

When Life Doesn't Make Sense

"For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:9 NLT



We all have had times when we wondered why God **allowed** disappointing things to happen. Maybe it was a tragic loss of a loved one, a failed business venture, a disaster on the news, corruption locally or globally, or unfair treatment by family, friends, or people at our job. The list is long. Sometimes, people conclude that God must not exist or doesn't care about us.

The fact that we are limited in the facts of the whole story adds to our confusion. We do not see all the details that God sees. We do not see the big picture of the greater good in God's apparent unanswered prayer, lack of intervention, or silence. But Isaiah 55:8-9 can shed light on the problem of life not making sense.

Isaiah mentions several areas where life doesn't make sense to many people. But before we look at those areas, we need to see how God wants us to respond. Our response can be summarized by the words Come, See, Seek, Turn = TRUST! **Come** to God (55:1-3). **See** how God has worked & blessed (55:4). **Seek** the Lord (55:6). **Turn** to the Lord (55:7). These responses can be summarized by—trust the Lord when life doesn't make sense!

Central Lesson: God's ways and thoughts are better than ours—trust Him!

1. For many, it doesn't make sense - that **SALVATION** is a free gift (55:1).

*"Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—even if you have **no money!** Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it's all **free!**"*

Most people think that they have to work for salvation, earn it, deserve it. But the Bible tells us that God's forgiveness and salvation is a free gift that is not earned or deserved: Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 6:23; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:5.

2. For many, it doesn't make sense - that people **WASTE** away their life by living for things that really don't matter (55:2).

*"Why spend your money on food that **does not give you strength?** Why pay for food that **does you no good?** Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food."*

Many people have tried to climb the ladder of success, and once they get to the top, they realize that their ladder is leaning on the wrong building. Jesus warned about living for the temporary things of life, *"And what do you benefit if you **gain the whole world but lose your own soul?** Is anything worth more than your soul?"* Matthew 16:26 NLT.

3. For many, it doesn't make sense - that God gives life **MEANING** and purpose (55:3-5).

*"³ Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. **I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.** ⁴ See how I used him to display my power among the peoples. **I made him a leader among the nations.** ⁵ You also will command nations you do not know, and peoples unknown to you will come running to obey, because I, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious."*

The Lord promised to bless those who come to Him just as he blessed David. God gives people meaning and purpose for life, *"My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life"* (Jn. 10:10).

4. For many, it doesn't make sense - that we have a **LIMITED** opportunity to seek God (55:6-7).

*"⁶ Seek the Lord **while you can find him.** Call on him now **while he is near.** ⁷ Let the wicked **change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong.** Let them turn to the Lord that he may have **mercy on them.** Yes, turn to our God, for he will **forgive generously.**"*

5. For many, it doesn't make sense - why God **OPERATES** the way he does (55:8-9). Answered & unanswered prayer, he appears to be absent at times, why God allows evil, etc

*"⁸ My thoughts are **nothing like your thoughts,**" says the Lord. "And my ways are **far beyond anything you could imagine.** ⁹ For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are **higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.**"*

6. For many, it doesn't make sense - how God's kingdom **ADVANCES** & purposes succeed in a corrupt broken world (55:10-11).

*"¹⁰ The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. ¹¹ **It is the same with my word.** I send it out, and it **always produces fruit.** It will **accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.**"* Persecution advances God's kingdom (Acts 8:1-4).

7. For many, it doesn't make sense - that Christ will **RETURN** and restore paradise (55:12-13). God will fix this broken world through Christ's second coming, millennial reign, the Great White Throne Judgment, and the New Heaven & Earth—Revelation 19-22.

*"¹² You will live in **joy and peace.** The **mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands!** ¹³ Where once there were thorns, **cypress trees will grow.** Where nettles grew, **myrtles will sprout up.** These events will **bring great honor to the Lord's name; they will be an everlasting sign of his power and love.**"*

Bible scholars believe the language of Isaiah 55:12-13 describes the **future millennial reign of the Messiah** (see Rev. 20), which God promised to David. This promise was Israel's great hope and anticipation. However, many today and throughout history find all prophecies hard to believe. Even the Apostle Peter mentioned skepticism of Christ's return, as indicated in 2 Peter 3:3-4. *"³ Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days **scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires.** ⁴ They will say, 'What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, **everything has remained the same since the world was first created**'"* (NLT).

Central Lesson: God's ways and thoughts are better than ours—trust Him!

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior.
- ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study.
- ▶ Attend a small group.
- ▶ Read the Bible.
- ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.