

# THE GIFT OF SALVATION THROUGH THE COMING SAVIOUR ISAIAH 62:01–12

## *Introduction*

Have you ever needed to be rescued from a life-threatening situation? Car accident? Drowning? Disease? Some other crisis that could have easily snatched your life away? Even if you have not personally confronted death, most of us know someone who has.

When thinking about life-threatening situations, we must all face the crisis of sin in our lives. Whether or not we acknowledge the sin or deny it does not change the reality that sin will doom us to eternal death. We are all gripped by the hand of sin, held in bondage by its power. No matter how much we may try to keep from sinning, we discover that we still do wrong or come short. We cannot achieve perfection, no matter how diligently we try. We are always coming short and failing to some degree. But even more tragic, we discover that we are gripped by death. No human being escapes death. The *grave* is inevitable.

But the wonderful message of the present Scripture is this: we can be saved. The wonderful gift of salvation has been offered to the human race. Salvation from sin and death can be ours. God sent the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, to provide redemption for us. It is this great message that Isaiah the prophet proclaimed.

Keep in mind that this prophecy was given over 700 years before Christ ever came into the world. We today can look back through human history to see how this prediction of the coming Saviour was fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is, *The Gift of Salvation Through the Coming Saviour*.

## ***Isaiah 62:01–12 The assurance of salvation through the coming Saviour***

God gave the wonderful assurance of salvation through the coming Saviour. With all the oppression, suffering, war, death and evil in the world, believers often have a yearning for Christ to return. They long for God's kingdom on earth. This yearning has been in the hearts of believers for centuries, yet Christ has not returned (2 Pet 3:3-10). God's kingdom has not yet come to earth. The prediction that the Jews will experience a great revival, that many will turn to the Lord Jesus has not happened. Neither has Jerusalem become the Holy City of God, a city that is truly righteous. Due to the promises still unfulfilled and all the wickedness and corruption in the world, there are always some believers who need to be reassured. Every human being experiences the need for assurance at some point in time. Even believers need to know that God is truly going to fulfil His promises of salvation. In these verses God gives to Jewish and Gentile believers four wonderful assurances of salvation.

1. Salvation is assured because of God's Word (vv. 1-5). Down through the centuries, God worked through the Jews to bring salvation to the world. And He will continue to
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work out His salvation for the world. Under no circumstances will He *hold His peace* or *keep silent*. Four reasons are given why the salvation of the world must be brought to completion.

- a. The righteousness and salvation of Jerusalem must shine forth like the dawn or like a blazing torch (vv. 1-2). Of course, this is a reference to the Messiah's presence and rule being centred in Jerusalem. The glory of His righteousness and salvation must be honoured by the nations. For this reason, the city will be given a new name, which means it will undergo a complete change.
- b. The Holy City of Jerusalem will become the valuable possession of the LORD (v. 3). It will be like a crown, a royal diadem held in the hand of God Himself.
- c. The Holy City will no longer be called *Deserted* or *Desolate*, not in the day of the Messiah's kingdom. It will be renamed *Hephzibah*, which means *my delight is in her* (v. 4). Moreover, the land of Judah will be renamed *Beulah*, which means *married one*. God will look upon the promised land as belonging to Him, a land and a people whom He would never cast away.
- d. The Holy City will be repossessed by believers (v. 5). And the LORD will rejoice over Jerusalem like a bridegroom rejoices over His bride.

God has determined that the Messiah will return to set up God's kingdom on earth. The seat of government will be Jerusalem, which will be established as the capital of the world. From there the righteousness and glory of God will shine forth throughout the whole world. When God's kingdom has been brought to the world, salvation will be completed. This wonderful promise is *assured*, guaranteed by God's Word.

2. Salvation is also assured because of the watchmen's proclamation (v. 6). Who are the watchmen? In ancient history they were men who were assigned the task of guarding the city from a surprise attack. In the present passage, *watchmen* refer to both *prophets* and *righteous believers*. All righteous believers are to be *watchmen*, prayer warriors. True believers are to cry out day and night to the LORD, never being silent and never giving themselves rest. They are to cry out for God to fulfil His promises, establishing Jerusalem as the centre of God's government on earth. Believers are to cry for the LORD to return to set up God's kingdom on earth.
3. Salvation is assured because of the LORD's sworn oath, His strong promise (vv. 8-9). The LORD has sworn that Jerusalem will be restored and never again invaded by enemies (v. 8). This will take place after Christ returns to set up God's kingdom on earth. No longer will the food and possessions for which the people have laboured be stolen from them. Instead they will eat their own food and be allowed to freely worship in the promised land. Peace will reign throughout Jerusalem and the entire world during the Messiah's kingdom. The LORD's sworn oath guarantees the promise of peace.

4. Salvation is assured because of the LORD's worldwide summons and invitation (vv. 10-12). What is the summons? The people are to "go...prepare the way...build the highway" of salvation, for the salvation of God — the Saviour Himself — is soon coming. Preparations must be made. A special roadway needs to be built or an existing roadway upgraded to be ready for His arrival. All obstacles that would keep a person from receiving and welcoming the Saviour must be removed. Along with that, a high-flying banner must be raised so all the nations will know of His coming.

Note that the proclamation of His coming is to be shouted out to the very ends of the earth: "Your Saviour comes! His reward is with Him" (v. 11). When the message of salvation is proclaimed, some people will respond and become true followers of the Saviour. These true believers will be given a new name, the *Holy People*, the *Redeemed of the LORD* (v. 12). And the Holy City of Jerusalem will be known as a city *Sought Out*, a city no longer forsaken.

**Thought 1.** God's summons is meant for the world today as much as it was in Isaiah's day. We must "Go...prepare the way...build the highway" of salvation, for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, has already come. In view of this, we must respond to the message, accept His wonderful salvation. God gives us great assurance about the certainty of salvation, the assurance that we will be saved from sin, death and the judgment to come. If we will truly receive Christ as our Saviour, He will flood us with a deep sense of...

- being forgiven our sins
- being accepted by God
- inheriting eternal life

**Phil 1:6** *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

**1 Th 1:5** *Because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.*

**2 Tim 1:12** *That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*

**2 Tim 4:18** *The LORD will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Heb 10:22-25** *Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,*

*for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**1 Pet 1:5** *Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

**1 John 2:1-5** *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him.*

**1 John 3:18-19** *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence.*

**1 John 4:13-15** *We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.*

**1 John 5:11-15** *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask we know that we have what we asked of him.*

**Jude 24-25** *To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. ■*

# THE GREAT DAY OF GOD'S VENGEANCE

## ISAIAH 63:01–06

### *Introduction*

Armageddon is the last, decisive battle or war among the nations of the earth. Because it is known to be the last battle, a discussion of Armageddon arouses keen interest among many, in particular true Christian believers. Armageddon is where human history, under the government of human leaders, will end. Why then and there? Because at Armageddon the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth. He will intervene and stop the madness of the human race. In that climactic day, all the wicked of this earth will face the blazing fire of God's holiness and be consumed, doomed to spend eternity in hell separated from Him. But the righteous of this earth will receive the mercy of God. They will be delivered and receive their eternal inheritance promised by God through the ages. This is:

### *Isaiah 63:01–12 The Great Day of God's Vengeance*

The great day of God's vengeance, the day of Armageddon, is coming. Furthermore, it cannot be stopped. In fact, this prophecy by Isaiah is a picture of Christ returning from the battle of Armageddon. The battle has already taken place, and the nations of the world who have sought to destroy God's people have just been crushed by the Lord Himself. Isaiah's prophecy answers the major questions about Armageddon:

1. Who will be judged? Edom and its capital Bozrah. These sites symbolize all the nations and strongholds in the world that reject God and persecute His people (vv. 1, 3, 6). Edom was chosen as a representative of the wicked nations of the earth because its people had always been *bitter enemies* of the Lord and His people. An unyielding hostility and deep-seated animosity flowed through the veins of the Edomites. Thus they became a symbol of the nations who defied the Lord and mistreated His people. All nations — governments, leaders, citizens — who take a stand against the LORD and His people will face the hand of God's judgment. They will be destroyed in the future battle of Armageddon.
  2. Who will execute judgment? The Lord Himself (vv. 1-2). This is a clear reference to Jesus Christ. Christ is returning, coming back to earth a second time. When Christ came the first time, He came as a baby born in a manger. He came as the Saviour to rescue people from their sins and from death, offering eternal life to all. But when Christ comes the second time, He will come as judge of the entire earth. He will come clothed in the majestic glory and awesome power of God Himself. Note that He identified Himself as the One who speaks "in righteousness, mighty to save" (v. 1). His purpose for coming will be to execute justice on earth. Executing justice includes rewarding those who truly believe and have been faithful to the Lord as well as punishing those who have lived wicked lives. In the great day of God's vengeance, the Battle of Armageddon, He will demonstrate His mighty power to save His people from their oppressors.
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Note that the LORD's clothes will be stained red with blood, looking like the clothing of a person who has been trampling the grapes of a wine press. The ancient winepress was usually a shallow pit with a hole at one end through which the juice flowed out into containers. As people trampled the grapes, juice would naturally splatter their clothing. The picture being clearly painted is that of the Lord's robe being completely covered with the blood of the wicked. Note that Christ Himself is speaking, declaring that He has trampled the nations under His foot. He makes two declarations:

=> In executing judgment. God acted alone (v. 3). Unlike His practice in the past, He did not use nations or people to accomplish the punishment of the wicked. In the great day of vengeance, God will execute His wrath against all the wicked nations and peoples of this earth.

=> God will personally destroy the evil and oppressive people of the earth. He will crush them as grapes are crushed in a winepress.

c. Why will the LORD execute judgment (vv. 4-6)? First, because two things are in His heart: vengeance against evil and redemption for His people (v. 4). His very nature is that of holiness and love. His holiness demands the execution of righteousness or judgment, and His love demands that He redeem and save His people. The immoral, lawless and violent of this earth must bear the consequences of their wicked behaviour. They must pay the penalty for having broken God's law. Thus true justice must be executed against them. But redemption is also in the heart of God. Because of His perfect love, He will return to earth to save His people from the oppression of their enemies and from sin and death.

Second, in the last days of human history, God will find no one who can step forth to help His people (v. 5). The day is coming when the vast majority of the world's population will oppress and seek to stamp out God's people. In that day the Lord's arm of power and His wrath will save His people. Raising His arm in might and fury, the LORD will crush the nations. Every evil nation of this earth will be made drunk with the wine of God's wrath, and their blood will be poured out on the ground (v. 6; also see 29:5-8. See outline and notes, Rev 14:14-20; 16:12-16; 19:11-21.)

**Thought 1.** The day of God's vengeance is coming. All the nations and peoples of this earth who have opposed God and persecuted His people will face the judgment of God's hand.

**John 3:36** "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

**Rom 2:8-9** But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

**Rom 1:18** *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.*

**Rom 12:19** *Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

**Eph 5:3-6** *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

**1 Th 5:2-3** *Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you. For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*

**2 Th 1:7-9** *And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.*

**Psa 2:12** *Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

**Psa 94:1** *O Lord, the God who avenges, O God who avenges, shine forth.*

**Micah 5:15** *"I will take vengeance in anger and wrath upon the nations that have not obeyed me."*

**Nahum 1:2** *The Lord is a jealous and avenging God: the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies. ■*