

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 119

July 11, 2021



The Annunciation to Mary by Jacob de Wit Cir, 1723

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

One-Hundred-Nineteen

JERUSALEM IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM

July 11, 2021

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 52:1–12

¹Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. ²Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit on thy throne, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bonds of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

³For thus saith Jehovah, Ye were sold for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money. ⁴For thus saith the Lord Jehovah, My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there: and the Assyrian hath oppressed them without cause. ⁵Now therefore, what do I here, saith Jehovah, seeing that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them do howl, saith Jehovah, and my name continually all the day is blasphemed. ⁶Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak; behold, it is I.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! ⁸The voice of thy watchmen! they lift up the voice, together do they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when Jehovah returneth to Zion. ⁹Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem; for Jehovah hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰Jehovah hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

¹¹Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; cleanse yourselves, ye that bear the vessels of Jehovah. ¹²For ye shall not go out in haste, neither shall ye go by flight: for Jehovah will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rearward (ASV, 1901).

JERUSALEM COMMANDED TO PREPARE FOR GLORY

Isaiah 52:1–2

¹Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. ²Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit on thy throne, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bonds of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion (ASV, 1901).

The time has come when the Tribulation is over, the national regeneration of the nation Israel has taken place, the Lord Jesus has returned and He gives the command to rise up *Awake, awake* now, for Messianic Kingdom responsibilities. The nation is called to remove the sack cloth of misery and garments of war and put on dress appropriate for their new role of the head of the world as Moses told them was coming when they finally become obedient to Him as a nation.

Deuteronomy 28:10–14

¹⁰And all the peoples of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of Jehovah; and they shall be afraid of thee. ¹¹And Jehovah will make thee plenteous for good, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which Jehovah swore unto thy fathers to give thee. ¹²Jehovah will open unto thee his good treasure the heavens, to give the rain of thy land in its season, and to bless all the work of thy hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. ¹³And Jehovah will make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if thou shalt hearken unto the commandments of Jehovah thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them, ¹⁴and shalt not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them (ASV, 1901)

Further, quietness and security will characterize Jerusalem in that day, for Jehovah in the Person of the Messiah will dwell in this city. It will be a city of many streams and waters, but without any ships of war ever sailing in them. The Messiah running the government of the earth in the Millennial Mountain which will be the location of the city of Jerusalem (see image). He will serve as the Judge, Lawgiver, King, and Savior, and so Israel's sins will be totally forgiven (Isaiah 33:20–24). The holiness and freedom of Jerusalem is emphasized here in the beginning of chapter 52.

It is important to consider the impressive words of Moses found in, Deuteronomy 32:1–43, in which the elect condition of the nation is portrayed. Moses describes a deep and long-continued apostasy of this chosen nation, followed by prolonged punishment. This does not eliminate the nation's election for God's purpose. It still stands good, and the promise of the eternal, unchangeable God is recorded, that the same elect nation, chastened and scourged, scattered and dispersed shall be recalled and exalted in glory. Those Jews who make it into the coming one-thousand-year theocratic kingdom will be a mere remnant.

A theocracy is a form of government under the sole, accessible Headship of God Himself (Deuteronomy 5). He is the Supreme Lawgiver in civil and religious affairs (Deuteronomy 4:12 and 12:32), and when difficult cases required it, He is the Divine Arbiter or Judge (Deuteronomy 17:8–13). In brief, the legislative, executive, and judicial power are vested in Him, and partially delegated to others, to be exercised in a restricted form (Deuteronomy 16:18). All the people through their civil, religious, social, and family relations will acknowledge and be obedient to His expressed will (Deuteronomy 29:10–13).

Jerusalem in that day will become the Holy City, and nothing unholy will ever enter into it (uncircumcised). It will be further characterized by freedom, for the Times of the Gentiles will be no more, and never again will Jerusalem be subject to bondage.

The “Times of the Gentiles” is that long period of time where the Gentiles have control of Jerusalem. It begins with the Babylonian captivity and lasts until the Second Coming of Jesus. There have been only a few times of temporary, or partial Jewish control over the city during this prolonged period. The last Gentile Empire will be the absolute imperialism of the Antichrist supported by the False Prophet. He will sign a seven-year covenant with the leaders of the nation Israel that begins the Great Tribulation. God’s view of this treaty is given in Isaiah 28:14–15. This passage is a direct message from God who despises the covenant that the nation Israel will make with the Antichrist. He calls it *a covenant with death, and with Sheol are we at agreement*. He depicts it as being made with death and the nether world of the unfavorable side. He says these leaders lie and have hidden behind their lies. Further, they believe that knowing the tribulation is coming (*overflowing scourge*), is one because of this treaty they will be immune. However, during the last half of the Tribulation the Antichrist is allowed by God to conduct the greatest persecution ever brought against them. Two thirds of the world’s Jews will die (approximately 9,174,000) during that three- and one-half period. Their Divine election and the promise of the eternal, unchangeable God stands firm. They are chastened and scourged, scattered and dispersed but shall finally shall be recalled and exalted in glory when they finally confess the Lord Jesus their Messiah. The Lord confirms this through the prophet Daniel talking about the Antichrist making war with the saints until He says in Daniel 7:22 *“the ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom”*. The Lord is saying that at the beginning of the Messianic kingdom *there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean*. The Times of the Gentiles will be over and the leaders will be disposed. Revelation 19:20 tells us how God disposed of him and the False Prophet by throwing them into “the lake of fire” at the end the Great Tribulation.

The Great Tribulation will cause the earth to undergo many topographical alterations. The central mountain in Israel will become the highest mountain in the entire world. The top of this mountain will have an area that will be fifty miles square (Ezekiel 45:1). It will incorporate a significant number of buildings for the management of the earth’s government during the thousand-year reign of the Messiah Jesus during His Messianic kingdom. This will be where Jerusalem will be location which will be the headquarters of the earth for one thousand years. The Lord has revealed information related to the millennial mountain to many of the prophets (e.g., Isaiah 2:2–4).

THEY WERE SOLD BECAUSE OF THEIR THEIR SINS

Isaiah 52:3–6

³For thus saith Jehovah, Ye were sold for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money. ⁴For thus saith the Lord Jehovah, My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there: and the Assyrian hath oppressed them without cause. ⁵Now therefore, what do I here, saith Jehovah, seeing that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them do howl, saith Jehovah, and my name continually all the day is blasphemed. ⁶Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak; behold, it is I.

Beginning here and continuing through verse 12 is a discussion of the transition from exile to redemption.

God says to the nation that they were sold because of actions that were *for nought*, because of sins that were worthless and brought you no benefit. Because you succumbed to your evil inclination and sinned, so therefore you were sent into exile and captivity. God is essentially comparing Israel to a servant who was so disobedient and obnoxious that his master gave him away free of charge. Israel was condemned to exile because God could no longer tolerate their sinfulness. The Redemption will come about when Israel repents—but God has promised that He will end the exile even if Israel is still undeserving. He brought them back to the land while they were still apart from Him and live today as a mostly secular nation not the theocracy they had or will have.

The Lord says, “*My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there: and the Assyrian hath oppressed them without cause.*” Originally *to sojourn there*, Jacob and his family went to Egypt innocently and in peace to find food because of the famine in Canaan. What right did Egypt have after Joseph died to enslave My people?

But Assyria oppressed them Like Egypt. Assyria, is at times another name for Babylonia, had no right to persecute Israel so harshly. So that both oppressors had no justification for their cruelty. Nor can it be said that Egypt and Assyria merely carried out God’s decree against His children. Both nations went far beyond the Divine in persecuting Israel. It is true that the nation was exiled because of its sins, but the persecuting nations went way beyond what the Lord originally decreed. God explains this situation through the prophet Zechariah.

Zechariah 1:15

15 And I am very sore displeased with the nations that are at ease; for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction” (ASV, 1901).

Jehovah starts by saying, that He is “*jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy*”. He is also “*very sore displeased*” (or, literally, “with great anger am I angered”) against the nations that are at ease. “*For I was but a little displeased,*” He says, “*and they helped forward the affliction*” or, “they helped for evil”. Consider the situation where a parent is disciplining a child and another relative is asked to affirm the need for discipline. Then, without authorization, the other relative goes further than requested and starts pounding the child. The parent’s anger is stirred up, a quarrel ensues between him and the meddling relative who dared to mix himself up in the discipline which the parent was handling effectively. This only ends with an increase in the child’s sufferings. This is God’s attitude toward the oppressors of Israel. One might say that God is not in control; He is in control, but He allows sin in many instances to run its course and does not let its effects go unnoticed. They delighted in torturing the people and hypocritically sigh that they are doing God wants. Hitler acted this way toward the Jews when he killed 6 million of them.

The Name (*My name*) refers to God’s awesome, Name, which is known only to a select few. At that time, all of Israel will know that Name and then all their prayers will be answered. They will all know that it is I Who speaks. Here I am! When the prophets came they were sent from Me, that

it was I Who the prophets came from Me, that it was I Who through them, promising redemption. It was I when in their Land and it was I when they were in exile. I never changed!

REJOICE!

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! ⁸The voice of thy watchmen! they lift up the voice, together do they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when Jehovah returneth to Zion. ⁹Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem; for Jehovah hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰Jehovah hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God (ASV, 1901).

The good news for Jerusalem is that Messiah will reign in Zion (v. 7), and the Jews will be regathered to Jerusalem (v. 8). Jerusalem will be built all over again, for God will redeem the city (v. 9) and salvation will characterize it (v. 10).

These verses affirm the promise by describing the joyful attitude during the time of fulfillment. It demonstrates the joyful end of the Tribulation and seeing the Messiah return as an accomplished fact. This passage uses the imagery of a runner bringing back good news to the watchmen of the city who eagerly await a report on the battle. The news of peace and salvation is so wonderful that even the feet of the messenger are deemed beautiful. The heart of the good news is the proclamation to the inhabitants of Jerusalem that “Your God reigns!” God resolves this issue that has seemed to be in doubt in the hearts of some when He returns to Zion and thus brings comfort to His people. He answers any questions about “the arm of the LORD” (Isaiah 51:9) when He “lays it bare” in redeeming Jerusalem. In other words, He makes it obvious what His plan has been all along now that the redemption of Israel has been achieved. He has been glorified, and His worldwide salvation is published in the sight of all the nations as a result of His display of gracious love to Israel and His holy power (“arm”) against His enemies. Then all the world will see the salvation of Israel

The salvation of our God that will become evident to all the ends of the earth results not from the return alone, but from all that occurs because God did not abandon his people in exile and Tribulation. Only God’s power could bring about this magnificent result.

Isaiah 52:11–12

¹¹Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; cleanse yourselves, ye that bear the vessels of Jehovah. ¹²For ye shall not go out in haste, neither shall ye go by flight: for Jehovah will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rearward (ASV, 1901).

Just as the exiles are emphatically commanded to speedily leave Babylon (Isaiah 48:20; Zechariah 2:6-7) He says to them, “*Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence.*” Many remained in Babylon after the captivity because they had gotten used to it and preferred it to returning to Israel. This will also be the case with the Lord’s people in mystical Babylon, which is the satanic world system under the Antichrist and False Prophet just prior to the Messiah’s destruction of it at His second advent.

The command is to keep separate from Babylon’s sin. Touch no unclean thing (Numbers 19:11,16). Those who bear the vessels of the Lord are particularly warned to be clean (purify themselves (Leviticus 22:2; Isaiah 1:16), alluding to vessels of the Temple (Jeremiah 27:18), which Nebuchadnezzar had carried to Babylon (II Chronicles 36:18) and which Cyrus restored (Ezra 1:7).

The exiles, would not go out of the world’s Babylonian system after the Tribulation in haste, as when they left Egypt (Exodus 12:33,39; Deuteronomy 16:3). They would have to take time to cleanse themselves and be careful to observe all the stipulations of God’s Word. The Lord would go before them, as their Leader making Himself apparent as He did when they left Egypt seeing Him through the Shekinah Glory (Exodus 23:20; Isaiah 40:3; Micah.2:13).

Isaiah 11:12

¹²And he will set up an ensign for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth (ASV, 1901).

Mark 13:24–27

²⁴But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, ²⁵And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. ²⁶And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven (KJV).

Next message: THE PROCLAMATION OF SALVATION IN THE MESSIAH

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The Millennial Mountain

