

Isaiah 55:10–13

10 "For as the rain and the snow come
down from heaven

and do not return there
but water the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower
and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out
from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish
that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing
for which I sent it.

12 "For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field
shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn
shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier
shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the Lord,
an everlasting sign
that shall not be cut off."

**Psalm 65:9–13**

9 You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of | water;*
you provide their grain,
for so you have pre- | pared it.

10 You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its | ridges,*
softening it with showers,
and bless- | ing its growth.

11 You crown the year
with your | bounty;*
your wagon tracks overflow
with a- | bundance.

12 The pastures of the wilderness |
overflow,*
the hills gird them- |
selves with joy,

13 the meadows clothe themselves
with flocks, the valleys deck them- |
selves with grain,*
they shout and sing together |
for joy.

Romans 8:12–17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since

they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."