

VICTORY IN JESUS

To open, once again, as the Apostle Paul made mention of it to his spiritual son, Timothy, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped** for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:15-17) The Word of God, the canon of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, has been time-tested by God's saints for close to 2000 years. Many, many, many saints, children of God, before us, have put their trust in God and His Word as it is a beautifully woven picture of God's redemptive plan for mankind, from the time of Creation to God's undisputed reigning in His glorious kingdom. So it is an incredible blessing we have, the Word of God, and salvation through Christ Jesus, and the fellowship of His saints, and the communion we have in Christ Jesus!

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Praise to God (Isaiah 25:1a) O Lord [YHWH-Yehovah], You are my God [Elohiym]. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name [yadah-with one's hands, not just with the lips], for You have done wonderful things;

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[How appropriate are these beginning words of Isaiah the prophet. When we went through some of the Psalms last summer, we saw how we are being led by the Holy Spirit of God and through His written Word to get to know God, to put our trust in Him in all circumstances, good or bad, and then to honor Him, not just giving Him "lip service", but honoring God in all that we say and do, as He intends to be our Lord, our God, our Savior, and our Heavenly Father, which has been made possible for us through the redemptive work of Christ Jesus, dying on a cross for our sins against God and then also conquering death, sin, and all evil, as He rose from the grave on the third day. Yes, there is VICTORY IN JESUS! Isaiah was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God to begin by giving praise to God, for what He has already done, but also as we read further for what He promises His people of what He is going to do, and really for just who God is: as He is perfect in all of His Ways (2 Samuel 22:31) and His Works (Deuteronomy 32:4), He is worthy of all our praise! And then also, as God is sovereign (He is presently reigning) over all of His creation. We can be reminded then of what Jesus spoke to His disciples/apostles when He gave them, and is subsequently giving us, His "Great Commission": as He said to them, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you** [of which we can read in Matthew-Revelation]; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20) This spiritual battle that we are presently in, the work that is before us, as God is still presently building His eternal kingdom, is from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18), from God's glory, to the glory of Christ Jesus, to one day us being glorified together in

Christ (**Romans 8:17**), and then also from faith to faith (**Romans 1:17**). That work that is before us ALL belongs to the Lord. As it is written, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain." (**Psalms 127:1**) Likewise, as Jesus said in **John 15:5**, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." Isaiah continues:]

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Isaiah 25:1b Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.
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[How reassuring it is that we can trust that God is faithful and true to His Word! That is also what God is working in each of us who have believed on Christ Jesus and have received Him, being born-again, born of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit includes faithfulness (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control-**Galatians 5:22-23**) Jesus told His disciples, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever." (**John 14:15**) Right after that Jesus elaborated saying, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (**John 14:23**) Later, within the same teaching, Jesus promised His disciples, "when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth." (**John 16:13**) Previously in **John 8:31**, Jesus said to the Jews, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." We are not saved by "works" but we are truly being saved by the grace of God through faith, as we are obedient to the call, as Jesus said to His disciples He says to us, "Come follow Me". We are also then looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (**Hebrews 12:2**), for our righteousness, that is in Him, and in Him we then abide. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (**Ephesians 2:8-10**) "Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." Once again, that is who God IS! Praise the Lord! Isaiah continues:]

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Isaiah 25:2-5 For You have made a city a ruin, a fortified city a ruin, a palace of foreigners to be a city no more; It will never be rebuilt. Therefore the strong people will glorify You; The city of the terrible nations will fear You. For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. You will reduce the noise of aliens, as heat in a dry place; as heat in the shadow of a cloud, the song of the terrible ones will be diminished.
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[AH! The first thing I thought of in reading that was the story of the destruction of Jericho, when "the walls came a tumblin' down". Notice what **Hebrews 11**, affectionately called the "Hall of Faith", of those who lived by faith in God in the Old Testament, what it says about Jericho. "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days." (**Hebrews 11:30**) Did the Israelites bring down the walls or did God? Remember, Rahab the harlot, who had her home on one of those walls? She and her family were saved from that destruction. She later then had a child named Boaz, which we can read about in the book of Ruth. Boaz became the great-grandfather to King David! A summary of that chapter though in **Hebrews 11** could be said to be **Hebrews 11:6**, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Yes, ultimately it is God through Christ who is seeking us, His lost sheep, yet it is then up to us to respond to His call. After Jesus gave the parable of the king who had a wedding feast for his son, many did not answer the call, and one showed up to the feast improperly dressed. Jesus concluded by saying, "For many are called, but few are chosen." (**Matthew 22:14**)

The opposite of living by faith could be said to be when, after God had led the Israelites out of slavery from Egypt, He had guided them by a pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Moses had sent 12 spies into the land of Canaan, the "Promised Land". Only 2 of the twelve came back with a good report. The 10 were afraid saying there were giants in the land and they had fortified cities. Yet Caleb said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." (**Numbers 13:30**) Caleb and Joshua tried to persuade the people saying, "If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; [Consequently, Jesus is our Bread] their protection has departed from them, and **the Lord is with us**. Do not fear them." (**Numbers 14:8-9**) Unfortunately, because of the disobedience of the people, their lack of faith, not putting their trust in God Almighty, none of them made it to the promised land, except Caleb and Joshua. Similarly, only Rahab and her family made it out of Jericho alive. While the story of the Lord God Almighty leading the Israelites to the promised land is a true account in God's Word, it is also signifying to us of God's ultimate promise to all of His people-from all nations. Let us continue:]

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Isaiah 25:6-8

And in this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice piecess [shemen-fatness of the land], a feast of wines on the lees [side of a hill], of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that

is spread over all nations. [no more thlipsis-pressing down on His people] He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; **for the Lord has spoken.**

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[The mountain is referred to as Mount Zion by Isaiah in **Isaiah 40:9**, "O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, **be not afraid**; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Not only do we have a reference to the future Mount Zion but also a reference to God's ultimate provision, and then also to the 'Marriage Supper of the Lamb'. Jesus addressed our need for God's provision in saying, "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (**Matthew 6:31-34**) Within that same teaching Jesus also said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (**Matthew 6:19-21**) Our focus then is to be on Christ Jesus, in this, His present day, as well as His coming eternal kingdom. **Revelation 19:6-9** tells us, "And I [John] heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the **righteous acts of the saints**. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " Two chapters later in the book of Revelation we read the following, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are **true and faithful**. And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who

thirsts. **He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (**Revelation 21:1-8**)

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Isaiah 25:9-12 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.**" For on this mountain the hand of the Lord will rest, and Moab shall be trampled down under Him, as straw is trampled down for the refuse heap. And He will spread out His hands in their midst as a swimmer reaches out to swim, and He will bring down their pride together with the trickery of their hands. The fortress of the high fort of your walls He will bring down, lay low, and bring to the ground, down to the dust.

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In Barnes' Notes on the Bible it says, "Moab here seems to be used in a general sense to denote the enemies of God, and the declaration that it would be trodden down seems designed to indicate that the foes of God would all be destroyed."¹ It is though, God who will take care of His enemies. The battle belongs to the Lord. "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord." (**Romans 12:19**) Once again, Jesus said that the Great Commandment of God's is to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind and the second like it is to love our neighbors as ourselves. (**Mark 12:30-31**) A follow up to that is Jesus also saying, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." (**Matthew 5:43-45**) As we know, from Scripture, God will sort out the wheat from the tares, the sheep from the goats, the leaven from the bread. Meanwhile, Jesus is still calling out to His lost sheep, and the Spirit of Christ continues working in His people, the children of God, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (**Ephesians 4:13**) That fullness, perfectness, completeness in Christ Jesus will be accomplished in how the Apostle John describes it, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed [Christ Jesus], we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." (**1 John 3:2**)

"O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things!" Amen.

1 <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/isaiah/25-10.htm>