



• As well as a Saviour, the world needs a Conqueror of sin

There is need not only of a Saviour who will be a sacrifice for sin but also of a Conqueror who will subdue sin, crush it and eventually wipe it out altogether. God saw there was no one who could do this work. So his own arm must work salvation for him¹. The bright, shining light of salvation will come to Zion, and the whole world will be affected². The Spirit of the Lord will be upon the Saviour and his people will become 'large trees of righteousness, a planting of Yahweh for the display of his splendour'³.

1 59:14-21
2 60:1-22
3 61:1-9

• The Saviour speaks of His determination to save Zion

We pick up the theme at this point. The Saviour speaks of his joy¹ and determination to save Zion². Zion will become an altogether new people³. God will raise up praying people to bring his own purpose to pass⁴. He swears an oath that he will save his people⁵ and bring into being a new Jerusalem⁶. The Saviour will finally be an Avenger⁷.

1 61:10-11
2 62:1-3
3 62:4-5
4 62:6-7
5 62:8-9
6 62:10-12
7 63:1-6

1. The Saviour finds great joy in doing his work

1. The Saviour finds great joy in doing his work. It is his voice that we hear at this point.

*¹⁰I delight greatly in Yahweh;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and covered me in a robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head with the priestly turban,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Yahweh will make righteousness and
praise
spring up before all nations.*

• Christ's 'uniform' – the garments of salvation – tell us of His work

The Saviour is rejoicing! What gives him joy is God himself¹ and the clothing he wears². Clothing expresses character and calling. Just as a uniform tells us what a person's work is and whom they work for, so Christ's 'uniform' – the garments of salvation – tells us of his work. Today a person's character may not be right for their job. In the case of the Saviour he has the right character for the work he has to do.

1 62:10a-b
2 62:10c-f

• He has the right character for the job He has to do

2. The Saviour finds great joy in God's people

2. The Saviour finds great joy in God's people. God's people are so precious to him, and so they are precious to the Saviour also.

*¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not be inactive,
until her righteousness shines out like a bright light,
her salvation like a blazing torch.
²The nations will see your righteousness,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of Yahweh will choose.
³You will be a crown of splendour in Yahweh's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

• He has a passionate zeal to exalt God's people – they will become new

The Saviour has a passionate zeal to exalt God's people, to get them to be what they must be, an international people of righteousness. They will become an altogether new people.

*⁴No longer will they call you Forsaken,
or call your land Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah [My Delight Is in Her],
and your land Beulah [Married];*

for Yahweh will take delight in you,
and your land will be married.
5As a young man marries a maiden,
so will your sons marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.

3. The future exaltation of God's people will come through prayer

3. The future exaltation of God's people will come through the prayers of some of his people.

⁶I have posted guardians on your walls, O Jerusalem;
they will never be silent day or night.
You who remind Yahweh,
give yourselves no rest,
⁷and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem
and makes her the praise of the earth.

• God's people pray for the church

God raises up praying people. They are praying especially for the exaltation of the church. It is not the pagan nations they are praying for so much as for the church.

4. The coming salvation is sure and certain because the Saviour takes an oath

4. The coming salvation is sure and certain because the Saviour takes an oath.

⁸Yahweh has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
'Never again will I give your grain
as food for your enemies,
and never again will foreigners drink the new wine
for which you have toiled;
⁹but those who harvest it will eat it
and praise Yahweh,
and those who gather the grapes will drink it
in the courts of my sanctuary.'

• Never again will there be invasion or exile with destruction of the earthly Zion

The Saviour raises his right hand in an oath. He swears that there will never again be anything quite like the Assyrian invasion and the Babylonian exile, where enemies totally destroyed the earthly Zion. When God's new Zion comes into being it will never be destroyed, and will rise and rise until it reaches its final exaltation.

• There will be a new and indestructible Jerusalem

There will be a new Jerusalem which is entirely indestructible.

¹⁰Pass through, pass through the gates!
Prepare the way for the people.
Build up, build up the highway!
Remove the stones.
Raise a banner for the peoples.
¹¹See, Yahweh has made proclamation
to the ends of the earth:
'Say to the Daughter of Zion,
"See, your salvation comes!
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him."'
¹²Onlookers will call them the Holy People,
the Redeemed of Yahweh;
and you will be called Sought After,
the City No Longer Deserted.

• Sometimes the people are already the new Jerusalem

The biblical picture of a 'new Jerusalem' is used in a varied and flexible way. Sometimes the people are **already** the new Jerusalem. Sometimes (as here in Isaiah 62) they are marching towards it and the new Jerusalem is the people of God as they shall be in the future. Here the road is a mighty highway. The road is being prepared ahead of the people. They are confident and triumphant and

• Sometimes they are marching towards it, confident and joyful – onlookers are attracted

• The Saviour is at the head of the pilgrims

• The church of Christ march happily towards a heavenly Zion to receive rich rewards

joyful, waving their banners and singing to any who might be watching. Along the way, people are watching them and are impressed. These are obviously the people of God, their holy character is obvious. There is something attractive about them and the onlookers begin to seek after what the pilgrims have.

The Saviour is at the head of the pilgrims, leading them into the new Jerusalem. 'Your salvation comes' is the right translation – although it refers to the coming of the Saviour himself. Final rescue of the new Jerusalem is close at hand, in Isaiah's vision. He comes with his 'reward'. He is ready to return to his enemies their treatment of him and his people. He is ready to reward his own holy people. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ (for the 'church' of all who believe in Jesus is the fulfilment of the vision) are a pilgrim people. They are not settlers; they are pilgrims. They march happily towards a heavenly Zion. When they reach it they will receive rich rewards. Evil will be put down and banished for ever. All of Jesus' people are marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

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