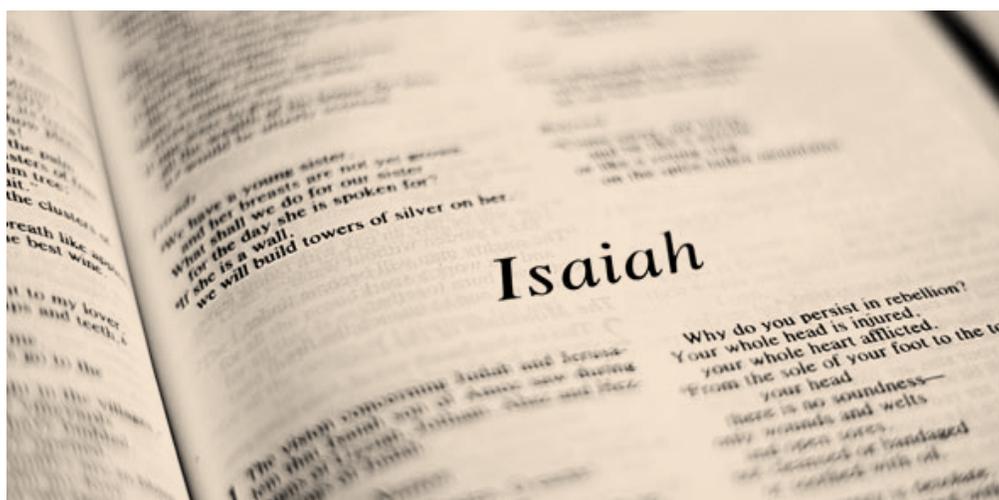


THE BOOK OF ISAIAH
THE SERVANT OUR LORD
ISAIAH 61, 62



T. M. Moore

A Scriptorium Study

The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Servant Our Lord: Isaiah 61, 62
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Introduction to *Isaiah 61, 62*

The Servant speaks at last, and announces the great salvation God intends to bring to His people, a salvation which includes His taking them as his bride in marriage.

Isaiah wants the people of Judah and Jerusalem, who are about to go into captivity in Babylon, to keep looking to God and clinging to His promises. God is bringing a great salvation in the last days (Is. 2.1-4), and His people will know and love and serve Him in building His glorious City.

God will bring justice, truth, righteousness, peace, and joy to His people, but they need to keep looking steadfastly to Him.

If you find these studies helpful, please drop me a line at tmmoore@ailb.org and let me know. We welcome suggestions and stories about how the Lord is using our resources to help you grow in your walk with and work for the Lord.

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1 The Servant Speaks

Pray Psalm 146.1, 2.

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

While I live I will praise the LORD;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Read Isaiah 61.1-3.

Reflect.

1. How did Jesus appeal to this passage in Luke 4.16-21? What was He saying?
2. What blessings does the Servant bring with Him in these verses?

Meditate.

The Servant Who is to come – Who is the Lord’s covenant and Who brings His salvation to His people – at last begins to speak for Himself. His words come from the LORD, by the Spirit of the LORD (v. 1). Here we see all three Persons of the Godhead. All the divine Persons Who are the LORD – Father, Word, and Spirit – are present in the coming of the Servant. He comes bearing “good tidings” (v. 1) – of healing, freedom, comfort, consolation, beauty, and joy. The power for all these is in His Word alone, and in the accompanying power of the Spirit of God (cf. Jn. 6.63).

The people to whom the Servant comes are not the beautiful people we might expect. They are the hurting, those trapped in misery and addiction and oppression, the sorrowing, those who long for beauty, all who are weighed down by sin and circumstances (vv. 1, 2). The Good News comes to such as these, whether they be poor physically or spiritually. All who welcome the Servant and hear the Good News He proclaims can expect to know the power and promises that accompany that message of hope.

The effect is immediate: praise, righteousness, and glorifying God (v. 3). But, as we shall see, this is just the beginning. The hallmarks of salvation are these, that our souls and lives and aspirations are turned in gratitude to God. We look up to Him, give Him all praise and thanks, and begin the work of bringing our lives into line with His promises and commands.

This prophesy, and all its glorious promises, are fulfilled and realized in Jesus, as He Himself declared to the shocked and stunned congregation of His neighbors in Luke 4.16-21.

Reflect.

1. How would you describe the *scope* of the salvation the Servant brings? Is it just spiritual in nature?
2. To what kind of people does the salvation of the Lord come?
3. Summarize the response of those who receive this great salvation. How should we express this?

Isaiah calls “poor” those who have lost heavenly riches, “broken-hearted” those who have corrupted their reason, “blind” those who do not know God and who worship creation, “prisoner” those brought into the enemy’s camp and who have lost their original freedom.... Theodoret of Cyr (393-466 AD), Commentary on Isaiah 19.61.1-3

Help me to grow in Your great salvation, O Lord, so that, increasingly, I can...

Pray Psalm 146.

Let this psalm call to mind the many ways God has brought His blessings to you through the salvation which is ours in Jesus Christ.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 146 (*Hallelujah! What a Savior!: Man of Sorrows*)

Praise the Lord, my soul, give praise! While I live, His Name I'll raise!
And exalt Him all my days – God forever reigns in Zion!

Trust we not in prince or man – no salvation's in their hand;
Death shall take them, breath and plans – God forever reigns in Zion!

Blessed are they whose hope resides in the Lord, Christ at His side.
By Him heav'n and earth abide – God forever reigns in Zion!

He is faithful evermore; He gives justice to the poor,
feeds the hungry from His store – God forever reigns in Zion!

Jesus sets the pris'ner free, heals blind eyes that they may see,
lifts those burdened painfully – God forever reigns in Zion!

He the righteous loves the best; wand'ers in His grace are blessed;
needy ones in Him find rest – God forever reigns in Zion!

But the wicked who defame His eternal blessèd Name,
them He brings to ruin and shame – God forever reigns in Zion!

2 Restoration

Pray Psalm 96.1-3.

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!
Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples.

Read Isaiah 61.4-7.

Reflect.

1. How would you describe the work God has for His servants to do?
2. What does He promise as they undertake this work?

Meditate.

A day of salvation, joy, and comfort is coming. But it is also a day of work. God is bringing His salvation to His people, and He intends for them to extend the benefits of that salvation to the world around them. They are tasked with restoring broken things – ruins, desolations, cities (v. 4). Others will join them in their work – “strangers” and “the sons of the foreigner” as shepherds, farmers, and vinedressers (v. 5). These will serve the servants of God as they serve Him in the work of restoration. Together they shall enjoy all the blessings God has given to the Gentiles, and all the glory they have squandered (v. 6).

The primary work of God’s people is to serve as priests (v. 6). The work of the priest is to connect people and creation with God, to restore His goodness, bring down His favor, and glorify Him in every aspect of life. All God’s people serve as priests, just as God originally intended for them (Ex. 19.6). It will be their honor, glory, and joy to take up the work of restoring to the world the goodness with which God originally invested it.

God’s people were about to go into captivity for 70 years. But He promised a day of liberation, of salvation, and of restoration, in which His people would resume the work of Adam and Eve, to develop and extend the goodness and glory of God to all peoples, all creation, and all culture. This is that “great salvation” which is ours because of the work of the Servant, Jesus Christ (Heb. 2.3).

Prepare.

1. What are the implications of this “great salvation” for your daily life?
2. We have work to do – more than just our job – and all our work must be for the glory of God. How can we prepare each day for such a high and holy calling?
3. Have you mapped out your Personal Mission Field? If not, watch [this brief video](#), download the worksheet, and get started bringing Christ’s great salvation and joy to your world.

*Yet these statements ought also to be accommodated to our time, so that, although the Lord permits his Church, when it has fallen down, to lie long in ruins, and though there is no remaining hope of rebuilding it, yet we may strengthen our heart by these promises; for it is God's peculiar office to raise up and renew what had formerly been destroyed, and devoted as it were to eternal rottenness. John Calvin (1509-1564 AD), *Commentary on Isaiah 60.4**

Lord, I have work of restoration to do today, especially as I consider that...

Pray Psalm 96.

This psalm lends itself to thanksgiving and praying for revival. It also reminds us of our calling to be witnesses for Christ. Let it prepare you as a witness for the day ahead.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 96 (*Mit Freuden Zart: All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*)

Sing to the Lord! O, bless His Name! All nations tell His glory!

Salvation's tidings loud proclaim; let earth rehearse His story!

For God is greatly to be praised; His throne above all gods is raised:

Fear Him, and sing His glory!

All other gods are idols vain – the Lord created heaven.

Splendor and strength with Him obtain; to Him be glory given!

All fam'lies, praise this mighty Lord! Give strength and glory to His Word:

Exalt the Lord of heaven.

Bring offerings sweet to Him, our Lord, in holy garments praise Him!

Tremble before Him, all the earth; among the nations raise Him!

The earth is fixed, it will not move; the peoples will His justice prove:

Exalt the Lord and praise Him.

Let heaven sing with lusty voice; let earth and sea sing sweetly!

Let fields and trees in Him rejoice, for He is coming swiftly

to judge the world in righteousness, the peoples in His faithfulness:

He comes; exalt Him greatly!

3 Blessed and Scattered

Pray Psalm 66.1-4.

Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!
Sing out the honor of His name;
Make His praise glorious.
Say to God,
“How awesome are Your works!
Through the greatness of Your power
Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.
All the earth shall worship You
And sing praises to You;
They shall sing praises *to* Your name.”

Read Isaiah 61.8, 9.

Reflect.

1. For what will the people of God be known among the nations?
2. The first word of these verses connects them to the previous passage. In what way?

Meditate.

Why does God intend for His people to do a work of restoration? Because, restoration brings justice and truth to the world, and God loves justice and truth (v. 8). Justice refers to the practice of God’s love between neighbors and in communities. Truth refers to all of God’s Word as it guides His people in exercising dominion for restoration. Thus God’s people will realize the promises of His everlasting covenant (v. 8).

This work and covenant are not for a brief moment in time. God intends to bless generations of their offspring, and to continue His work of restoration for many years. This is what we have seen ever since the first Christian Pentecost, when the Spirit came to begin the promised work of restoration, beginning in the souls of God’s people (v. 9). The Light has come and continues to spread (1 Jn. 2.8); and the good works of God’s people continue to bear witness to His restoring grace.

This work and covenant will not be done in secret. God’s people will be “known among the Gentiles” because they will be scattered throughout the world in all kinds of occupations and places. Wherever they are, they will do the work of justice and truth, restoring the goodness of God to the world. Thus they prove that the blessing of God is upon them (v. 9), and they shine with the Light of God before the world.

Prepare.

1. How do you expect the justice and truth of God to be visible in you today?
2. How should we work to make sure the next generation of believers continues this work of restoration?
3. As we do the work of restoration, we “shall be known among the Gentiles.” Does this mean the “Gentiles” will always be glad about this? Explain.

*In the conclusion of the verse he assigns the cause of the stability. It is because God is pleased not once only to stretch out his hand to them, but to be the continual guide of the journey. And the true support of our perseverance is, that he deigns to enter into an everlasting covenant with us, in which he voluntarily makes himself our debtor, and freely bestows upon us all things, though he owes us nothing whatever. John Calvin (1509-1564 AD), *Commentary on Isaiah 61.8**

Use me today, Lord, to bring restoration of Your goodness to...

Pray Psalm 66.

This psalm seeks the reviving grace of God for the world. Let it guide you to think of God's saving work in your life, and to renew you in your witness to the people in your Personal Mission Field.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 66 (*Regent Square: Angels from the Realms of Glory*)

Shout for joy to God, all people, sing the glory of His Name!

Give Him glorious praise and say, "How great Your pow'r and great Your fame!

All the earth shall worship gladly as they praise Your glorious Name!"

Great and awesome is our Savior in the works which He has done.

He the sea and river dried to let His people cross as one.

Then our joy was great to worship Him our mighty, sovereign One.

He the nations watches ever – all you rebels, humbled be;

bless our God, all men and nations, praise His Name eternally!

He preserves our souls, and He will keep His paths beneath our feet.

You have tried us, Lord, as silver, and have brought us into nets,

made us carry heavy burdens, let men trample o'er our heads.

But through all Your grace sustained us and has brought us through to rest.

To Your house we come with offsprings, what we vowed, Lord, help us do.

O, receive our praise and homage as we give ourselves to You.

Come and listen, all who fear Him: hear what this great God can do!

When we cried to You, You answered, filled our mouths with highest praise.

Let not sin abide within us, lest we languish all our days.

Bless the Lord, Who hears our pleadings and preserves His love always.

4 Israel's Response – and Ours

Pray Psalm 48.1-3.

Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised
In the city of our God,
In His holy mountain.
Beautiful in elevation,
The joy of the whole earth,
Is Mount Zion *on* the sides of the north,
The city of the great King.
God *is* in her palaces;
He is known as her refuge.

Read Isaiah 61.10, 11.

Reflect.

1. Why does Isaiah rejoice in the Lord?
2. How does Isaiah encourage us to have confidence in the Word of the Lord? To what does He compare God's faithfulness?

Meditate.

The Servant finishes His words in verse 9, and Isaiah responds. His response is one of joy – joy *in the Lord* and not in any circumstances. As the people of Judah and Jerusalem prepared to be taken captive in Babylon, Isaiah was showing them the way to joy that would sustain them: Keep your eyes on the promises of God!

Isaiah describes the promised salvation which the Servant will accomplish as being clothed with garments. We have heard it said that “Clothes make the man,” and when the clothes are the garments of salvation, that is really the truth. Forgiveness, a new heart, joy, hope, Kingdom-building work, righteousness, peace, love: These are the garments and adornments that accompany salvation, and we should put them on daily, and live as witnesses to Christ.

In verse 11, Isaiah does two things, both important for holding fast to the promises of God and His salvation. First, he says that the promises of God are as sure and certain as the growth of plants from a seed. And they're very much like a growing plant as well. Righteousness and praise increase the longer we grow in the Lord. We can count on the Lord to fulfill His promise.

The second thing he does is connect the promises of God with a familiar sight – growing plants. Here Isaiah introduces a bit of creational theology, teaching the people of God to remember Him and His promises by contemplating the world of creation around them.

Isaiah's response to God's promised salvation is to rejoice in Him (worship), embrace His gift of salvation and all that goes with it (sanctification), and encourage His fellow believers to do the same (witness). We should do the same every day.

Prepare.

1. Do you practice these three responses every day? Can you give some examples?
2. What is “creational theology,” and why is it important that we make use of this?

3. What steps do you take each day to “put on” the Lord’s salvation and all that goes with it?

*Here the person of the church is introduced full of joy as it sounds forth, “May my soul rejoice in the Lord, for he has clothed me in a cloak of salvation and a tunic of rejoicing.” The tunic of rejoicing means our Lord Jesus Christ. ... They who have him like a garment gain not only salvation but also happiness and many joys. Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 Ad), *Commentary on Isaiah 5.5.61.10-11**

Clothe me with joy and with the garments of salvation today, O Lord, and go with me as I...

Pray Psalm 48.

Claim the promises of this psalm for yourself and your church – beauty, joy, holiness, praise extending to the ends of the earth, joy in the Lord’s judgments, glory in His presence with us. What a glorious raft of promises the Lord has provided!

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 48 (*Cwm Rhondda: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*)

Great is God, now greatly praise Him in the city of the Lord.
Holy she, His lovely mountain, great and glorious by His Word!
God her King is great within her, He, her Stronghold ever sure!
He, her Stronghold ever sure!

Earthly kings, amazed and wond’ring, look upon the Church with fear.
See them flee in dread and anguish, knowing that the Lord is near.
For the city of the Savior God will keep forevermore!
God will keep forevermore!

For Your grace and lovingkindness we proclaim Your matchless worth!
As Your Name is, great and boundless, let Your praise fill all the earth.
Let Your people sing rejoicing for the judgment of Your truth;
for the judgment of Your truth.

Walk about the blessed city, see her beauty, see her power.
Count her ramparts, filled with glory, look on ev’ry mighty tower.
Tell her glory to the nations: God will guide her evermore;
God will guide her evermore!

5 Beulah Land

Pray Psalm 98.1, 2.

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!
For He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.
The LORD has made known His salvation;
His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

Read Isaiah 62.1-5.

Reflect.

1. God likens His City to a bride. What does He promise His bride?
2. What issue comes from God's marriage to His bride?

Meditate.

This is the most intimate image of God's relationship with His people that Isaiah has presented in his book. He says that the City God is building – His covenant people – shall be called "Beulah", married. He will marry them, because He delights in His bride and rejoices to possess her (vv. 4, 5).

Our relationship with God is just this intimate. Jesus defined it in terms of *knowing* the Father and the Son, a relationship of deep mutual love and joy. Isaiah is fairly bursting to put this image before God's people (v. 1). From the marriage of God and His bride will issue righteousness, salvation, and glory (vv. 1, 2). This is just what we should expect from such an intimate relationship with the living God.

Again, Isaiah emphasizes the high visibility of this relationship and its issue (v. 2; recall Is. 2.1-4). The world will see a different kind of City, a new and glorious people, a people who are crowned to rule (vv. 2, 3) and who do so with righteousness and joy. Because God delights in the people He has saved, He betroths them to Himself, and causes them to bring forth righteousness, peace, and joy in the world, and thus shows the world that the ancient people of God's covenant are no longer "Forsaken" and "Desolate," but have become the focus of God's delight, and the people of His glory.

Is this how we understand the salvation we have received from the Lord?

Reflect.

1. Why is marriage such a good way of thinking about our covenant relationship with God?
2. What is our responsibility, as God's bride, in making this marriage work?
3. We are crowned to rule (cf. Matt. 6.10, 33). What does this mean for you in your daily life?

Now this compares both each holy soul and the collective church, that is, the company of the saints, to a garland tied together from many flowers or to a royal diadem, shining with Indian jewels and with a variety of beautiful forms. For many are the noble characteristics of the saints, and there is not one type of distinction but many and various... Cyril of Alexandria (375-444 AD), Commentary on Isaiah 5.5.62.3-5

Today, Lord, let the world see the fruit of my relationship with You, in particular, as I...

Pray Psalm 98.

Thank God for the many ways He is making His salvation known in the world. Commit yourself, with joy and singing, to being an agent of His salvation today.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 98 (*Duke Street: Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord*)

Come, let us sing unto the Lord new songs of praise with one accord!

Wonderful things our God has done: Jesus has our salvation won!

Now is God's saving mercy known; His glory to the world is shown.

Faithful and kind is God our Lord; earth has the Name of Jesus heard.

Raise to the Lord your loudest voice! Break forth and sing! Rejoice! Rejoice!

Praise, praise to You our God and King, with all our hearts and strength we bring!

Now let the whole creation 'round burst into song with joyous sound!

Jesus will come to judge the earth; let all proclaim His matchless worth!

6 Surely

Pray Psalm 27.4.

One *thing* I have desired of the LORD,
That will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD
All the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the LORD,
And to inquire in His temple.

Read Isaiah 62.6-12.

Reflect.

1. How many different ways does God reinforce the *certainty* of His coming salvation in these verses?
2. How does God refer to His people in this passage?

Meditate.

For 23 chapters (40-62) of meditations, visions, homilies, and reassurances, Isaiah has been working to supply the people of Judah and Jerusalem with hope, courage, and strength. He knows what they are about to face – deportation and captivity in Babylon, and the destruction of their city and temple. But he also knows that God is faithful, and the faithful God uses the prophet to recall His ancient covenant, and assure the people that a new covenant is coming, a better covenant, with an unprecedented salvation, by the work of a Servant Whose suffering will open the door to a new relationship with the living God.

Isaiah has telescoped this vision in ways to unveil the certainty of it bit by bit. Some who heard him would be alive to hear Cyrus, God’s servant, decree the return of Israel to their land. Some would see the ancient city and its temple rebuilt, albeit not to the extent of its previous glory – thus leaving them to look ahead for more of what Isaiah has promised.

The LORD has sworn. Surely. Indeed. Surely. Isaiah is emphatic concerning the faithfulness of God. By His power He has raised up Babylon, and by His power He will throw them down. And by His power, He will fulfill all His promises to His people.

Their duty is to “Go through, go through the gates!” in faith, looking for the coming day of the Lord’s promised salvation, and not letting themselves or their hopes be overwhelmed or dashed by the temporary discipline they are about to endure.

They must pray earnestly (vv. 6, 7); cling to every Word of God, and praise Him for His faithfulness (vv. 8, 9); and take every next step in faith, determined to make a way for future generations and to raise the banner of God’s faithfulness wherever they are (v. 10). And they must never forget the Lord’s purpose for them: redeemed to be a holy people, sought out and loved by God.

We who are God’s people today are playing out our stage in the unfolding process of God’s salvation. What God expected of His people in Isaiah’s day, He expects of us as well. Let us take care to go through, prepare, build, and raise the banner of the Lord.

Prepare.

1. God calls His people to certain duties as they live toward His promises. How do you fulfill these duties each day?

2. Notice how Isaiah freely intermingles his use of *LORD* and *Redeemer* in talking about the coming salvation of God. What does this suggest about the *Servant* Who accomplishes this salvation?

3. How does the Lord proclaim “to the end of the world” the salvation He has prepared for His people? Where does your Personal Mission Field fit into this scenario?

So he says, “Don’t be silent and give no silence, that is, to the Lord who promises these things, until he has prepared and makes Jerusalem to sing on the earth.” He provides for the intercession made by the powers of all the people, that it should not be quiet or ever fall silent, but with shouts and unrestrained cries rouse him. The people’s intercession should never give God peace.
Eusebius of Caesarea (260-340 AD), *Commentary on Isaiah 2.52*

Lead me today, Lord, that I may go through and...

Pray Psalm 27.

Only by keeping focused on the Lord, and dwelling in His presence, can we expect to know the fullness of His precious and very great promises. Let this psalm lift you up to the Lord and prepare you for following Him this day.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 27 (*Joanna: Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise*)

Lord, You are our Light and our Savior most dear!

You guard us with might; therefore, whom shall we fear?

Though evil surround us, our enemies fall;

no harm shall confound us when on You we call.

One thing we request but to dwell with You, Lord,

Your beauty to test and to think on Your Word.

In trouble You hide us secure in Your grace;

no foe may o’erride us: We sing of Your praise!

Hear, Lord, when we cry and be gracious, we pray!

Lord, do not deny us Your favor this day!

Our help, our salvation, though others may fall,

preserve our good station when on You we call.

Lord, teach us; Lord, lead us because of our foes!

Hear, Lord, when we plead for release from their woes.

Had we not believed all Your goodness to see,

our heart sorely grieved and in turmoil would be.

Wait, wait on the Lord; persevere in His grace.

Hold fast to His Word; seek His radiant face.

Be strong, set your heart to abide in His Word;

His grace He imparts; therefore, wait on the Lord.

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7 For His Glory

Pray Psalm 48.1-3.

Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised
In the city of our God,
In His holy mountain.
Beautiful in elevation,
The joy of the whole earth,
Is Mount Zion *on* the sides of the north,
The city of the great King.
God *is* in her palaces;
He is known as her refuge.

Review Isaiah chapters 61, 62.

Reflect.

1. How would you describe the salvation the Servant announces in these two chapters? Is this the way you experience the Lord's salvation?
2. What do they do who have received such a great salvation from the Lord?

Meditate.

The Servant Who comes to suffer is the Redeemer of Israel. He is God and LORD, the One Who fulfills all the covenant promises of God to His people. He brings a salvation so great that it encompasses all of creation and all nations and peoples, making them into one new City for the glory of righteousness, peace, and joy, for the glory of the Lord.

This vision is no pipedream; it is no mere desperate hope. It is the sure promise of God Who, even as He prepares to send His people off into captivity in Babylon, is preparing for them and the generations that follow a future and a hope that will not disappoint. As surely as sown seed bring forth plants and fruit, the sown word of the prophet will bear the fruit of promises in the Lord's time, in the last day (Is. 2.1-4), and for the salvation of the world.

There will be much work to do in realizing the full promise of the Lord's salvation, and it will be up to the people of God to take up that work and carry it through faithfully. God will not be satisfied until truth, righteousness, justice, peace, and joy are established in His City and among His people. So likewise must we be diligent to pursue these marks of salvation and sanctification, for in the salvation of God we find our surest and greatest hope and fulfillment. And we glorify God by laboring diligently to realize the promises of His covenant.

Prepare.

1. Every believer has a Personal Mission Field within which to pursue the work of the Lord. What should that work look like in your Personal Mission Field each day?
2. How did God expect His people to live toward His promises while they were in captivity in Babylon? How does He expect us to live toward His promises today?
3. What's your primary takeaway from Isaiah 61 and 62?

For this is salvation, to put a cloak of salvation on one's soul and a tunic of righteousness. For each one by his deeds that are done according to righteousness puts on his own fine apparel... For she who is the bride of the Word receives seeds from him and returns splendid and fresh fruit. Eusebius of Caesarea (260-340 AD), Commentary on Isaiah 2.52

Light my path today, O Lord, so that I might live for Your glory as I...

Pray Psalm 48.

See how this psalm spreads out the great salvation of the Lord, which He brings to His City. Ask the Lord to help you grow today in realizing this salvation, and in carrying out the work it requires of you.

Sing to the Lord.

Psalm 48 (*Cwm Rhondda: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*)

Great is God, now greatly praise Him in the city of the Lord.
Holy she, His lovely mountain, great and glorious by His Word!
God her King is great within her, He, her Stronghold ever sure!
He, her Stronghold ever sure!

Earthly kings, amazed and wond'ring, look upon the Church with fear.
See them flee in dread and anguish, knowing that the Lord is near.
For the city of the Savior God will keep forevermore!
God will keep forevermore!

For Your grace and lovingkindness we proclaim Your matchless worth!
As Your Name is, great and boundless, let Your praise fill all the earth.
Let Your people sing rejoicing for the judgment of Your truth;
for the judgment of Your truth.

Walk about the blessed city, see her beauty, see her power.
Count her ramparts, filled with glory, look on ev'ry mighty tower.
Tell her glory to the nations: God will guide her evermore;
God will guide her evermore!

The Servant Our Lord: Isaiah 61, 62

Questions for reflection or discussion

1. Meditate on Hebrews 2.3. How do Isaiah 61 and 62 lead us to think about the great salvation we have received from the Lord?
2. In these chapters, the Servant (Who speaks in 61.1ff), God, and the LORD seem to be one and the same. How can this be so? Why is it important?
3. Why is marriage a good way to think about our relationship with God? Can you think of some other places in Scripture where this image is used?
4. What work is assigned to those who have received the great salvation of the Lord and have become “married” to Him? What should that look like in our daily lives?
5. What’s the most important lesson you’ve learned from Isaiah 61 and 62? How are you putting that lesson to work in your life?

For prayer:

The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

The Fellowship of Ailbe offers many opportunities for training, prayer, personal growth, and ministry. Visit our website at www.ailbe.org to learn more.

We hope you found this study helpful. If so, please consider making a gift to The Fellowship. You can contribute to our ministry by using the donate button at the website, or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 19 Tyler Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Thank you.