

Death Is Swallowed Up Forever!

Promise: those who wait upon the Lord will feast forever in the Kingdom

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14
(19th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 23), 10/11/20)

He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces. — v. 8

Lead In – Don't you love the phrase, "He will swallow up death forever"! If true, it means that in spite of appearances the Grim Reaper is not at the top of the food chain. This is the appearance, our current experience, that plant life provides food for the mule deer, and the mule deer provides a meal for the mountain lion, and just when you think the lion is at the top, you realize the maggots will soon feed on the lion. But alas, according to the Word of the Lord, life itself, and the one who is life, will swallow up death. Forever!

I. The Beautiful Picture Of What Awaits the Believer

- A. On the mountain of the Lord the nations will come...
- B. Three locations rep the presence of the Lord...
- C. A consistent picture of feasting, sumptuously!

II. Of Things Too Wonderful to Tell. Words Fail Us

- A. The encouragement of imagination for intimations...
- B. The unimaginable by way of negations...
- C. The covering and veil is finally removed!

III. For Those Who Wait Upon the Lord

- A. Some of the waiting is already past tense...
- B. The term "inclusive" is fraught with difficulties...
- C. Refusing invitation, and refusing to honor the host!

Parting Shot – The most important thing in our lives is to prepare to die a good death! That almost sounds like a contradiction! So what does it mean to die a good death? It means that we hold on to our baptismal gift and faith, trusting in Jesus alone for our salvation. That is, we trust in Jesus and what he accomplished by dying and rising to atone for our sins, and freely give us the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation. It is to wait on this, and nothing else to feast eternally on the mountain of the Lord.

The Mountain of the Lord: Mount Zion, the temple mount, a representation of the Church.

Is 2:2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it.

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jn 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Isaiah 25:6-9 ESV

God Will Swallow Up Death Forever

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Mt 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

1 Co 2:9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"

Imaginative Intimations: River of Life. Trees that never shed leaves, bearing fruit every month – leaves for healing. Leopard and lamb laying down together. Infant playing with a cobra. Streets of gold. Gates of pearl. Crystal Fountain.

Negations: No more death, no more mourning, no more tears, no more pain, nothing accursed...

1 Co 15:54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Jn 11:24-26 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Rm 6 – *newness of life now, and sharing a resurrection like his later...*

Mt 22:12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

Death Is Swallowed Up Forever!

Promise: those who wait upon the Lord will feast forever in the Kingdom

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14
(19th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 23), 10/11/20)

He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces. — v. 8

Lead In – Don't you love the phrase, "He will swallow up death forever"! If true, it means that in spite of appearances the Grim Reaper is not at the top of the food chain. This is the appearance, our current experience, that plant life provides food for the mule deer, and the mule deer provides a meal for the mountain lion, and just when you think the lion is at the top, you realize the maggots will soon feed on the lion. But alas, according to the Word of the Lord, life itself, and the one who is life, will swallow up death. Forever!

I. The Beautiful Picture Of What Awaits the Believer

- A. On the mountain of the Lord the nations will come...
- B. Three locations rep the presence of the Lord...
- C. A consistent picture of feasting, sumptuously!

II. Of Things Too Wonderful to Tell. Words Fail Us

- A. The encouragement of imagination for intimations...
- B. The unimaginable by way of negations...
- C. The covering and veil is finally removed!

III. For Those Who Wait Upon the Lord

- A. Some of the waiting is already past tense...
- B. The term "inclusive" is fraught with difficulties...
- C. Refusing invitation, and refusing to honor the host!

Parting Shot – The most important thing in our lives is to prepare to die a good death! That almost sounds like a contradiction! So what does it mean to die a good death? It means that we hold on to our baptismal gift and faith, trusting in Jesus alone for our salvation. That is, we trust in Jesus and what he accomplished by dying and rising to atone for our sins, and freely give us the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation. It is to wait on this, and nothing else to feast eternally on the mountain of the Lord.

The Mountain of the Lord: Mount Zion, the temple mount, a representation of the Church.

Is 2:2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it.

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jn 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

Isaiah 25:6-9 ESV

God Will Swallow Up Death Forever

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Mt 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

1 Co 2:9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"

Imaginative Intimations: River of Life. Trees that never shed leaves, bearing fruit every month – leaves for healing. Leopard and lamb laying down together. Infant playing with a cobra. Streets of gold. Gates of pearl. Crystal Fountain.

Negations: No more death, no more mourning, no more tears, no more pain, nothing accursed...

1 Co 15:54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Jn 11:24-26 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Rm 6 – *newness of life now, and sharing a resurrection like his later...*

Mt 22:12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.