

The Everlasting God

Introduction. We like the idea of having security. In fact, there are very few people who reject the idea of security. Everyone wants something stable to rely upon. You can see it in the fact of purchasing consumer goods. Often our decision to buy or not to buy is based on warranty, which gives us security.

Our God in heaven gives us spiritual security. And His security is everlasting. The prophet Isaiah discusses seven everlasting items with which God has bountifully equipped us and from which we need to take warning as well.

I. ***God Has Supplied Everlasting Strength (26:4)***

- A. Many newer versions state that God is our everlasting rock. This is expressed several times in the Psalms (46:1; 73:26; 81:1; 84:5). This section is a song of praise for God's strength. His strength for us is like a "rock of ages."
- B. The term "rock" is frequently used of God to emphasize His role as protector of His people (1 Samuel 2:2; Psalm 19:14; 28:1). Beginning with Moses' use of "rock" in reference to Jehovah (Deuteronomy 32:4), several writers have used the word to describe certain characteristics of the Lord:
 - 1. Jehovah is a fortress and deliverer in whom one can take refuge (2 Samuel 22:2-3).
 - 2. Jehovah is our rock of salvation (2 Samuel 22:47).
 - 3. Jehovah is a house of defense or fortress (Psalm 31:2-3).
- C. Our God is One in whom we can trust. We should be willing to trust in God not only in the good times, but also in the bad times too. God can offer shelter from the stormy winds and fierce oppressions of life. God gave Israel water from a rock in the desert; Paul uses this rock as a symbol of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4). He is firm and unchangeable like an eternal rock, and in Him we may find protection and defense throughout the everlasting ages.

II. ***God Has Delivered Everlasting Judgments (33:14)***

- A. This section discusses the broken covenant and devouring fire. Sinners are those who err, who have missed the mark that God set before them. The godless are the impious people who lightly esteem what is holy and hold nothing to be sacred. Unfortunately, this is the lot of many today. So many people out there hold nothing holy as it pertains to God. The sinners and the godless are the ones who disregarded God and His ways.
- B. From the beginning of Israel's history, God had revealed Himself as a

“devouring fire” which consumes (Deuteronomy 4:24; 9:3). The children of Israel ask these questions because of the terrifying events they have seen. God’s deliverance of Jerusalem from Sennacherib has a great impact on the sinners in Zion. They are terrified. If the Lord can smite the mighty Assyrians so severely, what sinner can escape His devouring fire? Divine wrath against sin is inexhaustible.

- C. In the New Testament, the doctrine of eternal punishment is very prominent (Matthew 13:41-42; 18:7-8; Revelation 20:10, 15; 21:8). The book of Hebrews refers to God as a consuming fire and a fire that would consume the adversaries (12:29; 10:27).

III. ***God Has Given Everlasting Joy (35:10)***

- A. This section climaxes in a long prophecy which foreshadowed down to the time of Christ. The highway of holiness was to lead to Zion where the Redeemer would come forth and set up the kingdom and all nations would flow into it. What a glorious description!
- B. The prophets knew that these glories were not for their day, but for ours (1 Peter 1:10-12). Under the Messiah we now have come to Zion by a new and living way (Hebrews 12:22; 10:19-20). As we come to the kingdom, we need to come in the spirit of rejoicing and thanksgiving that was so gloriously pictured by Isaiah (Acts 8:39).
- C. Children of God are heirs of all that to which the prophets pointed (Acts 3:24-26; Hebrews 1:2). Because of our salvation from sin and the mercies of God, the kingdom of God is a kingdom of joy (Romans 14:17; Revelation 7:17; 21:4). This joy will not be short-lived and fading, but constant and everlasting.

IV. ***God Has Offered Everlasting Salvation (45:17)***

- A. This section speaks of the effect of Israel’s redemption on the Gentiles. Israel’s state is boldly contrasted with that of the idolaters, and God’s power with that of the idols when it is said, “Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation.” The “everlasting salvation” which comes from God will bear His likeness; it, too, will be endless.
- B. This is confirmed by the assurance that, unlike the idolaters, Israel shall not be put to shame nor confounded. Israel’s freedom from shame and from confusion and their salvation will be coexistent; both are without end.
- C. It seems evident that the prophet is not looking for a literal coming of the three nations in chains, bowing before Israel and accepting God upon the return from Babylon. With their return under the command of Cyrus the way was being opened for the full realization of the promises in this passage. These prophecies were fulfilled in a spiritual sense under the Messiah, whom Cyrus foreshadowed.

D. In the New Testament, the prophecy was revealed as the mystery (Ephesians 3:3-5). Take hold of the salvation while you can (Mark 16:16; Luke 19:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

V. *God Has Provided Everlasting Kindness (54:8)*

- A. God had abandoned Israel for a small moment (70 years) in comparison with the total history of His relationship to His people. Though in an outburst of anger He had hid His face (a Hebrew idiom connoting apparent inactivity, abandonment, displeasure or disgust) for this small moment, with great mercies and with everlasting lovingkindness He will gather her to Himself, for God's tenderness is everlasting (Psalm 30:5).
- B. Everlasting kindness is an eternal principle with God. In fact, throughout the Old Testament, God's lovingkindness is described (Psalm 17:7; Ezekiel 39:23; Jeremiah 31:3; Hosea 2:19; Joel 2:13; Micah 3:4). The children of Israel would, in turn, soon forget this dismal time.

VI. *God Has Instituted An Everlasting Covenant (55:3)*

- A. This section has a wonderful invitation that hearkens to the time of Christ. The word "covenant" means a "legally binding obligation, especially of God for man's redemption." God's everlasting covenant would be established according to the faithful or sure mercies of David. God had in mind 2 Samuel 7:11-14. God was going to be the one who would provide, not the idols. All the wonderful concepts in vss. 1-2 will be achieved only through sacrifice.; i.e., one must "come ye."
- B. This covenant was spoken of by Jeremiah in 31:31 and again in Hebrews 8:8-13. In the New Testament, its full meaning is revealed. Hebrews 13:20 states that this eternal covenant was established by the blood of Jesus Christ. Paul quoted Isaiah 55:3 in Acts 13:34-39 and claimed that it was fulfilled by Christ. In Him we have all the blessings of the remission of our sins and justification (Ephesians 1:7-14). In a sense, Jesus made the terms of the covenant plain (John 5:24). Isaiah renews the invitation by contrasting an evil way with a righteous way. We must find the way, too (John 14:6).

VII. *God Has Furnished Everlasting Light (60:19)*

- A. This section discusses how we are made glorious through God's everlasting light. The prophet declares that there is a bright future in store for the penitent, returned exiles and their descendants. The Lord Himself will be their everlasting light (Ezekiel 1:26-28; 43:2; Revelation 21:23; 22:5).
- B. God is the light and glory of the spiritual city. If the sun and moon can contribute nothing to the splendor of this city, the light of human wis-

dom and philosophy would add only confusion and darkness. The day of mourning in spiritual darkness and searching after the true light will come to an end; from henceforth all will be bright.

- C. Do you love the light of this world (John 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:4-5)? Jesus is that light and He will shine in the heart to reveal a new and living way.

Conclusion. God is not a temporary God. He does not exist for a moment in time only to disappear in the next instant. We have been blessed with an everlasting God who loves us and wants us to do His will. With all that He has given to us, now would be a good time to reflect on your standing before God. If it is your wish to become part of the body of Christ or to be restored to the body of Christ, please come forward.