

It is not in line with human expectation but it is the plan which God made before the foundation of the earth. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts your thoughts." He has planned this, Jesus as the lamb slain from before the foundation of the world. Through Him all those are to be saved who believe on His name. "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." The marvelous grace of God! The predetermined plan. The outgoing of his message to win unto Him all those whom he has ordained unto eternal life. "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Some people take this verse ^{as proof} You can take anything figuratively in the Bible that you want. You don't have to take anything literally because it says that the trees of the field shall clap their hands. It means that all nations will rejoice in that which is to come. The trees of the field will clap their hands. "Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree," ~~and/instead~~ The removal of the curse as a result of what Christ has done. "and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." This 55th chapter is surely one of the most wonderful chapters in the whole Bible. The chapter telling of the outreach of the work of Christ and the ~~one~~ wonderful message of deliverance. As 53 points to the death of Christ, 55 points just as clearly to the message that comes from it. A message that is available to those who believe in Him at all times before His coming or after His coming, but which is more fully understood by us now. And then we start a new section. This 40 through 56 here is a very ~~close~~ closely unified section of the book of Isaiah with very closely knit thought, as you notice all through it. And then you start a new section and you revert