

*Anticipating future events*

**Guaranteed/certain**  
*"As good as done"*  
*It cannot not happen*

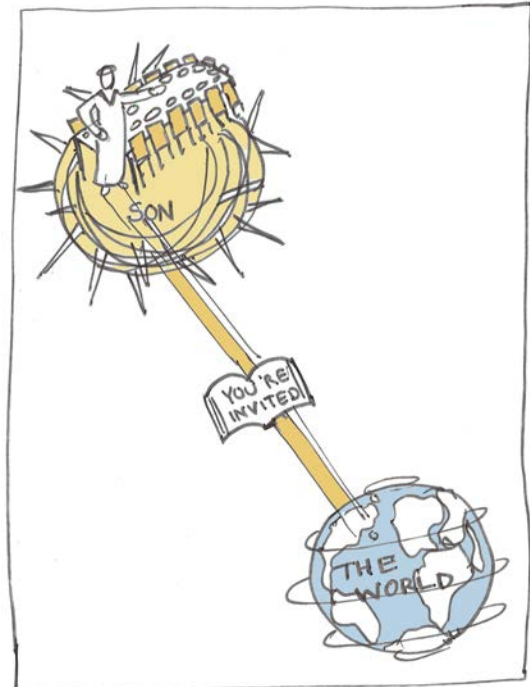
**Maybe will happen**  
*From very, very likely*  
*to very, very unlikely*

How do we view God's work in the world?

How do we view God's promises for what He will do?

**Slow but Certain**  
**Isaiah 25**

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### *A Brief History of Time*

Creation	Fall	Redemption	Restoration
God created a perfect world	Sin broke the world and humanity	God begins and Jesus completes rescue	Jesus completes restoration to a perfect world
<b>Israel</b>			

- **Promise to Abraham & action in Moses: nation is formed**
- **United kingdom: Saul, David, Solomon**
- **Then civil war: north (Israel) and south (Judah)**
- **Northern kingdom destroyed 722 BC** ← **Isaiah**
- **Southern kingdom destroyed 586 BC**

### *Isaiah 25*

**1-5:** Song of praise for future promised deliverance, and present protection

6-10a: • **Deliverance** was **planned** in “faithful faithfulness”

- Praise as if deliverance were already accomplished

10b-12:

- Enemy’s fortress will lose its power completely
- Enemy will bow before God, willingly or not
- Praise also for current refuge in current trouble
  - Refuge (protection), shelter, shade for weak & poor
- Focused on **protection** for the oppressed and powerless

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### *Isaiah 25*

1-5: Song of praise for future promised deliverance, and present protection

6-10a: God's promise: a joyous, eternal victory (feast) for all peoples who trust in Christ

- 10b-12:
- “**This** mountain” inclusio: symbol of Jesus' death
    - Death is “swallowed up” by Jesus' power to live again forever after death
    - So in Christ, death (shroud/sheet over all peoples) no longer has power
  - One true God, with life available to **all peoples**
  - The greatest God comforts and rescues individuals
  - Removes disgrace=“failure” of God they trusted

### **When God rescued His people from certain death:**

“The Lord is my strength and my defense;  
he **has become my salvation.**

He is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.”

*Exodus 15:2*

**We trust in God's future fulfillment of promised salvation**

**Greatest joy comes when that hoped for salvation  
becomes our lived experience**

### *Isaiah 25*

1-5: Song of praise for future promised deliverance,  
and present protection

6-10a: God's promise: a joyous, eternal victory (feast)  
for all peoples who trust in Christ

10b-12: Humiliation and destruction  
for all who stand apart from Christ

### **Moab: a symbol of pride & self sufficiency:**

We have heard of Moab's **pride**—  
how great is her **arrogance!**—  
of her **conceit**, her **pride** and her **insolence**;  
but her **boasts** are empty.

*Isaiah 16:6*

**insolence = rude and disrespectful behavior**



### *Isaiah 25*

1-5: Song of praise for future promised deliverance, and present protection

6-10a: God's promise: a joyous, eternal victory (feast) for all peoples who trust in Christ

10b-12: Humiliation and destruction

for all who stand apart from Christ

- Moab: Self-sufficiency (strength, cleverness) is

**not hoping in Christ**

- Since God's victory comes **in Christ**, to be **outside** of Christ is to be **outside** of God's victory

### **Death and the curse on all humanity**

And the Lord God commanded Adam, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it **you will certainly die.**"

*Genesis 2:16-17*

After Adam ate from the tree, God said to him:

"By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for **dust** you are  
and **to dust you will return.**"

*Genesis 3:19*

## Death and the curse on all humanity

And the Lord God commanded Adam, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day that you eat from it you will die.”

**“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all (who belong in Christ) will be made alive.”**

*1 Corinthians 15:22*<sup>17</sup>

After

**“B Salvation is found in no one else than Jesus, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”**

*Acts 4:12*

for dust you are

and **to dust you will return.**”

*Genesis 3:19*

## The Big Idea

God’s joyous and total victory  
over sin and death  
is for all who trust in Jesus Christ  
and is as certain as a completed event  
though we still have to wait in faith  
for the full experience of it to get to us



- What will happen next?
- How far away is the lightning?
  - Miles = # of seconds / 5
- We see the lightning before we experience its sound
- God's promises:
  - like the light
- Fulfillment:
  - like the sound



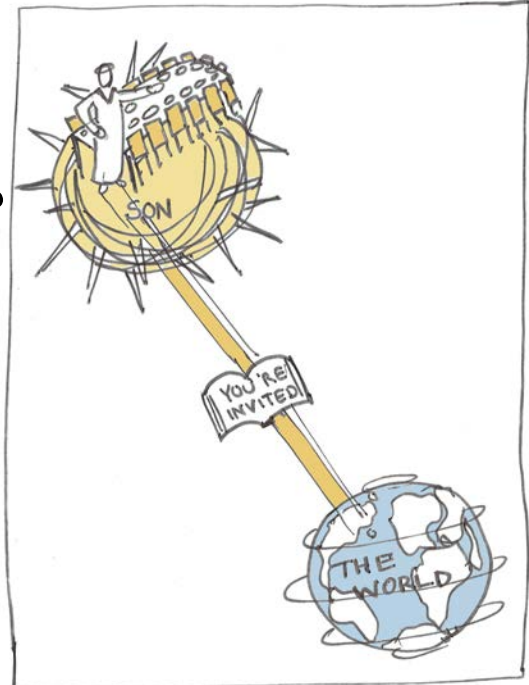
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### *Application*

- **Have faith in God's promise of final victory**
  - Our faith is in the “faithful faithfulness” of God
  - Future joy becomes present joy by faith

- When did light from the Sun we see right now leave the Sun?
  - 8 minutes 20 seconds ago
- The nearest star Proxima Centauri?
  - 4 years 3 months ago
- The twin stars of Eta Carinae?
  - 7,500 years ago
- Promises of God
  - Since before creation
  - Is as certain as if already fulfilled
  - We just have to wait until we “catch up” with the fulfillment





### *Application*

- **Have faith in God's promise of final victory**
  - Our faith is in the “faithful faithfulness” of God
  - Future joy becomes present joy by faith
  - The feast is true from before the foundation of the world
    - We're just waiting for our experience of what is already done
  - Jesus also suffered with confidence:
 

“For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

*Hebrews 12:2*

scorning = disregarding as unimportant

### *Application*

- **Have faith in God's promise of final victory**
- **Take refuge in God's presence and care today**
  - Trust ‘down payments’ of God's presence and grace today
    - Presence of the Holy Spirit with us, especially in the dark days and places
    - We experience many good gifts and joys in this life, even though they are never the full experience of God's joy
  - Today we experience the cloud of God's presence that softens the power of evil and trouble
  - While we wait to experience His final and full victory

### *Application*

- **Have faith in God's promise of final victory**
- **Take refuge in God's presence and care today**
- **Put your trust in Christ today**
  - Self-struggle, self-sufficiency, and trusting other things all share this key thing: they are not hoping in Christ
  - Not hoping in Christ separates us from God's joyous promised victory
  - Placing our trust in Christ is being adopted by God, and He protects and cares for His children forever
    - "Salvation is found in no one else than Jesus, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

*Acts 4:12*

### **The Big Idea**

God's joyous and total victory over sin and death is for all who trust in Jesus Christ and is as certain as a completed event though we still have to wait in faith for the full experience of it to get to us

