opportunity to come before Him

Discussion questions

Describe powers and circumstances that are beyond our ability to change or control? How does our God view and use these challenges in our lives? (Ephesians 6:12 / Amos 4:10 / James 3:8 / Psalm 103:1-5 / Hebrews 12:7) ***We cannot fight against Satan in our own strength. We cannot fight against the sin in our own lives without the power of the Word and the Spirit. We cannot control the powers of government in our world. We cannot prevent the ravages caused by sin and disease in our world. God offers us His salvation, healing, and strength for all things that we face. He often uses adversity in our lives to draw us to Himself and to mold us to be more like His Son.***

How does God provide for His people to grow? What steps can we take to participate with God in our growth? (Hebrews 13:5 / II Timothy 3:16-17 / James 4:6-10 / Ephesians 4:22-24)

The knowledge of His presence is a source of comfort when I am walking with Him and a source of concern when I turn away. Allowing His Spirit to teach and speak to me through His Word can equip me for every good work He has prepared. Learning to humble myself before Him and seek His help in the challenges I face allows God to lift me up and what in His strength for His glory. Practicing putting off my old self, allowing His Word to change my attitude, and giving myself to Him (Romans 6:11-14) causes me to grow deeper in my relationship with Him.

How is punishment used to purify His people? What response is God seeking? (Ezekiel 20:32-40 / Hebrews 12:10-12) ***God will punish His people to weed out those who do not truly belong (I John 2:19), to remind His people of His holiness, and to prune off the fruitless branches in our lives. He wants us to repent, to turn to Him, and to allow Him to teach and train us so that we can become more fruitful in our lives.***

What barriers hinder people from coming to God? How are these overcome? (Psalm 66:18 / II Thessalonians 2:10 / I John 2:15-17) ***My own sin and sinful nature are perhaps the greatest barrier, which is why I need to die to myself daily and follow Him. It is so easy to become distracted by the pleasures of this world and lose our focus on the purpose for which we are here. (comfort – success – entertainment – etc.) We need to surrender each day to Him (Romans 12:1), allow our thinking to be renewed (Romans 12:2), and pursue godliness, righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness (I Timothy 6:11)***