

Note: These two songs from the pen of a mature Isaiah provide the final two chapters of his Book of Consolation. Each song describes the Lord's promise that, when the people return from captivity in Babylon, Jerusalem and the land of Israel will become fruitful and prosperous; but each song does it in a different way.

Isaiah 54

1. Usually, one would tell a barren woman to lament, but Isaiah tells her to sing. Why? (Is 54:1)
2. What wonderful realization does Israel need to remember about her relation to the Lord? (Is 54:5)
3. What images does Isaiah use to describe the future prosperity of his people? (Is 54:11-15)
4. How does Isaiah use the image of a blacksmith to show the Lord's power to defend and protect His people? (Is 54:16-17)

Isaiah 55

5. What images does Isaiah use to describe the eventual fruitfulness of a future Israel that the Lord will provide for the returning Babylonian captives? (Is 55:1-3)
6. Why would a reminder of King David and the Lord's relationship to him be reassuring to the returning Babylonian captives? (Is 55:3-5)
7. In Isaiah 55:3 and 55:6, Isaiah gives two pieces of advice to his audience.
 - a. What are these pieces of advice?
 - b. How valuable are they as advice in general?
 - c. *Reflection:* Are either of them important for you to remember now?
8. Christians believe in the unlimited infinite mercy of God. Do you think Isaiah believed in the Lord's infinite mercy? Why or why not? (Is 55:7)
9. Isaiah believes the Lord will accomplish everything He says He will do. What imagery does Isaiah use to show that the Lord's will is always accomplished? (Is 55:10-11)
10. What do you like about the imagery Isaiah uses to show how nature will reflect the joy of the Israelites returning to Jerusalem? (Is 55:12-13)