

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



The Open Gates at the End of the Highway

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Isa 62:10-12; 60:1-11, 18; Is. 11:10-16; 40:3; 49:22-23; Is. 53:11-12; Is. 57:19

Isaiah 62 ends with a picture of certainty and movement. God has spoken promises over Zion. He has said that her righteousness will shine, her salvation will blaze like a torch, her shame-filled names will be replaced, and her gates will be open continually. The question, then, is not *whether* God will do what He promised. The question is: *how* should His people respond while they wait for the fullness of what He has promised?

The answer is not passivity. If the people will come, then the city must get ready. If the gates are open, then the highway must be prepared. If the nations are being summoned, then the banner must be lifted. Isaiah 62:10-12 calls God's people to live as a prepared and welcoming people—removing stumbling stones, raising the sign of Messiah, and walking in the restored relationship God Himself has made possible.

1. PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE PEOPLE

“Go through, go through the gates. Clear the way for the people! Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Lift up a banner over the peoples.” (Is. 62:10). The picture is of a city getting ready because guests are coming. The invitation has been issued. The gates are open. The roads are being cleared and resurfaced. This is not a people sitting back and saying, “Well, God promised it, so we do nothing.” No, because God has promised it, His people prepare. They go through the gates. They clear the way. They build up the highway. They remove stones that would cause others to stumble. They lift up a banner so the peoples can see where to come.

That has a very practical application for us. If God's heart is to draw people near—those far and those near—then we need to ask what stones we may be leaving in the road. Are there attitudes, habits, religious barriers, coldness, bitterness, hypocrisy, or lovelessness that make the way harder for others to see the God of Israel clearly? The highway Isaiah describes is not merely a road of stone and dust. It is a spiritual way of life that smooths the relationship between God and man. We prepare the way by walking in His ways, making room for others, and living as people who expect God's mercy to be seen.

2. LIFT UP THE BANNER OF SALVATION

“Behold, ADONAI has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your salvation comes! See, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.’” (Is. 62:11). Isaiah 62:11 gives us three “beholds.” Behold, Adonai has proclaimed to the ends of the earth. Behold, your salvation comes. Behold, His reward is with Him. This is a worldwide announcement. What God does for Zion is not hidden in a corner. The nations are meant to see it, hear it, and be drawn by it. Zion – (צִיּוֹן, *Tziyon*) – means “signpost.” Zion's salvation is a signpost to the world, because Zion's King is the world's King. There is not one salvation for Israel and another salvation for the nations. The salvation that comes through Messiah is to the Jew first, and also to the nations.

The banner lifted over the peoples points us back to the Root of Jesse, the One who stands as a signal for the nations. *“The nations will seek for Him, and His resting place will be glorious.”* (Is. 11:10) Messiah Himself is the banner. He is the sign raised high. And His reward and recompense are with Him. His redeemed people are both the fruit of His work and the reward of His suffering. He poured out His soul to death, bore the sin of many, and interceded for transgressors (Isaiah 53:11-12). So we do not lift up ourselves. We lift up Him. We point people to the One whose salvation has come.

3. LIVE AS THE PEOPLE GOD HAS RENAMED

“Then they will call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of ADONAI; and you will be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.” (Is. 62:12). The result of all God’s work is restored relationship. These names are not merely titles; they are relational realities. Holy People. Redeemed of Adonai. Sought Out. A City Not Forsaken. God is not simply changing Zion’s condition. He is restoring her to Himself. She is holy because she belongs to the Holy One. She is redeemed because Adonai has accepted the role of Kinsman-Redeemer and paid the debt. She is sought out because God pursued her. She is not forsaken because He has not abandoned her.

This matters deeply for our own walk with the Lord. We are not redeemed into independence. We are redeemed into relationship. We are not made holy by our own strength, religious effort, or self-made righteousness. We are made holy by the One who accepts us, redeems us, and transforms us to reflect His character. So the practical question is this: are we living under the old names or the names God has spoken? Forsaken, desolate, rejected, forgotten—those are not the final words over God’s redeemed people. In Him, we are sought out, redeemed, made holy, and not abandoned.

CONCLUSION

Isaiah 62:10–12 brings the whole picture together. The gates are open. The highway is being prepared. The stones are being removed. The banner is being lifted. Salvation is coming, and the reward of Messiah’s work is with Him. God’s people are called not to sit passively, but to live ready—ready for His coming, ready for the nations to see His glory, ready to make the way clearer for others to come home to Him.

Today, let the Lord show you the stones that need to be removed. Let Him expose anything in your life that blocks the road rather than clears it. Come again to the One who sought you out, redeemed you, and called you His own. If you have been living under names God never gave you, lay them down. Receive the name He speaks over the redeemed: Holy People, Redeemed of Adonai, Sought Out, Not Forsaken. And then rise up to prepare the way for others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In Is. 62:10, what do the commands to “clear the way,” “build up the highway,” and “remove the stones” reveal about the responsibility of God’s people?
2. What are some modern “stones” that can make it harder for people to see the goodness, holiness, and mercy of God through us?
3. Isaiah presents Messiah as the banner lifted over the peoples. How can your life more clearly point people to Him rather than to yourself, your opinions, or your preferences?
4. Which of the names in Is. 62:12—Holy People, Redeemed of Adonai, Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken—speaks most deeply to where you are right now, and why?

5. What is one practical way you can help “prepare the highway” this week for someone else to draw nearer to the Lord?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, thank You that You are the God who opens gates, prepares highways, and seeks out those who were forsaken. Thank You that our salvation comes from You, and that Messiah has accomplished what we never could have accomplished on our own. Show us the stones that need to be removed from our lives. Teach us to walk in Your ways, to lift up the banner of Messiah, and to live as people who have been redeemed, sought out, and restored. Make us a prepared people, a welcoming people, and a holy people who reflect Your heart to those far and near.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.