

ISAIAH 26

A Song in Judah

1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

Trust in Yahweh

We have a strong city. He sets up salvation (יְשׁוּעָה) as walls and bulwarks. 2 Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith (אֲמוּנָה) may enter in. 3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts (בְּטִיחָה) in you. 4 Trust (בְּטֹחַ) in Yahweh forever, for Lord Yahweh is an everlasting rock.¹ 5 For he has humbled the inhabitants of the height, the lofty city. He lays it low, lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust. 6 The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy.

Yahweh Will Set Up Peace for the Righteous

7 The path of the righteous is level. You make level the way of the righteous. 8 In the path of your judgments, Yahweh, we wait (קִוְיָה) for you. Your name² and remembrance are the desire of our soul. 9 My soul yearns for you in the night.³ My spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.⁴ 10 If favor is shown to the wicked, he does not learn righteousness. In the land of uprightness he deals corruptly and does not see the majesty of Yahweh. 11 Yahweh, your hand is lifted up, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal (קִנְיָה) for your people and be ashamed. Let the fire for your adversaries consume them. 12 Yahweh, you will set up (שָׁפַת) peace (שְׁלוֹמִים) for us, for you have indeed done for us all our works. 13 Yahweh our God, other lords (אֱלֹהִים) besides you have ruled over us, but your name⁵ alone we bring to remembrance. 14 They are dead They will not live. They are shades. They will not arise. To that end you have visited them with destruction and wiped out all remembrance of them. 15 But you have increased the nation, Yahweh. You have increased the nation. You are glorified. You have enlarged all the borders of the land.

Yahweh's Dead Shall Live

16 Yahweh, in distress they sought you. They poured out a whispered prayer when your discipline was upon them. 17 Like a pregnant woman who writhes and cries out in her pangs when she is near to giving birth, so were we because of you, Yahweh. 18

¹ See *God as Rock*.

² See *The Name of God*.

³ See *Night*.

⁴ See *Righteousness*.

⁵ See *The Name of God*.

we were pregnant, we writhed, but we have given birth to wind. We have accomplished no salvation (יְשׁוּעָה)⁶ in the earth, and the inhabitants of the world have not fallen. 19 Your dead shall live. Their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.⁷

Hide Yourselfs Until the Fury Passes By

20 Come, my people, enter your chambers and shut your doors behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while until the fury (אַרְצִי) has passed by.⁸ 21 For behold, Yahweh is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth⁹ for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.¹⁰

⁶ See *Salvation*.

⁷ See *Resurrection*.

⁸ This reminds of the final scene of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

⁹ This sounds like the earth-dwellers of Revelation.

¹⁰ **Re 6:9-10** 9 When [the Lamb] opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?

Notes