

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #90

Isaiah 62:1-12

While we were on vacation, the great theologian Bill O'Reilly of Fox News said the Bible was not a book that was literal, but just a book of fairytale-type stories. There are many proofs that we could offer that would show the lunacy of his view, but one of the most powerful proofs that the Bible is to be interpreted literally is Israel. All anyone has to do is answer the question of why Israel is still in existence and why Israel is always in the news. The answer to the question is because God's Word may be interpreted literally.

When you talk to most missionaries and ask them what they intend to do, most of them will say they are going to take the gospel to the particular part of the world to which they believe God has called them. It is a high and holy ambition to leave a native country and take the gospel to the foreign world. But one thing that seems to be lacking in many mission evangelistic outreaches is a neglect to proclaim the importance of Israel.

We traveled through the south and we saw hundreds of churches. I was always interested to see what the church was advertising. We never came across one church that was advertising the exposition of God's Word. One sign said: "Come to the Blessing of the Animals"; another: "It is okay to wear sandals to church; Jesus did." Another advertised a rummage sale. Another advertised a minister's anniversary, but not one advertised exposition of God's Word. In most churches careful systematic exposition of God's Word is nonexistent. It is replaced by an importance on how you can be happy or be healthy or be wealthy. Obviously, in most churches the importance of Israel is completely lost.

However, when the Apostle Paul unlocked the doctrine of the gospel in the book of Romans, he was very careful to point out that we, in the Gentile Church Age, were never to forget about Israel (Romans 11:13, 18). I truly believe a major neglect of most ministries is a neglect to honor Israel. Isaiah knew the importance of Israel and he does not want this kept quiet. What he says is this:

**IN VIEW OF WHAT GOD WILL PROPHETICALLY DO FOR ISRAEL WHEN JESUS CHRIST RETURNS, GOD WANTS ISRAEL HIGHLY ESTEEMED AND HIS PROPHETIC TRUTH CONTINUALLY PROCLAIMED TO ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.**

When most people think about the coming of Christ, they do not think about Israel at all; they think of themselves. For example, J. Vernon McGee went to seminary with a guy who would always walk outside the night before a Hebrew exam and would say, "O if only the Lord would come." He wanted the Lord to get him out of a difficulty because he did not want to study Hebrew. McGee said that same guy a couple of years later was going to be married and he walked outside the night before his wedding and looked up and said, "I hope the Lord doesn't come for a few more days." For most the coming of the Lord is about us. God says I want you to think about all the good things I am going to do for Israel. I want that proclaimed.

**We may observe from verse 1 that God does not want truth about Israel and Jerusalem kept silent . He wants truth about her proclaimed. He proclaims this truth Himself and He wants us to proclaim it because it is His truth.**

Now I would like to handle this text by asking and answering three simple questions:

**QUESTION #1 – How long does God want this truth about Israel communicated? 62:1-2**

Truth about what God will do for Israel is to be proclaimed until five time-realities are in place:

**(Reality #1) - Until Israel's righteousness shines forth. 62:1c**

When you look at Israel and Jerusalem right now you do not see righteousness and holiness shining out of that part of the world. You can call Jerusalem a “holy city” but it really isn't holy yet. Some day it will be a holy place and righteousness will shine forth and God wants that proclaimed.

**(Reality #2) - Until Israel's national salvation burns like a torch for the world to see. 62:1d**

There is coming a day when all nations of the world will look at Israel and say there is the nation that has been saved and delivered by God. There is the one nation in the world that God literally delivered and saved.

**(Reality #3) - Until the nations of the world see and recognize Israel is the righteous nation of God. 62:2a**

There have been brief moments in history when certain people have recognized this reality. For example, when the spies of Israel went into Jericho, Rahab said, “I know that the LORD has given you the land and that the terror of you has fallen on us” (Joshua 2:9). But this will be a time when the whole world will see this and recognize this.

**(Reality #4) - Until all kings recognized the glory of Israel. 62:2b**

Here is proof that this has never happened to this day. When Jesus Christ returns, all the world political leaders will honor Israel and recognize her glory. World leaders today are debating whether or not Israel even has a right to exist. There will come a day when they will all honor Israel.

**(Reality #5) - Until the nation Israel is called by a new name God will give. 62:2c**

I do not know what that new name will be, but it will be one that will be reverent and will be honorable. Jews have been demeaned. I have known of Jewish people who do not even publicly admit they are Jewish because many people demean them. One day in the future, to be Jewish will be the greatest title one can have. When Jesus Christ returns, Israel will have a new glorious name. Isaiah says you proclaim these realities until you see them.

**QUESTION #2** – What will be the proofs that this has finally happened to Israel? **62:2-5**

I want you to observe the dogmatic certainty that Isaiah has about these things for Israel: “You will” is repeated four times in these verses (62: 2, 3, 4, 4). These are dogmatic certainties. There are six dogmatic proofs that this has happened:

**(Proof #1)** - Israel will be called by a new name given to her by God. **62:2c**

As we just mentioned, Israel will be called by a specific new name given to her by God. There are a bunch of them mentioned in this chapter: “married to the land” (**verse 4**); “the holy people” (**verse 12**); “the redeemed of the LORD” (**verse 12**); and “the sought out” (**verse 12**). Whatever the new name is, it will signal that all of this has happened.

**(Proof #2)** - Israel will be a nationally honored royal nation in the hand of God. **62:3**

Israel will be seen as the reigning nation of the world, the royal nation of God. The Royal King, Jesus Christ, will reign in this royal land and nation.

**(Proof #3)** - Israel will no longer be viewed as having been forsaken by God. **62:4a**

The word “forsaken” (azubah) means that Israel will never again be viewed as a heap of ruins (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 618). No one will ever say such a thing.

**(Proof #4)** - Israel will no longer be a desolate land. **62:4b**

The word “desolate” (shammeh) means that no longer will any be astonished that Israel is such a desolate area that has been laid waste. During the Tribulation, Israel’s land will be ravaged by the Antichrist and his world forces. But when Jesus Christ returns that will all change.

**(Proof #5)** - Israel will be the delight of God. **62:4c**

The word “delight” (hephzibah) means that Israel will be the delight of God in the sense that He will desire her and view her as something very precious (*Ibid.*, p. 296).

**(Proof #6)** - Israel will be married to her land. **63:4d-5**

Israel will be married to her Promised Land. The Hebrew word “married” is the word Beulah. Every now and then you will go to a service where someone will sing the song “Beulah Land.” I saw a pastor sing it as a solo before his congregation and the congregation applauded him. I am convinced that no one in that place, including the pastor, had any idea what Beulah land is or means. It has nothing to do with the church; it has to do with a millennial promised land to Israel. God will unite the nation Israel to her land in a ceremony that will be as sacred as marriage, which is called Beulah. Beulah land means Israel will be married to her land.

God says you proclaim this until you see all of these proofs. God has wonderful blessings in store for Israel. It will be an exciting time, as exciting as when a young man marries a virgin.

**QUESTION #3** – What should Israel do as she waits for this to occur? **62:6-12**

There are seven anticipatory thoughts that Israel should have:

**(Thought #1)** - Israel should realize that God will always preserve and protect her. **62:6a**

God has appointed true watchmen, who will be on guard for Israel and will proclaim this truth about Israel. True watchmen look out for Israel and proclaim truth about Israel. This has specific reference to Israel's prophets, priests, and kings who proclaim the truth about Jesus Christ and what He will do.

**(Thought #2)** - Israel should continually remind God that He has promised to do these things. **62:6b-7**

Jewish leaders should be reminding Israel and God that she has a blessed future that is coming. God's purpose is to make Israel and Jerusalem the "place of metropolitan glory." This message needs to be proclaimed until He does. The United Nations will not produce these blessings nor will Middle East peace talks with the President of the United States. God is going to do this.

J. Vernon McGee said that "every right-thinking person can pray for the peace of Jerusalem and long for that day when there will be peace" (*Isaiah*, Vol. 3, p. 338). God will produce it.

**(Thought #3)** - Israel should know that there will come a day when no foreigner or enemy will ever again take anything from Israel or worship with Israel. **62:8-9**

I recently heard that Prime Minister Netanyahu said that he would be willing to try to extend the peace process if the Arab world would acknowledge they have a right to exist. There will come a day when the entire world will honor Israel and will bring their gifts and worship to Israel. Never again will any nation exist who will do or say one negative thing against Israel.

Listen up, Bill O'Reilly, there is coming a day when your mouth will be shut and you will realize that Israel proves that God is a God of His literal Word.

**(Thought #4)** - Israel should prepare themselves and their land for Christ's return. **62:10**

Now the near application of this verse is to the release from the Babylonian captivity. During the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, Jews had the opportunity to get back to their land and start the process of preparing it. However, the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy will be at the end of the Tribulation when Jesus Christ returns. Israel will return to her land and will build it up into becoming the most God-glorifying place on earth. She will hold up the standard of Jesus Christ.

People need to prepare themselves for the return of Jesus Christ. They need to remove obstacles that could hinder the full blessings of God. Build things into your life, remove things from your life, and hold up the standard of Jesus Christ in your life. This truth about Israel needs to be held up high.

**(Thought #5)** - Israel should know that what God is going to do for Israel will be proclaimed .  
to the whole world. **62:11a**

God Himself will proclaim to the whole world that Israel is His nation. It will be proclaimed that He has saved Israel. Do not miss this point; the salvation of Israel is a key part of the overall plan of salvation. This point needs to be proclaimed. I believe we have a responsibility to preach this truth to the whole world, especially to Israel.

**(Thought #6)** - Israel should know that when Christ returns, His reward will be with Him.  
**62:11b**

This point is true for the nations of the world and for the individuals who comprise those nations. This point is true for Israel. When Jesus Christ returns, Israel will be rewarded and so will those who honored her.

**(Thought #7)** - Israel should know she will be honored by all people of the world. **62:12**

Gentile nations will call Israel “the holy people”; “the redeemed of the LORD”; and “the sought out, the city not forsaken.”

Never in history have the nations of the world called Israel “the holy people.” It is very evident just from listening to the news that Israel is not a redeemed nation, and it is also very evident that Jerusalem right now looks like a forsaken city.

But there is coming a day when that will all change. Israel has a glorious future in store and God wants this truth proclaimed.