

International Bible Lessons Commentary
Isaiah 25:6-10a

English Standard Version

International Bible Lessons
Sunday, September 11, 2016

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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, September 11, 2016**, is from **Isaiah 25:6-10a**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** discusses *Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further* to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the **International Bible Lessons Commentary** website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. If you are a Bible student or teacher, you can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the **International Bible Lesson Forum**.

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Isaiah 25:6-10a

(Isaiah 25:6) On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

The mountain is Mount Zion in Jerusalem. All of God's people are invited to the messianic banquet to be held on the mountain – people from every race and nationality. There will be similar feasts in heaven for God's people, and the messianic feast described here will happen after Jesus Christ returns to visibly rule as King over all creation. God always gives the very best of everything. For almost 2000 years, those from every race and nation have enjoyed a spiritual feast from God's many gifts, and members of the Church have always enjoyed eating together in Christian fellowship.

(Isaiah 25:7) And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

The shroud, the sheet, represents death, which began as a punishment on Earth after Adam and Eve sinned and afflicts all peoples and all nations: “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return” (Genesis 3:19). The messianic feast celebrates the beginning of the end of the reign of death. Because death enfolds or covers all peoples and all nations, Jesus Christ came to free God's people from slavery to sin

and death, the penalty for sin: “But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:22-23). Believing Christians know that when they die their bodies will return to the earth and their souls will go to heaven: “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb’” (Revelation 7:9-10). When Jesus returns to Mount Zion everyone will see that death has been destroyed, and believers from around the world will gather there to celebrate His return.

(Isaiah 25:8) He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

Perhaps with this verse in mind, the apostle Paul wrote, “When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory’” (1 Corinthians 15:54). Because Jesus Christ died and rose again from the dead and ascended into heaven, He defeated and will completely

destroy death on Earth after He returns (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 20-21, 24-26, 52-54). God, Jesus Christ our sovereign King Himself, not simply an angel messenger, will wipe away the tears of suffering and death when each believer dies and goes to heaven prior to the Second Coming of Jesus the Messiah: “Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes’” (Revelation 7:15-17). When God makes everything new, none of His people will experience disgrace again, for those who brought disgrace upon God’s people will never trouble them again: “Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he

said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:1-5, 27).

(Isaiah 25:9) It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Isaiah offered words of hope and promise, and Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies that people from around the world can trust Him to finish what He began after He returns. Christians know by their personal experience, by grace through faith, the salvation of Jesus from slavery to sin. By experience, they will know the blessed gift of eternal life fully when Jesus defeats death completely all around the world. They will rejoice forever that they entrusted their lives to Jesus. When Jesus returns, God's people will say of Him in their own words inspired by the Holy Spirit, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us!"

(Isaiah 25:10a) For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

"The hand of the LORD" is the power of the LORD. From Mount Zion, Jesus will someday visibly manifest His

authority, power, and rule over all peoples and over all of creation. He will come back to Jerusalem, where He was rejected and condemned to crucifixion outside the city walls almost 2000 years ago. It is most fitting that when Jesus returns He will reign as King and Savior from Jerusalem. All peoples will see His reign visibly as Isaiah prophesied, and they will know that God always keeps His word, and will do so through His Word incarnate, Jesus Messiah.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. When will God's people eat the messianic feast prepared for all peoples?
2. Where can people eat a feast prepared for God's people today?
3. What is the shroud that enfolds all peoples and covers all nations? What will happen to it someday?
4. Who will wipe away the tears of God's people?
5. What will God's people say when Jesus returns as He promised?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly
International Bible Lesson.

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