

Isaiah Chapter 52 - God Redeems Jerusalem

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente](#), cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS – George Bernard – sung by Ernie Ford

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

*Refrain: So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it some day for a crown.*

*To the old rugged cross, I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share. (Refrain)*

GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH: Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!

Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642

Isaiah’s time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!

In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.

Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.

ISAIAH 40:1-66:24

The prophecies of chapters 1-39 addressed Judah in her situation during Isaiah's ministry (739 B.C. until c. 686 B.C.). The prophecies of chapters 40-66 address Judah as though the prophesied Babylonian captivity (Isa 39:5-7) were already a present reality, though that captivity did not begin until 605-586 B.C. The words "'There is no peace,' says the Lord, 'for the wicked'" (Isa 48:22; Isa 57:21) signal the divisions of this section into three parts: chapters 40-48 (Comfort of Jehovah), chapters 49-57 (Salvation of Jehovah) and chapters 58-66 (Glory of Jehovah).

Four Messianic Prophecies-Songs of the Suffering Servant: #1 Chapter 42:1-9 -Servant of Jehovah-Jesus; #2 Chapter 49:1-13-Servant of God; Savior of the World; #3 Chapter 50:4-9-Jehovah Adonai-Humility of Rejected Prophet; #4 Chapter 52:13-53:12-Suffering Servant-Jehovah’s Servant-Sin Bearer.

ISAIAH 49-57

Starting with Isaiah chapters 49 through 57, there is no longer a mention of Cyrus, now the focus is on the ultimate deliverer, the Messiah. Though there is still reference to the deliverance from Babylon’s captivity, the real focus is on the ultimate deliverance the Messiah will bring.

Isaiah – Bible Timeline

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	Isaiah 1 - 5
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	Isaiah 6
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	Isaiah 7
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	Isaiah 8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	Isaiah 9
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	Isaiah 9:8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	Isaiah 10
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	Isaiah 11
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	Isaiah 12
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	Isaiah 13 - 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	Isaiah 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	Isaiah 23
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	Isaiah 24
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	Isaiah 25 - 27
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	Isaiah 28 - 32
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	Isaiah 32
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	Isaiah 33, 34
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	Isaiah 35
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	Isaiah 40 - 66
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37

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APPLICATION

The Lord's Coming Salvation

Isa 52:1 Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean Shall no longer come to you.

Isa 52:2 Shake yourself from the dust, arise; Sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion!

Isa 52:3 For thus says the LORD: "You have sold yourselves for nothing, And you shall be redeemed without money."

Isa 52:4 For thus says the Lord GOD: "My people went down at first Into Egypt to dwell there; Then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.

Isa 52:5 Now therefore, what have I here," says the LORD, "That My people are taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them Make them wail," says the LORD, "And My name is blasphemed continually every day.

Isa 52:6 Therefore My people shall know My name; Therefore they shall know in that day That I am He who speaks: 'Behold, it is I.' "

vs. 1-3 When the LORD brings back Zion. Wake up to the LORD's redemption of Zion. *Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion:* The first *Awake, awake!* asked the LORD to *put on strength (Isa 51:9)*. The second *Awake, awake!* asked Jerusalem to remember the LORD's judgments and promises. Now, the third *Awake, awake!* tells *Zion to put on strength* in light of the first to awakenings. *Put on your beautiful garments . . . for the uncircumcised and the unclean shall no longer come to you:* Jerusalem could put on clothes of beauty and glory, because the time of judgment was over. This shows that this passage has ultimate fulfillment in the very last days. *You have sold yourselves for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money:* Tragically, Jerusalem went after other gods like someone selling themselves *for nothing*. Yet, they would be blessed by being *redeemed without money*. God's mercy answered to their tragic sin! *You shall be redeemed without money* - but it doesn't mean that it doesn't cost anything. The end of Isaiah 52 begins to describe the great cost of redemption, but it is a cost paid, in blood, by another, the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ!

vs. 4-6 The LORD vindicates His name before those who blaspheme His name. *Those who rule over them make them wail . . . and My name is blasphemed continually every day:* God looks down, and sees how the nations have oppressed His people. *Egypt* held them in captivity. The *Assyrian* (Assyria, including anti-Christian world powers-those enemies of Christ) *oppressed them*, and the Babylonians took them *away for nothing*, (without reason) and ruled cruelly over them. Worse than how they treated God's people was their disrespect for the LORD Himself, whom they *blasphemed continually every day*. *Therefore My people shall know My name:* Yet God will glorify Himself; first, He will do it among His own **people**. It is almost if God says, "I can abide with My name being *blasphemed continually every day* among the nations. Just let it be known and praised among My people." *Therefore they shall know in that day that I am He who speaks:* In Isaiah's day, they **didn't** know that the LORD had spoken through His Word. This is to be expected among the nations, but should never be so among God's people. But God promises there will come a day when *they shall know in that day that I am He who speaks*. They **will know Jehovah Jesus and He will be among them!!**

vs. 1-3 Awake, awake; O Zion! God says He is not sleeping, you're asleep! These things are happening and you're not raising any voices against it! You're not doing anything about it!" God is calling for His people to awake. We are exhorted in *Rom. 13:11*, "*Now it is high time that we awake out of sleep!*" What a great exhortation for the church today! It's time to wake up, O people of God. "*Put on your strength, O Zion.*" What is our strength? The Lord is our strength. *Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

vs. 4-6 It is bad enough that the world does not know or honor God; but it is far more tragic when His own people do not know or honor Him. What Isaiah is saying here in that context primarily applied to Israel, but today it would apply to Christians as well. How well are we knowing and honoring our LORD?

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OBSERVATION

Isa 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Isa 52:8 Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, With their voices they shall sing together; For they shall see eye to eye When the LORD brings back Zion.

Isa 52:9 Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.

Isa 52:10 The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.

Isa 52:11 Depart! Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the LORD.

Isa 52:12 For you shall not go out with haste, Nor go by flight; For the LORD will go before you, And the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

INTERPRETATION

vs. 7-10 The whole earth sees that the LORD redeems Zion. *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news*: Isaiah prophesies of the beautiful feet of those who bring the Gospel - the *good news*. No wonder those who bring *good news* have beautiful feet; they are out partnering with God for the salvation of men. The *feet* speak of activity, motion, and progress, and those who are active and moving in the work of preaching the gospel have *beautiful . . . feet!* *Who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"* The good news - news of peace, glad tidings, and salvation - can all be summed up in the glorious proclamation, *"Your God reigns!"* Where *God reigns, peace* reigns. Where *God reigns, glad tidings* reign. Where *God reigns, salvation* reigns. What a marvelous declaration - Our *God reigns!* "The watchmen who see this happy return are probably those in Jerusalem who had long awaited the messengers. According to Ezekiel, the prophets were the leading 'watchmen' for the nation. *The LORD has made bare (revealed His power) His holy arm*: The thought beginning at Isa 51:9 (*Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD!*) is completed. The LORD has shown His strength, the strength of *His holy arm*. No wonder it is a time for joy and singing! "The expression *made bare his holy arm* is a Hebrew idiom - rolling up long, loose sleeves before starting to work. Then the *arm* was bared - the symbol of any mighty initiative or undertaking. *In the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God*: God does not **make His saving strength known just for those who are immediately rescued, but also as a witness and a testimony to others, so they can see the salvation of our God.**

JOY TO THE WORLD – Isaac Watts – Handel – (ref. Is. 52:7-10)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room And Heaven and nature sing. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ. While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy; He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love.

vs. 11-12 A call unto and confidence for those who will return. *Depart! Depart! Go out from there*: Prophetically, this has both a near and a distant application. It was intended for the Babylonian captives Isaiah has prophesied to; but also for those gathered unto the LORD in the very end times. The call to separate from Babylon - both literal and spiritual - **is a call to purity**, for those *who bear the vessels of the LORD*. 2Ti 2:21 has a wonderful promise for those *vessels of the LORD* who pursue purity: *Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. For you shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight; for the LORD will go before you*: When the salvation of the LORD comes - both in its near and its ultimate fulfillment - there is a sense of peace in the glorious work of the LORD, not a striving in *haste* or *by flight*.

APPLICATION

vs. 7-10 Usually *feet* aren't considered the most *beautiful* part of the anatomy, but the LORD sees *those who bring glad tidings of good things*, as having beautiful feet. How do you consider those who have shared the good news of the Gospel with you compared to the ones who have been only judgmental and critical? How *beautiful* are my feet to my Lord?

vs. 11-12 Considering what He has done for me and will continue to do for me, *Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the LORD*. We need to remember that God doesn't give us commands that He can't enable us to keep. He will never ask us to do anything He won't empower us to do. Therefore, if we are not to *touch the unclean thing*, He will give us the victory if we so choose!

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OBSERVATION

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APPLICATION

He Was Pierced for Our Transgressions

Isa 52:13 Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently (with wisdom); He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

Isa 52:14 Just as many were astonished (dumbfounded) at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form (His body) more than the sons of men;

Isa 52:15 So shall He sprinkle (cleanse; sanctify) many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him (silent at His exaltation); For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard

The Fourth Messianic Prophecies-Songs of the Suffering Servant: #4 Chapter 52:13-53:12-Suffering Servant-Jehovah’s Servant-Sin Bearer. Now Isaiah is going to talk about God’s servant, Jesus Christ, who without money, is going to pay the price of redemption

vs. 13-14 Behold, My Servant: This passage, through the end of Isaiah 53, has in focus the *Servant* of the LORD. This is the *Servant* previously spoken of in [Isa 42:1; 49:3, 6](#). The Ethiopian in [Act 8:34](#) asked a question about [Isa 52:7-8](#): “*I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?*” This question, still asked today is an extremely important one. But there is no doubt that the phrase is also used as a specific title for the Messiah, and this is what we have here. The NKJV rightly capitalizes *Servant*, because this is a clear reference to Jesus. Matthew quotes [Isa 42:1-5](#), saying plainly it is a prophecy fulfilled in Jesus ([Mat 12:16-21](#)). Also, in [Mat 8:16-17](#) the Bible takes this passage of [Isa 52:13](#) to [Isa 53:12](#) and says it specifically applies to Jesus. Many people are amazed that people - especially Jewish people - can read a chapter like this and miss Jesus. When we make up our minds about who Jesus is, it’s easy to become blind and deaf to the plain, simple message of the Word of God. Let the Word of God tell you who He is.. *He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high:* The first words of the LORD in the mouth of the prophet regarding His Servant declare His victory. *He shall be exalted and extolled* means that the Messiah will triumph. There is no doubt about it. Before any of His suffering is announced, His glorious triumph is assured. *be very high* – This means that Jesus will be lifted up on a cross, describing the way He will die! *His visage was marred more than any man*, which speaks of the cruel and vicious beating Jesus endured at the hands of His enemies. Jesus’ face was beaten so badly that He hardly looked like a man. The result was so shocking that *many were astonished* when they saw Jesus. Cf. ([Luk 22:63-64](#)) The *astonishment* mentioned may be subtly referred to in the New Testament. On several occasions after His resurrection, the followers of Jesus were slow to recognize Him ([Luk 24:16](#), [Joh 20:14; 21:4](#)). On one occasion, they even seem awkward about His appearance: *Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?” - knowing that it was the Lord.* ([Joh 21:12](#)) This may indicate that the *marred visage* of Jesus remained after His resurrection. We know that Jesus retained some of the scars of His crucifixion ([Luk 24:40](#), [Joh 20:25-28](#)), perhaps this extends to His face as well. However, we should not be troubled by possibly seeing an “ugly Jesus” in heaven. If those scars do remain, they will only *increase* His glory and beauty to our eyes, standing as badges of His matchless love. *More than any man* is a poetic hyperbole used to express the terrible effect of the beating He endured.

v. 15 The cleansing of many nations. *So shall He sprinkle many nations:* Sprinkling, used 24 times in the Bible, is often associated with **consecrating, sanctifying** at time of offerings; also in **cleansing from sin and leprosy** in the Old Testament ([Exo 24:8](#), [Lev 3:6; 14:7](#), [Num 19:21](#), [Eze 36:25](#); [Heb. 9:13-14](#)). Here, the promise is that the work of the Messiah will bring sprinkling or cleansing to *many nations*. The Messiah is certainly Israel’s Messiah; yet He belongs to more than Israel. His saving, cleansing work will extend far beyond Israel to *many nations*. *Kings shall shut their mouths at Him:* Though all will be astonished at His appearance, they will have nothing to say against Him. His glory and His great work will stop every word. When they spoke against Him before, it was in blindness, but now *what had not been told them they shall see*.

vs. 13-14 We need to seriously and reverently ponder the instruction here – to *Behold My Servant*. We are being told the very way He will deal prudently, with much wisdom; the way He will be beaten and will die, but that because of His sacrificial death, *He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high!*

v. 15 He is going to be sprinkling, cleansing, sanctifying people of many nations. The idea is the sprinkling of the blood that they used to cleanse or sanctify the vessels of the temple and all. How thankful we should be that we are included!

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ARM, ARMS IN ISAIAH (Ref. Is. 52:10)

The *arm of the LORD* is a picture of His strength, power, and might. We will see a Messiah weak and suffering, however, the strength, power, and might of God will be expressed in the midst of this suffering, seemingly weak Messiah.

In Isa 30:30 The LORD will cause His glorious voice to be heard, And show the descent of His arm, With the indignation of His anger And the flame of a devouring fire, With scattering, tempest, and hailstones.

Isa 33:2 O LORD, be gracious to us; We have waited for You. Be their arm every morning, Our salvation also in the time of trouble.

Isa 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.

Isa 40:11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

Isa 44:12 The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals, Fashions it with hammers, And works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; He drinks no water and is faint.

Isa 48:14 "All of you, assemble yourselves, and hear! Who among them has declared these things? The LORD loves him; He shall do His pleasure on Babylon, And His arm shall be against the Chaldeans.

Isa 49:22 Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, And set up My standard for the peoples; They shall bring your sons in their arms, And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders;

Isa 51:5 My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust.

Isa 51:9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD! Awake as in the ancient days, In the generations of old. Are You not the arm that cut Rahab apart, And wounded the serpent?

Isa 52:10 The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.

Isa 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Isa 59:16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

Isa 62:8 The LORD has sworn by His right hand And by the arm of His strength: "Surely I will no longer give your grain As food for your enemies; And the sons of the foreigner shall not drink your new wine, For which you have labored.

Isa 63:5 I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me.

Isa 63:12 Who led them by the right hand of Moses, With His glorious arm, Dividing the water before them To make for Himself an everlasting name