

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #76

Isaiah 52:1-12

It is very clear that this is an amazing text is aimed straight at Israel (52:12) and specifically targets Zion and Jerusalem (52:1, 2, 7, 8, 9).

As we glance down through these twelve verses, there are some words that give us the key to some amazing promises that God makes concerning Israel: I will redeem Israel (52:3, 9), I will bring peace to Israel (52:7), I will bring happiness to Israel (52:7), I will bring salvation to Israel (52:7, 10), I will restore Israel (52:8), and I will guard Israel (52:12).

Now this text is not talking about what God is going to do in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Detroit, or Chicago. This text is making some amazing promises to Jews who are right now boxed in and hounded by an Arab world.

**THERE IS COMING A DAY WHEN ISRAEL WILL BE IN HER LAND ENJOYING ALL OF THE BLESSINGS OF GOD AND ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WILL SEE IT, AND GOD WANTS ISRAEL TO PRESENTLY WAKE UP TO THIS REALITY.**

Now in this text, God wants His people to start thinking, looking, and acting like His people. There are three main points of communication:

**POINT OF COMMUNICATION #1** – What God wants Israel to presently do. 52:1-2

In these first two verses, there are three actions God wants His people to take right now in view of the fact of the wonderful things He will eventually do for His people.

**(Action #1)** - God calls His people to wake up and get dressed. 52:1

Eight times in the Bible, Jerusalem is called “the holy city” (Nehemiah 11:1, 18; Isaiah 48:2; 52:1; Daniel 9:24; Matthew 4:5; 27:53; Revelation 11:2). It is supposed to be a city totally set apart to God as the most holy place on this earth. But obviously it isn’t now, so God says it is time to wake up.

It is time that Israel wakes up. It is about time that Israel starts thinking about all of the promises of God and of God’s deep concern and care for Israel and what He is going to do. Israel has spent most of her existence asleep when it comes to her relationship with God and certainly asleep to her sinful condition.

God is saying it is time for Israel to start looking holy and beautiful. It is time for Israel to clothe herself and look like God’s royal people they really are. It is time for Jerusalem to be adorned as the holy city. There is coming a day when no uncircumcised or defiled person would ever enter Jerusalem.

Now we who live in the Church Age can use a good dose of what Isaiah tells Israel here. It is time for us to wake up and get dressed with the righteousness of God. This is the time we need to get very serious about understanding and applying God's Word. This is the time we need to wake up to the fact that the Church Age is winding down and we need to reflect the righteousness of God. Wake up. Get dressed. We need this just as much as Israel.

**(Action #2)** - God challenges His people to get up out of the dust. **52:2a**

It was time for Israel to get out of the humiliation of the dust and rise up to become a beautiful glorious reflection of the presence and power of God because her days of mourning are just about over. It is interesting that as a judgment of God on Satan, he was destined to be in the dust and eat dust all of the days of his existence. Literally this is true of serpents and spiritually this is true of Satan. Satan crawls around in the dirt and filth and dust of this world.

When God's people crawl around in the dirt and filth of this world, they certainly are not a beautiful reflection of the glory of God.

There are some of God's people who are just like Israel in that they are wasting a lot of time playing in the dirt and filth of this world. The clock is ticking and it won't be long until we will be out of this world. We do not want to waste our lives in the filth of this world and there is a lot of filth in this world. We need to get up out of it and refocus our attention on God and His Word. We need to work toward reflecting the glory of God.

**(Action #3)** - God challenges His people to get rid of things that enslave them. **52:2b**

Now observe carefully that the text says "loose yourself." This particular verb is in the Hithpael stem. The specific grammatical point of this stem is that the action is reflexive, which means the action is thrown back to the subject. In other words, God expects His people, themselves, to loose themselves from certain things that enslave them. It is possible for God's people to get rid of things that are enslaving them.

Now in the case of the various captivities, such as the Babylonian and the Assyrian, God had to make it possible for Israel to take this action. The assumption of this text is that God would set the circumstances up for them to get out of their enslavement and then they were responsible to loose themselves from their chains and look and act like the daughter of Zion.

I believe we are very near the end of the Church Age and I believe we are all in a war. There are things that will come at you that if you are not careful can enslave you and pull you away from God. We need to be very careful and we need to be on guard to make certain that nothing enslaves us except our commitment to the righteousness of God.

When Jesus was here on earth, He said that if something was offending you or enslaving you, you needed to get rid of it. Romans 8:15 says we have not received a spirit of slavery. The same action Israel needs to take is action we also need to take.

**POINT OF COMMUNICATION #2** – What God to Israel has presently permitted . **52:3-5**

Israel needs to ask herself this question - Why did God permit us to be taken captive by anyone? It was not about money or spoils. In other words, Israel was never targeted for her riches, and since she will not be redeemed by her money and wealth, God did not turn Israel over to her captives for money. God was not trying to gain something by doing this; He was trying to get Israel to repent and turn to Him. He is the God who has permitted the captivity and He is the God who will redeem Israel.

Now it seems to me that God says, here is the problem with My people. They do things without consulting Me or My Word. They first went to Egypt on their own. I didn't tell them to go live there; they just went. The first time that God's people went to Egypt was when Abraham left Canaan because of a famine and moved there (Genesis 12:10-11).

So on the one hand, the Egyptian captivity was due in part to Israel's own choices to go to Egypt; however, the Assyrian captivity occurred when Assyria invaded Israel and drove her out as a chastisement of God.

God wanted His people to think about this. Israel has been enslaved to some nation ever since the days of the Egyptians and the Assyrians. She has been enslaved by the Babylonians, the Persians, Greece, and Rome. Today she is mostly boxed in and enslaved by the Arab world. According to **verse 5**, Israel has been dominated by nations who continually blaspheme the name of God and of Jesus Christ. This is not about money; it is about a nation who has rebelled against God.

God has analyzed all of this and said in **verse 5**, "What do I have here?" What God gets from Israel right now is nothing. God says I'll tell you what I have. I have a people who are enslaved for no monetary reason. God says this nation should be experiencing My blessings but they will not turn to Me; so my people are enslaved. Then I see the enemies of My people howling and laughing at My people and Me. And then I see that My name is continually blasphemed all day long. God says that is what I have right now. This is what I see right now.

It is what we see too. Israel is boxed in and not experiencing the blessings of God. The world howls against Israel and no political leader says, look this is the nation of God and we better fear Him. Plus, His name and His people are continually blasphemed. You have an evil demonic Muslim shrine, the Dome of the Rock, sitting on sacred ground that belongs to God and His Temple. What does God have now? Not much.

God sure didn't get some prize catch when He chose Israel and He didn't get some prize catch when He chose us. When God chose Israel He got one loser of a nation, and when He chose us He got one loser of a person.

What will happen? What will God do? How long will He put up with this?

**POINT OF COMMUNICATION #3 – What God wants Israel to futuristically know .  
52:6-12**

What God promises to do in these verses is amazing. God says to Israel I have an amazing plan of grace that I am going to carry out concerning you. God says, I truly love you and I let you feel the sting of the whip, and then I will do some amazing comforting things with you and for you.

There are six wonderful realities

**Reality #1** - Everyone will know His name and know God is speaking. **52:6**

I believe that this is a prediction that one day every Jew will know Jesus Christ is God. When He came the first time, she rejected Him as God. To this very day, Israel doesn't admit the true identity of Jesus Christ and neither does this world.

There will come a day when all will know Jesus Christ is God; He is Israel's Messiah; He is the only Savior.

**Reality #2** - Every one will hear God's good news pertaining to Israel . **52:7**

The specific prediction is that the good news of God saving Israel and reigning in Israel will be brought to Israel. The reference to the mountains is a reference to taking the good news to the Jews in the final part of the Tribulation when they are hiding literally in those mountains.

The Gospel described in **verse 7** is a Kingdom Gospel, not a Grace Age Gospel. The Kingdom Gospel is that Jesus Christ is coming back to save Israel and bring permanent peace to Israel and literally reign in Zion.

Now this verse has been used by mission agencies to show the beauty of one who takes the Gospel to various parts of the world. The Apostle Paul actually alluded to this verse in His presentation of the Grace Gospel in the book of Romans (Rom. 10:15). **But one thing, I think, that gets overlooked in both this verse in Isaiah and Paul's use of the verse in Romans is both contexts are specifically aimed at good news pertaining to Israel (Rom. 9:33).**

In other words, the preachers who have beautiful feet are those who proclaim God's plan for Israel and they can accurately connect that plan to the Grace Gospel. This is not just about telling people they need to believe on Jesus Christ to be saved, this also is about telling them the future plan God has for Israel and letting them understand we have been grafted into Israel's national program. Frankly, I am not too certain that many of today's missionaries actually have beautiful feet. Most of them could care less if the people even understand anything about Israel.

**Reality #3** - Everyone will see God's redemption of Israel. **52:8**

When these events happen, there will be a major joyful shouting to the whole world. Voices will announce God has saved Israel, God has restored Israel. Every Jew will see this and so will the rest of the world see this with their own eyes. These watchmen don't just hear what is going on, they see it. They literally will see the prophetic fulfillment of every bit of this.

**Reality #4** - Israel will be joyful about what God has done in Jerusalem. **52:9**

Look at the language of **verse 9** and think about the fact that it is coming out of Jerusalem. When have we ever seen Jerusalem shouting for joy? We have never seen joyful shouting coming from Jerusalem since the days of David and Solomon. What is described here is a time when Jerusalem is glorious, joyful, comforted, and redeemed.

If you visit Jerusalem today, it is more like a mortuary than a place of joy. You'll hear a bunch of depressing mumbo jumbo coming from various mosques. You'll hear a bunch of wailing at the Wailing Wall, but you won't hear anything joyful. In fact, Dr. McGee said that when he was there he kept waiting to hear anything joyful in Jerusalem and he never heard it (*Isaiah*, Vol. 3, p. 309).

**Reality #5** - All the nations will see what God has done. **52:10**

Do not miss what is said here. There is coming a day when "all" nations of the world and "all" the ends of the earth will honor God and honor Israel. There will come a day when all nations will realize that there was only one true God and this one true God used His holy arm to deliver Israel. The whole world will see the salvation of God.

**Reality #6** - Israel will finally go home to her land. **52:11-12**

God will call Israel to depart from all foreign lands and go home. She won't have to run home as a fugitive because God will guard every Jew every step of the way. It almost seems odd that God would have to command His people to depart from their captivity, but the sad reality is, some of His own people are so accustomed to this world and their captivity that they don't have the sense to go home.

God gives the Jewish people some sound advice that we need today. In fact, as F. C. Jennings said, the advice God gives to His people in view of what He will do "is always applicable yesterday, today and as long as there is a Christ-dishonoring religion upon earth."

Now I want us to observe from **verse 11** that there is a reference to those "who carry the vessels of the LORD." The vessels of the LORD were things used for sacred service, and those who were responsible for carrying them were the priests, and if the priests were to be involved in sacred service then they needed to take proper steps. There are two steps spelled out in **verse 11**.

**(Step #1)** - Do not touch anything unclean. **52:11a**

**(Step #2)** - Purify yourselves. **52:11b**

Now in **verse 12**, there are two wonderful promises God makes to Israel:

**(Promise #1)** - You will not need to go to your Promised Land as fugitives. **52:12a**

During the last 3½ years of the Tribulation, this is exactly what Israel will be, fugitives on the run. However, when Jesus Christ returns, she will be able to calmly and comfortably go home. Israel will be secure, not fugitives on the run.

**(Promise #2)** - You may always know God is the God of Israel and He guards His nation.  
**52:12b**

The Church Age is winding down. It is time for some of us to wake up to this fact and start reflecting the glory of God. It is time for us to depart from things unclean. Perhaps you have been defiled by something. Depart, depart and turn to the grace and mercy of God.