

Isaiah 62:8–12

Sworn to Reward the Savior with the Blessedness of His Bride

Wednesday, July 3, 2024 • Read Isaiah 62:8–12

Questions from the Scripture text: What has YHWH done by what (v8a–b)? What has He sworn no longer to do (v8c–f)? Who will enjoy what Zion gathers (v9a)? Causing them to do what (v9b)? Where, especially, will they enjoy it (v9c)? What command does v10a–b give? What must be done for them (v10c–f)? Who are included in this entrance/ welcome (v10g)? To what distance has YHWH done what (v11a–b)? What does He tell them to do to whom (v11c)? What are they to say to her (v11d)? What are with Him (v11e) and before Him (v11f)? What are they to call His reward and His work (v12a)? What else (v12b)? And what two nicknames does this obtain for them from the Lord (v12c–d)?

What is the result of the King-Servant's work and prayers? Isaiah 62:8–12 prepares us for the first serial reading in public worship on the Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Lord Jesus works and prays to reverse the curse and take to Himself a bride to bless and love forever.**

YHWH's sworn testimony, v8a–b. Everything that the Lord says is sure, but sometimes He confirms something with an oath to help our weak faith and to emphasize the centrality of our believing it. This is one of those times. He swears by His right hand and by the arm of His strength (v8a–b). He assures us that what He is about to say is as strong and sure as He Himself is.

The reverse of the curse, v8c–9c. He is turning back the curse of Zion forever. There was a parallel between the curses on the covenant people (v8c–f; cf. Lev 26:16, Deut 28:33, Isa 1:7) and the curse under which Adam's sin brought all mankind (cf. Gen 3:17–19). Now, God is turning back that curse; they will enjoy the produce of the land (v9a). And, there is an enjoyment of that produce that is greater than eating: praise in the heart (v9b) and even the physical use of grain and wine for fellowship with God and His people in the public worship (v9c)! Are your greatest enjoyments of food the praise in your own heart to God, and especially the best bites and sips of your life, those at the Lord's table? The greater part of reversing the curse is not eating the fruit of one's labor (cf. Ps 128:2a) but the Lord's face upon, and fellowship with, His people (cf. Ps 128:5–6).

The gathering of New-Zion, v10. Just as the Lord had previously commanded that the way be prepared for the King-Servant-LORD (cf. 40:3–4), so now He commands that the way be prepared for the redeemed Zion (v10a–f). And the joy and greatness of this are multiplied by the reminder that this Zion is comprised of all the nations; when the banner at which they are to gather is raised, it is a banner for the peoples (v10g), plural!

The Bridegroom, v11. But for what are they gathered? For the arrival of the Bridegroom (cf. v5c–d)! The sons who are gathered from the ends of the world (v11a–b) have joined themselves to her (cf. v5a–b), and now they are instructed to announce to her (v11c) the processional of the arrival of her Salvation (v11d). This Salvation is the Redeemer—the One about Whom we have heard, throughout this book, that comes as the next-of-kin to purchase and deliver her.

And His Bride, v12. Now, He is coming with what He has earned (“reward,” v11e) and accomplished (“work,” v11f). And, what He has earned and accomplished turns out to be a they/them (v12a)! They are the holy people. They are the redeemed—the delivered next-of-kin of YHWH Himself (v12b)! So, the Lord rounds out the nick-naming that He began in v4: to “my delight is in her” and “married,” the Lord now adds “sought after” and “a city not deserted.” Such is the honor that He bestows upon His bride, when He comes as the worthy and accomplished One!

O, dear reader, the Lord Jesus is this One. And He is gathering to Himself a bride from all the nations, to whom He will speak in this way. She herself, is that for which He has worked—His chosen crown, His chosen reward, His chosen accomplishment. And He welcomes you to Himself, to be a member of His bride. Will you not give yourself up to Him? Will you not gather to the banner by trusting in Him and renouncing any other chief allegiance or purpose to be His?!

How do you go about enjoying the Lord Himself in His gifts? What does the measure of your enjoyment of Him in His worship say about whether it is really Him that you are enjoying in His gifts? How can you tell that you are longing for the last day and the marriage supper of the Lamb? What place do Jesus's worthiness and accomplishments have in your thought life? What place do His pet names for His bride have in your “feelings life”?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for assuring us of Your redemption with an oath. Forgive us for how weak our faith is. And thank You for reversing the curse, so that we may enjoy the fruit of our labor—especially enjoying You Yourself in all Your good gifts. Forgive us for enjoying the gifts more than Your goodness, or anything else at all more than Your worship. Thank You for gathering us into Your people from all the nations. Forgive us for how little we have desired the last day, how little we have rejoiced in Christ's worthiness and accomplishment, how little we have rejoiced over His love to His bride. Thank You that His redemption and intercession are powerful and sure. For His sake, forgive us and cleanse us and perfect us, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP72C “May Waving Grain on Hilltops Thrive” or TPH403 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Isaiah. 62 beginning in verse 8, These are the words of God. Yahweh has sworn by his right hand. And by the arm of his strength. Surely I will no longer give your grain as food for your enemies. And the sons of the Foreigner shall not drink your new wine.

For which you have labored. But those who have gathered it shall eat it and praise Yahweh. Those who have brought it together, shall drink it. In my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway, Take out the stones lift up a banner for the peoples.

Indeed, Yahweh has proclaimed to the end of the world. Say to the daughter of Zion. Surely your salvation is coming. Behold his reward is with him. His work is before him. And they shall call them the holy people. The redeemed of Yahweh. And you shall be called sought out.

A city, not forsaken. Amen. So far the reading of gods inspired and denarent worked. we know, as we come into This passage that. This is something that is going to be. hard for us to believe. and we're going to have to By God's grace fight our unbelief.

And we know that, because Starts in verse 8. Yahweh has sworn by his right hand by the arm of his strength. Everything the Lord says is true. He does not need to swear. He does not swear for his own sake. When he takes an oath, it is for our sake.

So that we will be assured and he takes an oath. He impresses upon us. the weightiness and seriousness and centrality of Whatever it is that he is about to say. Or about to promise. And so, When we read that we say, okay, here is something. That by God's grace.

I need faith to believe I need. His strength to help me believe it. And, That is very important. For me to believe. And as we go on in the rest of Verse 8 and verse 9, we see This great thing. is that he reverses the curse? Now, this is true both for Israel, specifically As verses 8 and 9 seem to be describing.

But as we get on, into Verse 10 and 11, we discover that this Israel is made up of people from all the world now God had given Israel in his Covenant relationship with them blessings and curses. that did mirror. The blessing and curse. Of the Covenant of life in the garden.

And Especially the curse under which We all fell in Adam. When the ground would yield. not would not readily yield. it's fruit and would bear thorns and thistles instead? And his work would become tedious. and by the sweat of his brow. He would eat. Well.

God brought Israel into a land that he had blessed to be very fruitful but he warned them. That if they did not keep his Commandments. Among his curses would be things like famine. in which He did not give the necessary rain the necessary.

For the crops to grow or you would bring A plague that would eat it up or And he mentions several times.

Leviticus and Deuteronomy. And other places. Foreigners would come and take. their food and that is the particular form of the curse that he's saying here, in verse 8 is not going to happen. Anymore. I will no longer give your grain as food for your enemies. And the sons of the Foreigner shall not drink your new wine for which you have labored, But those who have gathered it, shall eat it.

And so here, He is, you know, this very solemn testimony that he is giving is that the curse is being reversed and not just that from their hands, they would eat the fruit of their labor, like the Blessed man. Psalm 128 and verse 2, who was blessed because he is receiving the opposite of what we deserve in the curse.

Who's receiving not what the first Adam has deserved. But what the last Adam. Scissors and such as The blessing of the blessed, man. But even in Psalm 128, the greater blessing is not eating of the fruit of your labor. It is not even a blessed family life. Although, that is a great blessing to have a wife, like a fruitful Vine and children, springing up, to surround your table.

like Olive shoots but the climax, the great blessing. Is that? The Lord. would give him to see the blessedness of Zion and the Peace of Israel. And his children's children as a part of a blessed, Zion a peaceful Israel. his grandchildren believing in the Lord.

So also here. those who have gathered it shall eat. It is a reversal of the curse, but the food, the good food is not the great blessing. even in the eating of the food, the greater part of the blessing is and praise Yahweh. If you enjoy a very tasty meal with all sorts of tasty foods, And you enjoy the praise of the Lord, in your heart as you eat the meal, the greater blessing at the table that day, will have been the praise of the Lord in your heart.

If you enjoy the food, without the praise of the Lord, in your heart, even in even the food, although God has done you good, and giving it to you. Will not be a good for you. Because you do not receive it with thanks. And so there is this increasing blessing in verse 9.

Those who have gathered, it shall eat the blessing of the food and praise Yahweh. The blessing of praise in the heart while you eat the food and then Those who have brought it together, shall drink it in my holy courts. And this of course, is the best meal, the best food we eat all week is a little bit of bread.

And a tiny little, partial sip of wine. Because it is food that has been given us not for the nourishment of our bodies. But for particular fellowship with God and Drawing Near to him in the Lord Jesus Christ. And just so for them. The best food that they would eat or drink that they would drink was that, which was not provided so much for their physical nourishment.

But, That they ate and drank and coming and drawing near to God in the way that he had provided for them knowing that they had Fellowship. With their creator. And their Redeemer. So, he reverses the curse. And since he is doing this, we get this. Command in verse 10 to gather this new Zion, this New Jerusalem.

That has had its curse reversed A little bit similar. in style and in urgency to in Isaiah 40, when Yahweh was coming and the announcement to prepare the way and lay low, the hills and raise up the valleys. Well here he says he's an end, he's commanding.

The people to enter, go go through the gates, go through go, through the gates. But now he says, prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway, take out the stones. So take out any hindrances and make the way obvious and easy. And there where the gates are.

So everybody knows where to Rally. He says, lift up a banner And praise God. He is for commanding the preparing of the way and commanding the people to go, his people to go and gather, and what's marvelous at the end of verse 10, there is that this Banner for his people is a banner for the peoples plural.

that this new Zion is made not just of one people. But of all the peoples of the earth. indeed verse 11 says, Yahweh has proclaimed to the end of the world. So if you're saying okay, raise up a banner for the peoples, which peoples And the answer is all of the peoples to the end of the world.

So where do the Chinese Gather in heaven? Where do the Aboriginal Australians Gather in heaven? Where do the Brazilians Gather in heaven? And the Canadians. and I don't remember how to turn Vanuatu Vana watwins. The people of onawatu. And the Africans and all the different Europeans. They all have their standard.

There. They all have one standard that they rally to where the Lord Jesus is. And so you have the people gather peoples gathered at the banner in verse 11 and this is what he says. This is the instruction by which They have been commanded to gather and when they have obeyed the instruction the I the word picture is of them gathered and saying say to the daughter of Zion, surely your salvation is coming.

So there they are. They're all gathered at the rallying Banner. Says, okay. Now look Your salvation is on its way. But the Salvation turns out to be a, he Behold his reward is with him. So he has been worthy of it. He has earned it. this is owed to him and his work is before him.

So not only is it owed to him but he himself has accomplished it. He has brought it about. He has made it happen. And they shall call them. The holy people. So kind of surprise. number one the banner was for all the people surprise. Number two, salvation was a person, a savior.

Surprise number three, this reward and recompense. This Earning and accomplishment is a people. The holy people. The redeemed of Yahweh. Which doesn't mean those who have been doesn't, just mean those who have been purchased those who have been delivered, but remember, That the word redeemed. in the Hebrew.

Refers to someone who has been recognized as next of kin. And has been saved as next of kin. And so, when they're called the redeemed of Yahweh, This is saying the Lord has made them his nearest family. And he, he has made them holy to himself the holy people.

He has made them his nearest family and purchased them and delivered them. The redeemed of Yahweh. And the series of naming reminds us of back in verse 4, from last week's portion you shall be called. Hefsiabah My Delight is in her. and Beulah married is. And he says again here, you shall be called sought after and a city not deserted.

So, here are The some pet names. the Lord has for his bride. That he has redeemed, he has purchased He has delivered. And this is what the Lord sets before us to believe and respond to To give ourselves up to the Lord Jesus Christ. to be those.

of Zion. That join ourselves to her. As verse 5 had described from last week. That we would be eager for the Lord Jesus, to be glorified to get what he deserves to finish his work and delight. in his work. So, that his beloved would be his next of kin that she would be.

glorious the crown in his hand as the king. like we heard in the image in verse three. Of this chapter in last week's portion. So, may the Lord give us to overcome our unbelief and be remembering what we have been called to what the Lord has sworn himself to do what he Taken an oath and must therefore accomplish.

May we love the Lord Jesus and Delight that he gets this glory. Delight that he gets what he deserves to light. That is worked, would be finished and may we Delight, perhaps, especially And being nearest of, And members of this bride to, which Speaks with all of these pet names.

These terms of endearment. That he comes up with, for her in this chapter. It's

Our gracious. God and our heavenly father. Thank you for giving yourself for us and to In your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to love him. Help us to love his bride. Help us to love being part of his bride. Give us Faith, O Lord. To rest upon what you tell us here and be sure of it.

To rejoice in what you tell us here. And find our delight and our purpose. Our pleasure in it. For, we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.