

# Even More Encouragement for those Walking in Darkness

## Isaiah 52:1-12

### **Introduction**

In Isaiah 50-52 Isaiah encourages Israel, who is enslaved in Babylon, to keep trusting God during a time when she is walking in darkness — when she knows that God has promised to free her, she is trusting God's promises of deliverance, but she's not yet seeing God fulfilling His promises.

This is something every follower of Jesus will experience, so we all need to learn from Isaiah about how to fight the fight of faith during times of darkness.

### **What does God call Israel do to? (vv.1-2)**

Israel is enslaved in Babylon. So how can Isaiah call her to put on beautiful clothes, shake off the dust, and cast off her chains? This becomes more clear in the following verses —

### **What is God going to do for Israel? (vv.3-10)**

God will redeem Israel from Babylon (vv.3-6)

God will personally and visibly return to Zion (vv.7-8)

This probably refers to the Second Coming, when we will see God face to face in the person of Jesus.

God will comfort and redeem His people in a way that all nations will see (vv.9-10)

This probably refers to the Second Coming, when God will raise us from the dead, cleanse us from all sin, welcome us into the new heavens and earth.

How do we become part of God's people? Only one way — by trusting Jesus Christ.

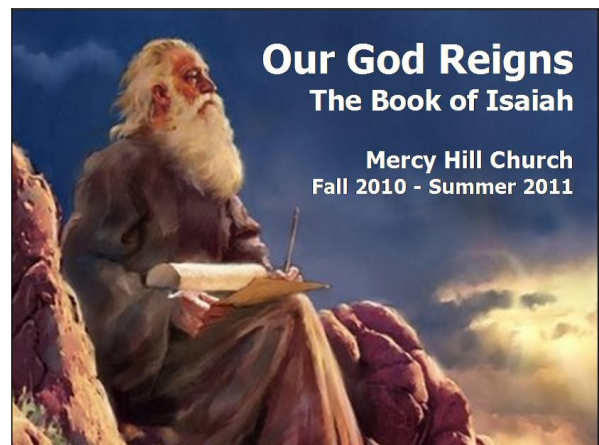
So when we are in darkness, we should focus on the promises that have to do with our immediate darkness, but we should even more focus on the promises of what God will do at the end of history, because that's when all darkness will cease forever.

### **How do we do this? (vv.1-2, 11-12)**

Wake up to what's in your future (v.1).

Put on strength and beauty and take off your chains (vv.1-2).

Depart from sin (vv.11-12).



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

*(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)*

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Do you tend to focus more on promises having to do with this life, or promises having to do with the life to come? Why?

Why is it more important to focus on promises having to do with the life to come?

Have you ever focused on promises having to do with the life to come? How did it affect you?

Are you in a time of darkness right now? What promises for this life are relevant? What promises for the life to come are relevant?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

