



## STUDY GUIDE

SERIES: Isaiah

October 7th, 2018

TEXT: Isaiah 61:1 - 62:12

## Overview of Isaiah

### Background and Context

Isaiah ministered for more than 40 years, through the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. His office of prophecy began in the final days of Uzziah's reign, through the war between Judah and the united kingdoms of Israel and Syria, Judah's defeat and exiled by Assyria, and the Babylonian captivity.

### Isaiah Chapters 1-35

The first part of Isaiah speaks about God's judgement on Israel and Judah by Assyria. Isaiah railed against the leaders for their hypocrisy (1:10-15), greed (5:8), self-indulgence (5:11), and cynicism (5:19). The rich prospered while the poor was oppressed. The people confessed the Lord as their king with their lips, but their hearts were far from Him and their temple sacrifices were a mere sham.

### Isaiah chapters 40-66

The second part focuses on the remnants' future return from Babylon and their ultimate deliverance in the remote future and the fall of pagan Babylon (46:1-47:15). More than a century before Cyrus the Persian came to power, Isaiah named him as God's anointed agent to restore the remnant to the land (44:24-45:13). He challenged the people to renew their loyalty to the Lord after they return to the land (56:1-8) and to avoid repeating idolatry and evil acts (57:3-13).

### Christ in Isaiah

Beyond this future act of salvation, Isaiah predicted the coming of a Servant and Savior much greater than Cyrus. This Servant would fulfill Israel's original destiny by bringing justice to the nations (42:1-4) and becoming a light to the Gentiles (49:1-7). The Servant would suffer willingly to take away the sins of His people (52:13-53:12) and thus establish a new covenant between the Lord and the new Israel (42:5-7).

## Big Idea of the Text in Isaiah 61:1-62:12

Isaiah 61 and 62 provide readers with an explicit description of the year of the LORD's favour. The chapter begins with a prophecy that the God's anointed servant will proclaim the good news and bring about salvation for God's people.

Glory will return to Zion as it is rebuilt, and foreign nations will come to Zion with their offerings. Isaiah continues singing and exalting in God as he promises to bring about Zion's coming salvation and glory. Zion is likened to God's bride, and God himself will come and adorn her with beauty and glory. The passage ends with God himself proclaiming the news of salvation to the ends of the earth, and giving his own people a new name.

### Goal of Study

To help us rejoice in and celebrate the salvation that God has provided for us, live in light of this truth and share this joy with those around us.

#### Read Isaiah 61:1-9

**61** *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,*

*the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.*

*<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins;*

*they shall raise up the former devastations;*

*they shall repair the ruined cities,*

*the devastations of many generations.*

*<sup>5</sup> Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;*

*foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;*

*<sup>6</sup> but you shall be called the priests of the LORD;*

*they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;*

*you shall eat the wealth of the nations,*

*and in their glory you shall boast.*

*<sup>7</sup> Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;*

*instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;*

*therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;*

*they shall have everlasting joy.*

*<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice;*

*I hate robbery and wrong;*

*I will faithfully give them their recompense,*

*and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.*

*<sup>9</sup> Their offspring shall be known among the nations,*

*and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;*

*all who see them shall acknowledge them,*

*that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.*

**Q1. What is the mission given to the Lord's anointed servant? (v1-3)**

**Q2a How was this prophecy partially fulfilled for the Jews living in exile? (61:1-3)**

**Q2b. Jesus read out part of Isaiah 61 in his first recorded sermon (Luke 4:16-30) and declared these verses fulfilled. How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy?<sup>1</sup>**

**Q2c. What aspect of this prophecy has Jesus yet to fulfill?**

**Q3. From v4-9, How is the restoration of Israel described and what is God's intended purpose for his people?**

**Read Isaiah 61:10-62:5**

*<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;*

*my soul shall exult in my God,*

*for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;*

*he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,*

*as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,*

*and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,*

*and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,*

*so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise*

*to sprout up before all the nations.*

**Zion's Coming Salvation**

**62** *For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,*

*and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,*

*until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,*

*and her salvation as a burning torch.*

*<sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your righteousness,*

*and all the kings your glory,*

*and you shall be called by a new name*

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<sup>1</sup> Question taken from Ibid., 463.

*that the mouth of the LORD will give.*

<sup>3</sup> *You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

<sup>4</sup> *You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the LORD delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.*

<sup>5</sup> *For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your sons marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.*

**Q4a. How will the people respond to their salvation? (61:7, 10, 62:5)**

**Q4b. Where do you find joy in your life?**

**Q4c. What is everlasting joy, and how do we get it? (61:7,10, 62:5)<sup>2</sup>**

**Q5a. From Isaiah 62:2-5, how has Zion's status changed?**

**Q5b. What metaphor is used to describe Israel's new righteousness? What significance does this metaphor have?**

**Q5c. Pause and dwell on Zion's new names. How do you respond to these names as expressions of God's feelings toward you as one of his people?<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup> Question modified and taken from Howard Peskett, *Isaiah: Trusting God in Troubled Times: 22 Studies for Individuals or Groups*, Life Guide Bible Studies (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 70.

<sup>3</sup> Question taken and modified from *Ibid.*, 72.

**Read 62:6-12**

<sup>6</sup> *On your walls, O Jerusalem,*

*I have set watchmen;*

*all the day and all the night*

*they shall never be silent.*

*You who put the LORD in remembrance,*

*take no rest,*

<sup>7</sup> *and give him no rest*

*until he establishes Jerusalem*

*and makes it a praise in the earth.*

<sup>8</sup> *The LORD has sworn by his right hand*

*and by his mighty arm:*

*"I will not again give your grain*

*to be food for your enemies,*

*and foreigners shall not drink your wine*

*for which you have labored;*

<sup>9</sup> *but those who garner it shall eat it*

*and praise the LORD,*

*and those who gather it shall drink it*

*in the courts of my sanctuary."*

<sup>10</sup> *Go through, go through the gates;*

*prepare the way for the people;*

*build up, build up the highway;*

*clear it of stones;*

*lift up a signal over the peoples.*

<sup>11</sup> *Behold, the LORD has proclaimed*

*to the end of the earth:*

*Say to the daughter of Zion,*

*“Behold, your salvation comes;*

*behold, his reward is with him,*

*and his recompense before him.”*

*<sup>12</sup>And they shall be called The Holy People,*

*The Redeemed of the LORD;*

*and you shall be called Sought Out,*

*A City Not Forsaken.*

**Q6. Consider Isaiah 56:10. Israel’s watchmen are described unflatteringly. What is the role of watchmen in Isaiah 62?**

**Q7. How does 62:6-7 challenge you to pray for God’s kingdom to come?**

**Q8. How should we prepare for the coming salvation? (62:10-11)**

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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