

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. ■*