

# Isaiah

An Invitation to Come  
Isaiah 55:6-13

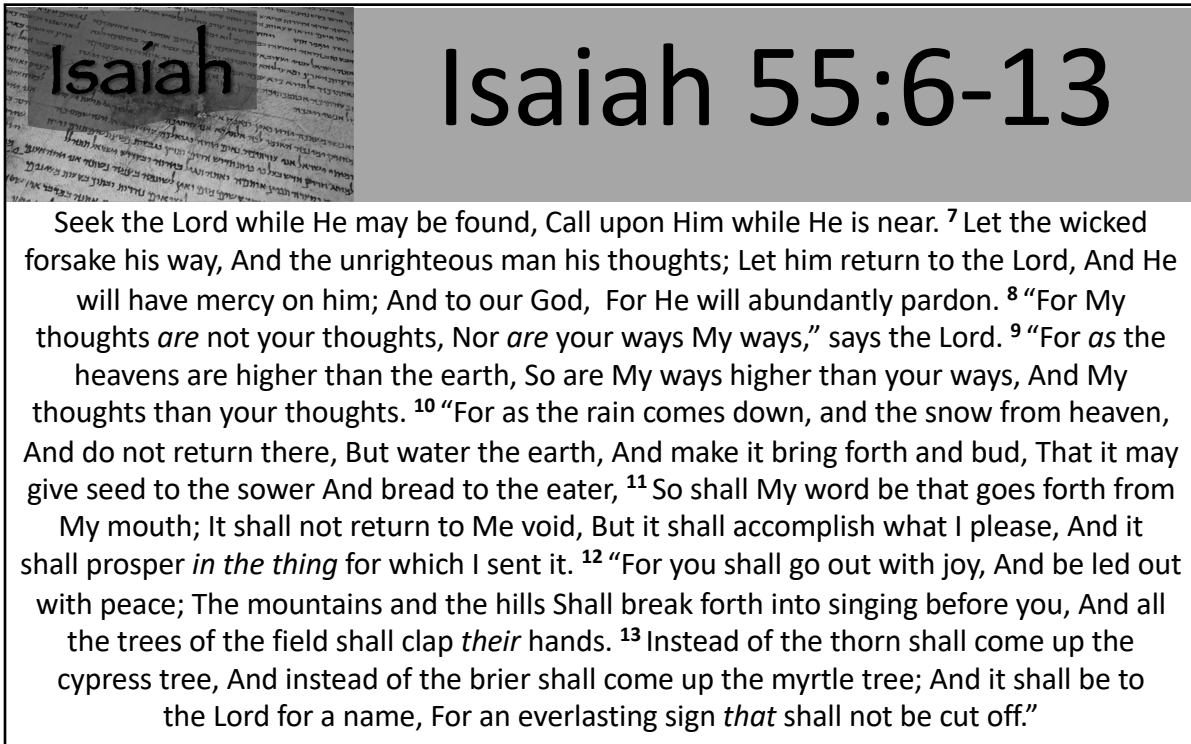
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## Introduction

God is not like us. We tend to reject those who have hurt and offended us. God is not like us. In Isaiah 55-56, God issues a threefold invitation to Come to Him. Today we will look at the second invitation.

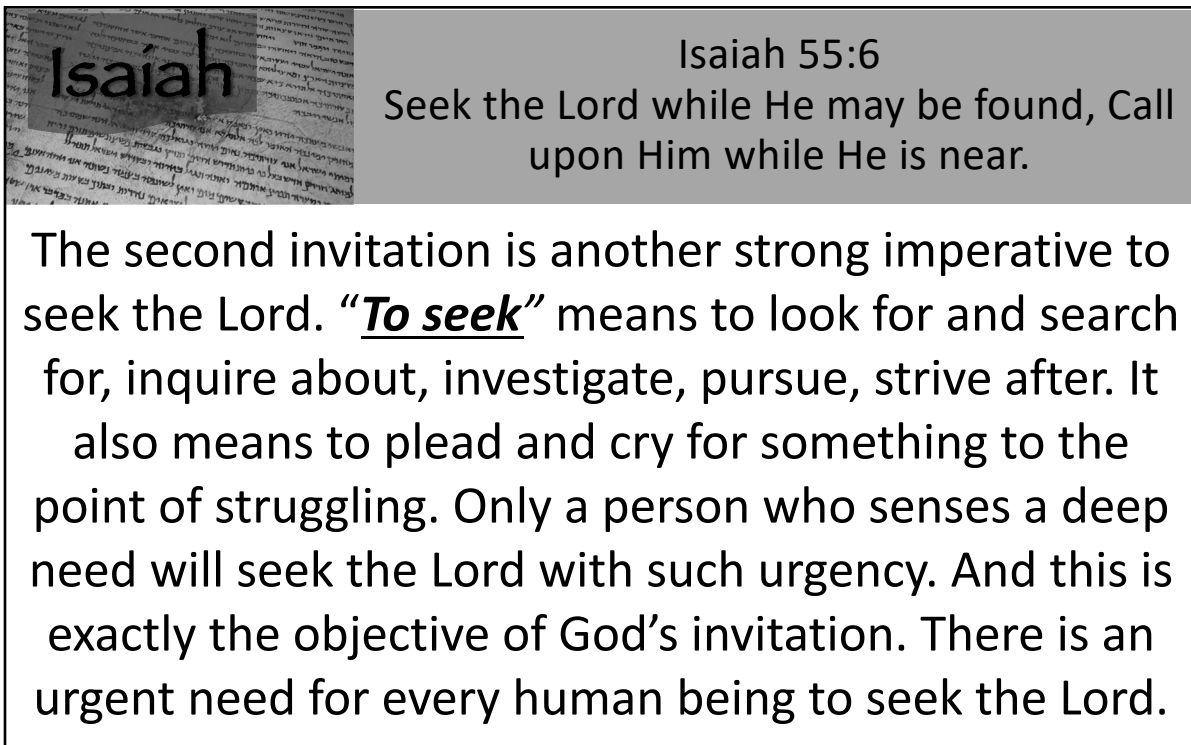
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**Isaiah** **Isaiah 55:6-13**

Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup> “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> “For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the Lord for a name, For an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.”

3



**Isaiah** **Isaiah 55:6**

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The second invitation is another strong imperative to seek the Lord. “**To seek**” means to look for and search for, inquire about, investigate, pursue, strive after. It also means to plead and cry for something to the point of struggling. Only a person who senses a deep need will seek the Lord with such urgency. And this is exactly the objective of God’s invitation. There is an urgent need for every human being to seek the Lord.

4



## Isaiah 55:6

Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

This second invitation call also includes a warning - people can wait too long. The Holy Spirit convicts the heart of sin, God's righteousness, and a coming judgment. However, many people ignore this. They will deal with God at a later date, but not just now. They fail to seek the Lord while He is near and still can be found.

5



## Isaiah 55:6

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Many do not take the *opportunity* to seek the Lord. Throughout the day, people's minds have to be focused on their work and other duties. Lives are filled with "amusements" that drown out the cries of the soul to know God. The best way to find God is in the quietness of the heart while reading or hearing His Word.

6



## Isaiah 55:6

Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

It is not always easy for people to find God. People can harden their hearts to such a degree that they feel God is far off, completely out of reach. Also the more people misbehave, the more acceptable their sinful behavior appears. Their consciences can become dead and insensitive to sin. In that frame of mind they will not seek the Lord as readily as they would if their hearts were not hardened.

7



## Isaiah 55:6

Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

More important, God will have nothing to do with sinful behavior. He is holy and cannot look upon sin; therefore, if people continue in their sinful ways, the Lord is forced to withdraw His presence. Thus, God gives this strong exhortation: "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near." Do not wait too long. Do not wait until your heart becomes hard and insensitive to the convictions of God's Spirit.

8



Isaiah 55:7

Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Those invited to seek the Lord are the wicked of the earth. **What is involved in seeking?** Repentance. This means to forsake an evil way of life to turn to the Lord. People who truly repent turn away from their wicked behavior, banish evil thoughts from their minds, and turn to the Lord. When people truly repent, God has mercy upon them and forgives their sins. They are freely, abundantly pardoned.

9




Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

The need to seek the Lord is urgent, for God's thoughts and ways are far beyond our comprehension. God is holy and dwells in perfection, and no one could ever come close to understanding His ways. God's thoughts and ways are perfect and righteous, far beyond our understanding.

10




Isaiah 55:8-9

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In contrast, our thoughts and ways are blemished, imperfect, wicked, and simplistic. Therefore, we must never try to “second-guess” God. God’s thoughts and ways are as high above ours as the heavens are above the earth. God clearly does not think or act like we do. Although Scripture does not give us complete answers to all our questions, it does give us enough information to enable us to trust God and to know right from wrong.

11




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Through the truths revealed in Scripture, we can know much about God, and we can have assurance that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. Therefore, when God extends to people the invitation to seek Him, people must seek Him. The Lord knows that the issue involves life and death, eternity in heaven or eternity in hell. But it is up to every individual to accept or reject Him.

12




Isaiah 55:10-11

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

God’s Word is what stirs the wicked to repent of their sins and turn to the Lord for salvation. God’s Holy Word is the point of contact between Him and the people of earth. Without the Word of God, people would have no way to know the Lord. It is the Word of God that convicts the wicked of their sins and stirs them to repent. It is the Word of God that tells people to cleanse their minds of evil thoughts and correct their wicked behavior.

13



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Note what Scripture says: God’s Word is as powerful as the rain and snow that water the earth and causes the seed to grow. God’s Word will not return to Him empty. His Word will bear fruit and will accomplish His purpose. It will convict sinners, lead them to Christ, and instruct them in the way of righteousness.

14



Isaiah 55:12

“For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace;  
The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing  
before you, And all the trees of the field shall  
clap *their* hands.

God does great things for those who seek Him! When God set His people free from the Babylonian captivity, He made three wonderful promises to them, promises that are applicable to believers of all generations (vv. 12–13).

15




Isaiah 55:12

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The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing  
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1) **The people who were set free would live in joy and peace.** This is a picture of repentant sinners. Their new life would begin as soon as they were released from their captivity, and it would continue on throughout their lives. A sense of fullness—inner joy and inner peace—would continually flood the hearts of faithful, obedient believers.

16






Isaiah 55:13

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the Lord for a name, For an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off."

2) The repentant sinners were also given the wonderful promise of a great future, a time when the earth would be transformed, made perfect. This is a clear prophecy of the Messianic kingdom, the kingdom that Christ will establish on earth when He returns. In that day all nature will rejoice, for the creation will be delivered from its corruption, its struggle, and its suffering.

17



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God cursed the earth with thorns when Adam and Eve rebelled against Him in the Garden of Eden. Thorns represent the consequence of man's sin. As a symbol of this, Jesus was crowned with thorns. Now all thorns will be removed from the earth and all vegetation will become fruitful, producing its maximum capacity. There will be a new earth, as well as a new heaven.

18



Isaiah 55:13

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3) The transformation of Creation will be for the purpose of honoring the Lord. It will be a sign of God's wonderful love for His people and of His great power that works for the good of His people.

19



# So What ...

How well do you know God?  
He invites you to come and seek Him.  
He wants you to come and know Him!  
Will you accept His invitation?

20