

"He Will Reign"
Isaiah 25:1 – 27:3
Dennis Watson

Why can we make this statement? "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life."

It is partly because Isaiah 25:1 – "O Lord, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will give thanks to Thy name; for Thou has worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness."

Our God is different because we have a God that plans!

Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."

Ephesians 1:11 - "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will..."

Psalms 139:6 - "Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them."

Psalms 139:5 - "Thou hast enclosed me behind and before, and laid Thy hands upon me."

God has a plan to make a great nation of the family of Abraham; it will not change!

God has a plan for Palestine involving Israel's right to the land of Israel; it will not change!

God has a plan for the throne of David and it will be an eternal throne and political kingdom; it will not change!

God has a plan and He tells us what He is going to do and when God tells us what He is going to do, what do we call it? PROPHECY.

This is what makes our God unique! Isaiah 46:9-10 – "For I am God and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be

established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure.” LET ME TELL YOU THE MOST AMAZING THINGS THAT GOD HAS PLANNED!

NO LET’S END WITH THAT . . .

Let’s get something straight about Isaiah: HE DOES NOT MINCE WORDS.

A. The parenthetical slam against Moab: (25:10-11)

Moab is like straw floating on the water of a pile of manure that gets trodden down and tries to swim out from the middle of it.

What can you say except, “I am glad I already ate.”

B. Then the straining of Israel to produce deliverance for the earth: (26:17-18)

Like a pregnant woman straining to give birth only to find out that the whole thing was just gas.

C. Even the picture of the twisted serpent who lives in the sea (27:1) is a strange way of proclaiming the truth.

I admit I do not understand what this means. It will be the object of more thought. Is this a reference to Satan? The beast who came out of the sea? What?

Now in chapter 27: I remain confused for some of the chapter. But don’t get confused and give up just because this is a difficult chapter. Look at this gem that I found in verse 6: “In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout; and they will fill the whole world with fruit.”

You see! God has a plan. How does He accomplish it? Listen to this:

“One morning several years ago, I came across a fascinating article in my local newspaper. It was a short science article, buried in the front-page section. The article reported that Israel’s Negev Desert was slowly turning into arable land.

According to the report, the culprits behind this change are three species of tiny snails. Apparently, these little critters spend most of their waking hours eating limestone. When the material passes through their digestive tracts, it combines with nitrogen and other nutrients, and emerges as fertile soil. Because the snails and limestone are so abundant, the result is that the Negev may eventually turn from a desert into a garden.

As I read the article, chills ran up my spine, and I couldn’t help but think about the passage in Isaiah 35 that says: The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.” (Mark Hartwig article ‘Of Stones and Snails’)

And what is the result? Listen to this from Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia: "Citrus fruits and the leading export (from Israel). Flowers, subtropical fruits (both fresh and preserved), vegetables, and wines are also exported."

Now let's talk about the greatest thing that God has planned for us. Isaiah 25:6-8: "On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers the nations; He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove the disgrace of His people from all the earth."

Doesn't that sound like Revelation 19:6b-8? "Hallelujah! For the Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him the glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."

Isaiah 25:9 "...Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You."

God has a plan. It will not change.

Now let's talk about the path being smooth. Isaiah 26:7 "The path of the righteous is level; O mighty One, You make the way of the righteous smooth."

Does that mean we won't have bumps in our lives as we walk in The Way? Of course not. Psalm 25:4 – "Show me the Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths..." Psalm 28:7 – "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped." God is there when we need Him. As we learn more and are taught through His Word, we learn to distinguish between the rocky path and the smooth path. Even if there is a stumbling stone in the smooth path, repentance and prayer will remove it.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

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Now let's talk about how God heals a land. Isaiah 26:10 "Though grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; even in a land of unrighteousness they go on doing evil and regard not the majesty of the Lord."

We know that evil, wicked things are going on both in our land and in the world. It is amazing how patient God is, wanting all to repent and be saved. We, as believers, know that one day that patience will end and judgment will ensue. Until then we need to heed 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

God has that plan. It will not change.

Isaiah 26:19 describes the hope for people who will hear his prophecy of judgment and repent. "For your dead will live, their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy." Death is not the end. Jesus conquered death by His resurrection. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:50-57: "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true. 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

God gives us hope. In our incomparable joy we will sing, "What a day of rejoicing that will be, When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory."