

“Hope of the Coming Salvation” Isaiah 52:1-12

Context: Today’s immediate context continues the message of hope that began in Chapter 7, a hope for the promised comfort of the Lord’s salvation. The promise of salvation of the believing Remnant is in some contrast to the earlier chapters of 48-49. There the emphasis is less on the obstinacy and rebellion of Israel and more on the emancipation of those saved from the Babylonian captivity, with physical liberation signifying spiritual emancipation. The hope of the Gospel message found in the beginning of this chapter is followed by the prophecy of the passion and crucifixion God’s suffering Servant, Jesus Christ. This was the act that purchased the emancipation and salvation of the Remnant from the captivity to their sin nature.

Life Principle: A spiritual cesspool of sin is no place for a saint to take a spiritual swim (cf. Isaiah 52:11).

1. Hope through the knowledge of His name – Isaiah 52:1-6

The metaphors of arousal from sleep and release from captivity are used to call the Remnant from spiritual slumber to righteousness and from spiritual bondage to emancipation. Their arousal and release are based on their redemption by the Lord. His people, the Remnant, know the very character of their Lord by the fulfillment of the salvation they progressively experience.

2. Hope through the knowledge of His message – Isaiah 52:7-10

The “Good News” promises healing from our woundedness, relief from our loneliness, freedom from sin’s captivity, God’s merciful care, and just recompense at the final judgment. These are promised to *all* who call on Jesus to be their Lord and Savior as revealed in Scripture, the divine *community of God* symbolized by the terms *Zion* and *Jerusalem*.

3. Hope through the preservation of His presence – Isaiah 52:11-12

Those who have seen His salvation work in their lives are commanded to turn aside from contamination by the filth surrounding them. Rather than even touching it or dwelling in it, they are to go out and be purified by God while using their gifts to serve Him as they live in the center of His presence.

Study questions:

- Isaiah 52:7 is an oft-referenced verse with a particular emphasis on the “Good News.” As a **Bible study method**, look up your Bible’s cross references in context, first in Isaiah and then in the *New Testament* (i.e. Isaiah 40:9; 61:1; Romans 10:15; Ephesians 6:15). What do these verses reveal as the characteristics of “the Good News?”
- Isaiah 52:7, 8 alludes to Zion in the context of salvation and restoration. Look up the description of Zion in the *TDNT* (v. 7 pp. 292ff), paying particular attention to its uses in Isaiah. How would you describe the meaning of the term in Isaiah 52?
- Isaiah 52:11 calls those who are saved to separate themselves from sinful lifestyles. Our doctrinal statement professes such separation, known theologically as sanctification, to be part of salvation (see footnote 13 ‘**On Salvation**’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at www.gracepointfellowship.org). What sinful lifestyles has Isaiah revealed in his book (i.e. Isaiah 5:16-23; 59:4-8)? What similarities do we find with the lifestyles in Ephesus and Laodicea (cf. Ephesians 5:7ff; Revelation 2:4; 3:14ff)?

Transformation exercise:

Meditate on what it means to be pure or separate from the unclean in Isaiah 52:11 and Ephesians 5:7ff. Each morning, ask the Lord to help you recognize evil and empower you to turn from it. In the evening, assess your progress.