

The Way to Everlasting Peace

International Bible Lesson

Isaiah 25:6-10a

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“On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 25:7-8).

A shroud is a cloth that is placed over one who has died, and Isaiah declared that all peoples everywhere will die until the Messiah comes. Until Jesus Christ returns, disease, death, violence and war will cover all nations, and we know this from graphic and personal experience. Through Isaiah, God promised to “swallow up” or destroy death someday for all peoples and nations. Referring to Isaiah’s prophecy, Paul wrote that with the coming of the Messiah Jesus, “Death has been swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54). Paul also wrote, “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Therefore, when a follower of Jesus the Messiah dies they go to heaven, “to springs of living water” where “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (see Revelation 7:15-17). After Jesus the Messiah returns someday, death will be completely destroyed in every nation and war and violence will cease. God’s people will never experience disgrace, distress, or death again. John saw a vision that gave more details regarding events Isaiah foretold: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. . . I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. . . God’s dwelling place is now among the people. . . They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God” (see Revelation 21:1-3).

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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?