

Part II, Lesson 23

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

Your
God
Reigns

Isaiah
52:7-12

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex
Curriculum*

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Your God Reigns

Isaiah 52:7-13

The words and ideas in our Scripture for today have been set to music many times. The picture here is of a messenger racing toward Jerusalem. He is bringing good news. Read Isaiah 52:7-9.

As the messenger raced across the mountains to Jerusalem, his feet were seen as beautiful. The messenger had several messages:

1. His words were good news. No scolding, but words all the people wanted, and needed, to hear.
2. He was announcing peace. The people in Jerusalem and in Babylon had not known peace for several generations.
3. His were good tidings, or words of happiness. We have read of the mourning, the sadness, the sorrow that went with the destruction of Jerusalem and of the people being force-marched to Babylon as slaves.
4. He was announcing salvation. This would be salvation of Jerusalem from their enemies.
5. He was announcing, "Your God Reigns!" The best news of all, God was going to reestablish Himself in Jerusalem and reign over His people.

The most encouraging word that the people could hear was that they were back in the good graces of God, and that He was coming to reign. God is supreme, above all others. He was going to control things. He was going to be the sovereign (supreme, unchallenged) ruler over all things. What a great word.

Then Isaiah said, "open your ears, listen, the watchmen are relaying the song that this messenger is singing." We can picture soldiers standing on the highest places, guarding the city...watchmen. They have heard the messenger before anyone else heard him. And now with excitement and joy they are singing loudly, and joyfully, "Your God reigns!" And, added to the song now is, "When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes."

Now everyone is singing. Have you ever seen a flash mob singing? Usually one or two people begin the song. Then people who have gathered secretly begin to join them. Maybe the place has several levels, and soon people on the second level, and the third level join in the song. Soon, fifty, one hundred or more are singing the song. It is loud, and everyone else stops what they are doing to listen.

That's the picture here. The runner coming toward the city begins the song, soon the watchmen are singing, then people in the city join in the song. They are encouraged to "burst into song." Even though they are standing in the ruins of what had been the great and beautiful city of Jerusalem, they can sing again. What a great picture. What a great story. What a great promise: "Your God reigns!" Do you think maybe they tried it different ways? Maybe they sang it in rounds. Maybe the men and women took turns singing.

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Maybe the children took a turn. Maybe the older folks took a turn. They were ALL singing, “Your God reigns! When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.” Maybe an added verse, “The Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.”

Talk about a celebration! Talk about a great homecoming! Talk about a comforting word to those who were still slaves in Babylon! Wow, let the party begin! Did God ever stop reigning? No! But now the people would see it and feel it and know it for themselves...He will reign over them and with them.

Remember, back in 51:9, there was a prayer something like “Awake, clothe yourself with strength, O arm of the Lord...” Well, now we read, “The Lord will lay bare His holy arm in the sight of all the nations...” Read Isaiah 52:10-12.

God is about to show His muscles. We can think of the athlete, maybe a weight-lifter whose arm muscles push the skin out to the limit. When you see an arm like that you are not likely to challenge that person to an arm-wrestling contest. God is going to show His muscle to all the nations...to the whole world. He and He alone has the strength to bring salvation to His people. And no one will challenge God.

The picture changes again. The people are told to get out of there. This was to the slaves in Babylon. As slaves, they had no say in where they went or what they did, yet God is telling them to “depart.” They were given specific instructions. Three things were to be done:

1. They were to touch no unclean thing. This probably means that they were not to take any idols with them. Many of them had been worshiping the Assyrian and Babylonian gods.
2. They were to be pure...specifically those who “carry the vessels of the Lord” were to be clean...without sinful lives. Since the vessels (candlesticks, alters and other things used in worship in the Temple had been taken to Babylon and would never be returned, this is probably a symbolic message. The people were to be as pure as the priests who carried on the Temple sacrifices using those vessels.
3. They were not to rush out of Babylon. They were to move out with pride, as the children of the most high God.

God promised that He would not only lead them out, but that He would also be guarding them from behind. What a great place to be...right in the center of God’s will. When Cyrus let them go, they left with dignity. They crossed the desert without fear of going the wrong way because God was leading them. They didn’t fear being attacked from behind because God was guarding the rear.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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Scripture Memory: “How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” Isaiah 52:7

Lesson Goal: To assist students to see the guidance, care and protection of God for His people.

