

I could have entitled this Coming Kingdom Part 3, but I chose to emphasize one particular aspect of what is to come by entitling it The Lord's Delight. In the last two chapters we've seen the promises of that kingdom that is to come and our amazing role in it. Isaiah continues in this chapter to expand on that theme.

¹ 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. Isaiah 62:1 The people, the city, and the land are all spoken of as one. Zion was originally the fortified hill in Jerusalem between the Kidron and Tyropean valleys. In Scripture "Zion" is used to refer to that hill, or to all of Jerusalem, or to the entire covenant people (Isaiah 1:27; Psalm 97:8). We can see that usage in the description of New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:1-3. The city of peace is the people of God who have peace with Him through Jesus (Romans 5:1). In the Psalms and Lamentations Zion is almost always referring to the city of God in the new age. It is the dwelling place of God. In that, we again see it as the hearts of those who are His. What makes Zion so special is that God resides there (Isaiah 8:18).

God is declaring that He is not going to be silent or quiet for Zion or Jerusalem's sake. The first two lines are Hebrew parallelism, saying the same thing in two different ways. God will keep speaking. His words create. **His words are creating is His ultimate creation, the bride of Christ. She must not only be redeemed, she must be transformed.** While her positional righteousness comes from Jesus' sacrifice, her experiential righteousness comes by the transforming power of the Spirit speaking to us, changing the way we think (Romans 12:2), convicting us of certain actions and words, which causes our righteousness to shine brighter and brighter (Proverbs 4:18; Philippians 1:6). In God's eyes we are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. In our day to day experience, we find we fall far short of Christ likeness. But God is at work in us. And He is going to keep speaking to our spirits and growing us *if* we are willing to listen. This is the application for us today. It results in preparation for our future, a time when the saints will reign over the earth in the Millennial Kingdom.

Isaiah has spoken of this future shining of the people of God a number of times (Isaiah 58:8; 60:1) Scripture speaks of the shining of God's face which is brilliance of His glory (Numbers 6:25). When we reign with Christ over the earth, we will be His perfect representatives (2 Timothy 2:12). Glory is the outshining of perfect attributes, the fruit of the Spirit. While in our day we hear people's excuses for rejecting Christ to include the hypocrisy of people who say they are Christians, in that day there will be no excuse. Our salvation will stand out as a burning torch. It should today! The more we let the transforming voice of the Spirit convict and guide us, the more we will shine even now.

² The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. Isaiah 62:2 There have

been those through history who so shined with the light of Jesus that nations saw their righteousness and kings sought them out. Even today there are believers who are invited to speak to the UN and to national leaders. We should pray for these people, like Franklin Graham, Ravi Zacharias, and Joel Rosenberg. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it were said of you? It will be! When God's work in us is complete, when we reign with Christ, the nations will see your righteousness and all the kings your glory. Do you grasp the fact that this is truly our destiny?

In Jesus' letter to the church of Pergamum and Philadelphia, the conquerors (overcomers) are promised a new name, given to them from the LORD (Revelation 2:17; 3:12). In the latter case, the name of God, the name of the city of God, and Jesus' new name is written on them. Roman slaves in the first century were branded with the name of their owner. The more important the owner, the more respect and deference given them in the marketplace. Though we are the bride of Christ, we serve Him as His helpmeet (Genesis 2:18). We wear His name. We come with His authority. Imagine the respect that we will be given as the servants of the Creator of all!

Even now we wear His name. When people know you are a Christian, they think of you as representing Him. We represent Him in how we drive, how we speak, in our priorities, in our compassion or lack thereof. How are you wearing His name? Are you attracting others to Him? No doubt some will be repelled by what you represent, even when you represent Him faithfully. But we certainly don't want to repel those who are seeking or open to the truth.

To the conquerors of Pergamum, a white stone was promised with their new name. It is, I believe, a name unique to each individual, and I suspect is a name that has to do with our personal relationship with Jesus, as He and you alone know it. I think both new names are referred to here in verse 2, the name by which the world refers to us and Jesus' personal name for you. As a new creation, you will receive a new name (2 Corinthians 5:17).

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. Isaiah 62:3 When Jesus has finished His work in us, when we see Him in glory, we will be the crowning beauty of God's creation. All the scars of sin will be gone. Aren't there times when you get frustrated with your failure to keep your thoughts and words pure and unselfish? Don't you sometimes feel like you just aren't growing in Christ as you should and wonder if you'll ever be what He is calling you to be? This verse tells us we will be a crown of beauty in His hand (Zechariah 9:16). He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it (Philippians 1:6). There will be no flaw in us (Romans 7:24-25).

What is more, we will be a royal diadem in God's hand. That is the rod of ruling authority. Because the work in us is completed, we can faithfully represent God in carrying out justice with His authority in that day. Whereas we were once at the mercy

of courts of those who accept bribes and judge by personal preference, we will judge with the righteous justice of all-knowing God. That is the implication of being a diadem in God's hand.

⁴ 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. Isaiah 62:4 The Jews in captivity felt they were the forsaken of God. The land of Israel was desolate. Christians today and throughout history have felt the same at times. I'm sure the Syrian and Iraqi Christians would say it is true of them today. We can be looked down on in our own culture because we do not conform to the contemporary acceptable attitudes of our culture. But as we saw in previous chapters, the great reversal is coming (Isaiah 61:7).

In that day, people will call us Hephzibah (God delights in us). It will be obvious to the entire world that we are the ones in whom God delights. That thought of being God's delight should be a great motivating encouragement to us all to persevere through the times of being called "Forsaken."

Our land being called Beulah, which is to say Married, means that God is in covenant with us to make us fruitful. Heaven would be boring if we had nothing to do. Yes, we will be quite occupied with worship of our Redeemer, but He is going to have assignments for us. The book of Revelation tells us that His servants will serve Him (Revelation 22:3). We won't be sitting around on clouds with harps. We will have productive and enjoyable work to accomplish for God's glory.

⁵ 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. Isaiah 62:5 This is poetical imagery of the inhabitants of Zion cherishing their city. Children will often plan to leave the place they grew up and desire some other city that looks like it has greener grass. That won't be so in New Jerusalem. Since it is made up of the people of God and the very presence of Christ, our love for one another and Jesus will forever be a part of our eternal home. How could we not love it as it is a place of joy, delight, righteousness, peace, and beauty?

Jesus, our groom, will delight in us! It's almost as if God knew this would be hard for us to fathom, so He repeats it again. He delights in us now, for He sees us clothed in the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). He delights in the finished work He sees even now, what we are becoming by faith (1 John 3:2). Our love for Him will only grow as we realize how great His love is for us.

ESV Study Bible notes comment, "Isaiah explains that in God's great plan of salvation, he not only forgives his people, protects them, heals them, provides for them, restores them to their home, reconciles them to each other, transforms them so they are righteous, honors them, exalts them above all nations, and makes them a blessing to all

nations, as he called them to be—but more than all these things, he actually *delights* in his people."

⁶ 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, Isaiah 62:6

The chapter began with God saying He would not be silent until our righteousness shines forth and our salvation like a blazing torch. One way He does that is through His watchmen. Watchmen stand on the walls of the city and keep lookout for the enemies that would sneak up to conquer and take us captive.

The walls are the boundary lines between the city and the world. In a previous chapter the walls were salvation, that is Yeshua (Isaiah 60:18). These watchmen are preachers and evangelists who standing on the rock of Christ Jesus proclaiming the Gospel message. They warn people by reminding them that there is a holy and righteous God who will hold us all to account for what we have done with Jesus (Romans 14:12). What did we do with the grace and faith given to us? The watchmen warn of the enemy of idolatry that would take our souls captive. Isaiah was one of those watchmen. As watchmen, we are to continually and faithfully declare the message without compromising with the ever changing currents of this world (1 John 2:17).

⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.

Isaiah 62:7 We are not only to proclaim to the world without rest, but we are to give God no rest by continually praying for our work to be fruitful that souls might come into the kingdom. When that last soul enters in (2 Peter 3:9), God will establish Jerusalem, the city of God, the people of God, making them a praise in the earth.

⁸ 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; ⁹ 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." Isaiah 62:8,9 YHWH swears by Jesus, who is His right hand and mighty arm, the robbery of the past, physical and spiritual, the stealing away by evil birds of the seed we planted in the hearts of men will be a thing of the past. The saved souls in the Millennial Kingdom will immediately enter New Jerusalem and be secure (Matthew 13:4). All our labor will bear fruit and be a blessing to us. There will be no more frustrated endeavors. We will no longer be misled into programs that don't bear fruit. Every work will be fruitful and glorify our Savior.

¹⁰ 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. Isaiah 62:10 These are the saints of New Jerusalem heading out of the city to prepare the way of salvation for the multitude that will come into the kingdom. We first saw this in chapter 57 verse 14.

¹⁴ And it shall be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way." Every stone of false teaching will be removed. Every excuse of

hypocrisy will be cleared away. The choice will be as plain as it could possibly be. That is why at the end of the Millennium, Satan will so easily convince the world to come against New Jerusalem (Revelation 20:7-8). The people will have already made their choice and entered in or chosen to remain outside.

The signal we raise is the exaltation of the Lord Jesus. He was declared to be that signal in Isaiah 11:10 *¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.* Jesus is the root of Jesse, who was the father of David. The nations can come to inquire of the glorified Christ before they decide to accept or reject His grace.

¹¹ 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." Isaiah 62:11 The daughter of Zion was a term sometimes used in addressing the people in captivity (Isaiah 52:2). They had been forced out of Zion. God proclaims to the end of the earth and to the captives, "Your Savior is coming. His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him." This is the Second Coming. While we could see it applied to the return or to the first coming, for He brought the reward of salvation to those who would accept Him, the language is of the final White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-12). The righteous will be rewarded for their labors. Those who reject Christ will receive the recompense their deeds deserve. All books will be settled. Justice will be complete and final.

¹² And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken. Isaiah 62:12 "They" refers back to the daughter of Zion. While they were despised at the time, a day will come when the world will refer to God's children as the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord. We will be called Sought Out. Instead of trying to get people to listen to the Gospel, and waiting for opportunities, people will be coming to us to hear the Good News. Instead of being seen as the forsaken ones, we will be called A City Not Forsaken. This is the glorious future of those called "My Delight is in Her," those who have placed their faith in Jesus. Will you be among them?

Questions

- 1 What is Zion?
- 2 Who won't keep quiet? Why?
- 3 How is the bride made ready?
- 4 What is the "new name"?
- 5 What were we called? What will we be called?
- 6 What does "sons marry you" mean?
- 7 Why repeat that God will delight in us?
- 8 What is a watchman?
- 9 What is the promise to us?
- 10 Why do we prepare a road? How do we?