



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Exposed So We Can Be Healed

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: *Isaiah 20:1-6; Isaiah 18:7; 19:22-25; 55:10-11; Psalm 20:7; Prov. 3:5-6*

You ever had one of those moments where you just wish God would hand you a hospital gown? Something—anything—to cover up what feels exposed? That's kind of the picture we're given in Isaiah 20. It's one of the most memorable scenes in all of Isaiah. God calls Isaiah to walk around stripped down and barefoot for three years as a living sermon illustration. No words—just a picture. An uncomfortable one.

Why? Because God wanted to expose something deeper than clothes. He was exposing what His people were trusting in. Judah kept looking to Egypt and Ethiopia—impressive, resourceful nations—for help against Assyria. But God's saying, "You're trusting in what looks strong, but I'm about to show you what it really is." Egypt will fall. Ethiopia will fall. The alliances you're forming will crumble. And when they do, the very thing you trusted in will leave you ashamed and bare.

We may not be forming military alliances today, but we do the same thing when we put our trust in politics, money, intellect, or influence instead of in the Lord. Isaiah 20 is a visual sermon for us too: God will strip down everything we lean on—so we'll finally lean on Him.

1. GOD EXPOSES WHAT WE'VE BEEN TRUSTING IN

Isaiah had to walk around exposed—humiliated—because that's what would happen to those who trusted in Egypt. Their "strength" would be stripped, their beauty shamed. God's message was visual: "This is where your alliances lead." The truth is, God loves us too much to let our false trusts go unchallenged. When we depend on the river instead of the One who made it, He'll dry it up. When we lean on human wisdom instead of divine truth, He'll show its foolishness. When we boast in our own security, He'll pull away the props to reveal how fragile it really is.

That exposure isn't cruelty—it's mercy. God exposes idols not to humiliate His people, but to save them. Like a surgeon exposing what's infected before it kills, God brings our false hopes into the light so we can be healed by Him.

2. GOD'S STRIPPING AWAY IS FOR HEALING

Isaiah 19 ends with a promise: *"Adonai will strike Egypt—striking, yet healing. They will return to Adonai, and He will respond to them and heal them."* (Isaiah 19:22, TLV). That's the heart of God. Even in His judgment, He's working toward restoration. He strikes to heal. He exposes to redeem. He tears down what we trusted in so that He can rebuild us on something that will never fall—Himself.

The same God who stripped Egypt of its pride also promised that one day Egypt, Assyria, and Israel would worship together on a highway of reconciliation. The nations once divided would be united in praise. So, yes—God exposes. But He also restores. He strikes—but to heal.

In your own life, maybe you're walking through a season where God has peeled back what you leaned on. The job, the plan, the relationship, the savings—it's been stripped down. But He's not abandoning you. He's rebuilding your trust in Him. What feels like nakedness is often the place where He clothes us with His strength.

3. WHEN THE WORLD IS SHAKING, KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ONE WHO ISN'T

Judah was surrounded by fear—Assyria pressing in, Egypt promising help, the headlines of the day filled with chaos. And God was saying, "Stop looking to the ends of the earth for help. Look to Me." Isaiah 18:7 prophesied that *"the ends of the earth will bring tribute to Mount Zion—to the place of the name of Adonai-Tzva'ot."* The very nations Judah feared or trusted in would one day come to worship in Jerusalem. The message? Everything that looks so powerful now is temporary. The only unshakable refuge is in the presence of the Lord.

So instead of asking, "What alliance will save us?" we should ask, "Who will sustain us?" Psalm 20:7 says, *"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of Adonai our God."* When God strips away false securities, He's inviting us to see what lasts. Don't panic when He removes the props—He's teaching you to stand on the Rock.

CONCLUSION

Isaiah's three-year object lesson ended with this sobering question: *"Now, how will we escape?"* That's the cry of everyone who realizes what they trusted in can't save them. But for those who trust in the Lord, the answer is found in Isaiah 55:11: *"So will My word be that goes out from My mouth. It will not return to Me in vain, but will accomplish what I intend."* God's promises are sure. If He says He'll heal, He will. If He says He'll restore, He will. So stop looking for a hospital gown to cover your shame. Stop trying to clothe your insecurity with self-reliance. Come to the Lord exposed and honest, because He alone can cover you with righteousness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some "modern-day Egypts" we tend to trust in more than God?
2. Why do you think God sometimes allows our false securities to fail?
3. How does Isaiah's act of obedience challenge your view of what it means to follow God?
4. What does it mean that God "strikes to heal"? Can you recall a time He did that in your life?
5. How can we practically fix our trust on God when fear tempts us to look elsewhere?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, thank You that You love us enough to expose what cannot save us. Forgive us for putting our trust in the things of this world—our alliances, our strength, our wisdom. When You strip those things away, help us to see it as mercy, not judgment. Teach us to trust in You alone. Let our hearts be anchored in the One whose glory never fades and whose promises never fail. Clothe us in Your righteousness, restore what's broken, and let the nations see Your beauty through lives that trust You completely.

In Yeshua's mighty name we pray, Amen.