

Getting Ready for the Righteous One

Isaiah ch. 52

Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they would understand. Is. 52:15

Focus and Setting

- To “Zion” in captivity: _____
 - Babylon: _____
 - Moral and spiritual condition: _____
- Future uncertainty: _____
 - After the siege: _____
 - Settled into captivity: _____
 - Forgotten “promises:” _____

Issues particular to Israel

- Their Religion:
 - The Law (Torah): _____
 - Their claim on God (ha’shem): _____
 - Their relationship with God: _____
- Their History:
 - The Captivities: _____
 - The Land (ha’aretz): _____
 - The Restorations: _____
- Their Expectations;
 - The Promises to Abraham: _____
 - Their elitism: _____
 - Confused expectations:
 - Their ultimate status: _____
 - Messianism: _____
- Their resistance:
 - To God’s requirements: _____
 - To God’s chastening: _____
 - To their “Role” in God’s vision: _____
- The “Remnant.”
 - The divided kingdom: _____
 - The Assyrian dispersion: _____
 - The tribe of Judah: _____

Cryptic Promises: A New Twist

- Who is this guy with lovely feet? (v.6) _____
- We haven’t seen any peace or salvation yet. (v.7) _____
- What do you mean by “all the ends of the earth?” (v.10) _____
- We’ve had enough ugliness and disfiguring: (v. 13-15)) _____

In Pursuit of Alternatives

- Alternatives to what? _____
- How many reasons can we come up with for horrible circumstances that Israel often found itself in?
 - _____
 - _____
- One characteristic that was common throughout all of their history:
 - They were always looking for alternatives:
 - To the rules; _____
 - To their world status; _____
 - To God; _____
- *It seems to be a general law of social/historical development that institutions tend to distort and destroy the central function that brought them into existence. The Divine Conspiracy. Dallas Willard. P.201.*
- *We structure our churches and maintain them so as to shield us from God and to protect us from genuine religious experience. Willard, P.201 (quoting Clyde Reid, The God Evaders, p.19)*
- *The most notable pursuit in the world today is self-glorification, with its supposed status, wealth, and privilege. This tendency has not just recently invaded the ranks of leadership in Christendom, it has always been there. Looking even farther back, to the beginning of Israel’s history, God’s chosen have avoided and evaded Him. Today, those who claim God, and more specifically, Jesus, still tend to cast him away at the first sign that they have achieved the “assumption of the means of selfhood,” otherwise known as _____. No longer stylish to use the term “God” or the name “Jesus,” the most popular mode of evading God today is simply turning one’s back to Him.*
- What do we see when we turn and face Him? _____