

ISAIAH 52:1-12

Lesson 42: "Awake Zion, and Celebrate: Your God Reigns"¹

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MAIN IDEA

Zion is commanded to awake, throw off defiled garments, and celebrate the glory of God's sovereign reign.

SUMMARY OUTLINE

God calls on Jerusalem to prepare to receive the returning exiles from Babylon in 538 BC. The time of salvation is drawing near. The passage also idealizes the return by picturing Jerusalem in a future state of perfect holiness (New Jerusalem).²



I. God Exalts Zion (Jerusalem) from the Dust of Exile (52:1-6)

- A. God calls for the city of Jerusalem (Zion) to metaphorically wake up (with expectation) from having been plundered by the Babylonians (586 BC) and to put on beautiful new garments in preparation for the return of its true inhabitants from Babylon (538 BC).
- B. Tragically, Jerusalem went after other gods like someone selling themselves for nothing, but after being exiled in Egypt (ca. 1500 BC), and later suffering oppression by Assyria (722 BC), but God is now bringing them back to the holy city. God is doing this, not for their goodness, but for the sake of his holy name.

II. Beautiful Feet Bring Joyful News: "Your God Reigns" (52:7-12)

- A. Messengers will travel the mountains around Jerusalem to spread the good news of the return of redeemed Israel to the land. A reminder that God still reigns (in full control). This can also pertain to Israel's golden age during which Christ will reign personally over his kingdom when there will be a New Jerusalem.
- B. Prophetically, this has both a near and a distant application. It was intended for the Babylonian captives Isaiah has prophesied to; but also, for those gathered unto the LORD in the very end times. The call to separate from Babylon - both literally and spiritually - is a call to purity.

¹ Outline adapted from "Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Isaiah," by Andrew Davis.

² Adapted from Barry, John D., Douglas Mangum, Derek R. Brown, et al. Faithlife Study Bible. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016. Print.

Addendum: Fifteen amazing facts about the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-27)

1. It will come down out of heaven (Rev. 21:2) as the capital city of the new heaven and new earth.
2. It is described as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband (Rev. 21:2).
3. God will make his residence in the New Jerusalem and he will be its creator (Rev. 21:3)
4. On the gates of the wall will be written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel (Rev. 21:12).
5. The wall will have twelve foundations, and on them will be the names of the twelve apostles (Rev. 21:14).
6. It will have a high wall made of jasper with twelve gates, three on each side, and twelve angels at the gates (Rev. 21:15, 21, 25).
7. It will be equal in all three sides (1400 miles on each side) --a perfect cube! (Rev. 21:16; cf. 1 Kings 6:20).
8. The wall will be 216 feet (144 cubits) wide and each gate will be made of a single huge pearl (Rev. 21:17).
9. It will be a cubic city made with pure gold (Rev. 21:18, 21).
10. It will scintillate with brilliant colors as the glorious light of God shines in and through it (Rev. 21:19-21).
11. The great street of the city will be of pure gold (Rev. 21:21).
12. It will be a home for saints of all ages. Abraham himself looked forward to living in this great city (Hebrews 11:10).
13. It is also the dwelling place of thousands upon thousands of angels (Hebrews 12:22).
14. Its splendor will be beyond full description (1 Cor. 2:9)
15. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (21:4). This does not mean that we occasionally cry in heaven but rather, crying and sadness will be non-existent, as will be death, mourning, or pain.