

The Beauty of the Good News

Isaiah 52:1-12

Is. 1:2-4 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: ‘Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.’ Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged.

Is. 5:11-13 Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them! They have lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not regard the deeds of the LORD, or see the work of his hands. Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge; their honored men go hungry, and their multitude is parched with thirst.

Is. 6:9-10 And he said, ‘Go, and say to this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.” Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.’

Is. 40:1-2 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

Prophecies of Israel’s Salvation

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| Is. 40 – 48 | Salvation from the Babylonian exile |
| Is. 49 – 57 | Salvation from sin and human ungodliness |
| Is. 58 – 66 | the restoration of the kingdom of Israel (the millennium) |

(LSB) **Is. 52:7** How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who proclaims good news, Who announces peace And proclaims good news of good things, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

I. The Message of the Good News

(LSB) **Is. 52:7** How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who proclaims good news, Who announces peace And proclaims good news of good things, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

A. The God Who Reigns

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Is. 40:9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, **herald of good news**; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, **herald of good news**; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'

Col. 2:14-15 By canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**

Col. 1:12-13 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.**

1 Cor. 15:24-25 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

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B. Salvation

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Salvation – יְשׁוּעָה – yeshuah – deliverance from danger, from an impending threat.

Zac. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous **and having salvation** is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

People want deliverance from the effects of sin while loving sin and refusing to be saved from sin itself.

C. Joy

(LSB) **Is. 52:7** How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who proclaims good news, Who announces peace **And proclaims good news of good things**, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Is. 61:10 **I will greatly rejoice in the LORD**; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

John 15:10-11 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, **that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**

1 John 1:3-4 That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. **And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.**

D. Peace

(LSB) **Is. 52:7** How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who proclaims good news, **Who announces peace** And proclaims good news of good things, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Is. 55:1-2 Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? **Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.**

John 10:10 I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

The Beauty of the Good News:

- God's Kingship
- God's Salvation
- God's Joy
- God's Peace

II. The Ministry of the Gospel

(LSB) **Is. 52:7** **How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who proclaims good news,** Who announces peace And proclaims good news of good things, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

How to Grow in the Beauty of the Gospel

- Speak of Christ and His salvation with your children.
- Bear witness to the saving work of Christ among the people around you.
- Seek out opportunities to share the good news within the church:
 - in children's Sunday school,
 - in youth ministry,
 - in small group gatherings.
- Pass on the gospel through intentional discipleship.
- Sing the good news—let the gospel shape your worship.
- Support and encourage those who proclaim the message of Christ.
- Faithfully support, including financially, the ministry of a church that proclaims the gospel.
- Do all of this wholeheartedly, from the heart, as an offering to the Lord.