

**Lesson 30**  
**Isaiah 62:1 – 64:12**  
**A New Name and A New Victory**

**Memory verse:** “Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,” (John 5:22 NIV)

It seemed to Isaiah's audience that the promises in chapter 60 could hardly come to pass, since the Babylonian exile was still looming ahead of them. The Lord assured them that He would surely fulfil these promises. Having learned of the mission of the Anointed One to bring salvation to Israel and having received promises of benefits that would accompany His salvation in Chapter 61, the Israelites needed to believe these promises - in spite of impending exile in Babylon.

Chapter 62 evidently commences with the Lord speaking. Much of this chapter speaks of preparation being made for the coming of the Lord and for the restoration of His people, thus expanding the thoughts in Is. 40:3-5, 9. Jerusalem knew the experience of war and defeat and desolation. God's people knew what it was like to feel Forsaken and Desolate, so it is as if they could take those names. The days of Forsaken and Desolate will one day pass. There will come a day when Zion and God's people will know that God delights in them (Hephzibah means “My delight is in her”). There will come a day when Zion and God's people will know the unbroken presence and love of God, as a wife should know the presence and love of her husband (Beulah means “Married”).

The prophecy in Chapter 63 describes the day of the Lord's vengeance. He has come from Edom in the sense that He has judged there first, and now comes to the land of Israel. As the Lord arrives, He is glorious in His apparel, like a Warrior travelling in the greatness of His strength. Even in the midst of judgment, in His glory and strength, He wants men to know He is mighty to save, not only mighty to judge.

“I have trodden the winepress alone”, reminds us that this work of judgment belongs to Jesus Christ and He alone. Though we will be part of the heavenly armies that accompany Jesus (Revelation 19:14), the work of judgment belongs to Him alone. In God's great plan of the Ages, Jesus will accomplish two things alone. First, He atones for our sin alone. He alone hung on the cross, bearing the weight of all our guilt. Second, He judges the world alone. God does not need us to execute His ultimate judgment; we leave that to Him.

Isaiah glorifies the faithfulness of God by painting it against the dark background of Israel's unfaithfulness. Even though people cannot attain righteousness on their own, God makes it available to them through the work of His Servant. The Lord explained how Israel could possibly rejoice in the repossession of its homeland, even if such malicious neighbours as the Edomites still surrounded it.

A prayer stands out in chapter 63. This prayer is prophetically placed in the mouth of one of Judah's Babylonian exiles. Despite the agony expressed later in the prayer, the praying one first will mention the loving kindnesses of the Lord. This is a glorious example of how, even in the lowest place, we can praise the Lord and remember His goodness.

“Isaiah is teaching us how to pray. We don't learn to pray by listening to one another. We learn to pray by reading the Bible.” Ortlund

The prayer explains Israel's dilemma and ends in Chapter 64 with a plea like this, “Lord, please show mercy! Will you always give us what we deserve?” Israel's delayed salvation was not because of God's inability or disinterest, but because of Israel's manipulative attitude toward Him. Israel's experiences were a result of her relationship with the Lord.

How is your relationship with Jesus today?

Scripture reading: Isaiah Chapter: 62:1-5; 63:4-11; 64:4-9.

Things to learn: 1) God keeps His promises 2) Remember God's Attributes 3) A glorious example of prayer

**Discussion Questions:**

Q1. What are the assurances for Israel and the world that God will keep His promises as recorded in Isaiah 62:1-12?

Q2. What do we know about the prophetic return of Jesus Christ (Is.63 1-6) and the exile's prayer (Is. 63: 7-14)?

Q3. What can learn from the complaint (Is.63:15-19), confession (Is.64:1-7) and plea (Is. 64:8-12) of Isaiah?