

## Unit II: God Promises a Just Kingdom

# What Goes Around Comes Around

DEVOTIONAL READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:8–62:12

PRINT PASSAGE: Isaiah 61:8-11; 62:2-4a

**Key Verse**—For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. (Isaiah 61:8, KJV)

.....

“For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.” (Isaiah 61:8, NIV)

### Lesson Aims

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Explicate the hope of vindication for the righteous and faithful.
- Long for salvation and restoration for God’s people.
- Commit to making just decisions in everyday life.

### \*Key Terms

**Diadem (62:3)**—Hebrew: *tsaniph* (tsaw-neeF): a turban, hood, headdress.

**Faithfulness (61:8)**—Hebrew: *emeth* (eh-meth): “truth” (KJV); firmness.

**Rejoice(s) (61:10)**—Hebrew: *sus* or *sis* (soos): exult(s); rejoice(s) greatly; delight(s).

\*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)

### Life Happens

Courtney had grown up in the foster-care system. She was adopted by a family when she was in kindergarten, but her adoptive parents kicked her out of their home when Courtney was sixteen years old. Courtney was on the streets. Courtney’s case worker found a homeless shelter where Courtney stayed until she graduated from high school.

In college, Courtney graduated with a degree in psychology and worked in pharmaceutical sales. While at work, she received a call that her brother had been kicked out of their adoptive parents’ home and was homeless. However, Courtney’s brother died trying to fend for himself on the streets.

Because of Courtney’s relationship to foster care and homelessness, and in honor of her brother, she eventually purchased a residential property for transitional housing. This place would serve as a refuge for teens and young adults who need a place to call home.



## Overview

God chose Isaiah to prophesy to all Jews and Gentiles. Isaiah lived from during the time of the reign of Hezekiah to the fall of the northern ten tribes, around 722 BC. Here in this lesson, Isaiah was sent to tell the people of God what to expect in the coming future of the world. Isaiah gave a full and clear description of Jesus and what to expect from our coming Savior. God took time out to give the prophet details of the works Jesus would accomplish and what He wanted His believers to do in preparation of His arrival. Here in chapter 61, the Jews are coming back from Babylon out of captivity to the Promised Land. God assured them that He was going to be with them, and He was going to send Jesus to bless the faithful and judge the wicked. Chapter 62 describes the passion of Jesus for the glory of the New Jerusalem. God loves Zion so much that He is going to send a Savior to vindicate and restore His people for the whole world to see.

## Questions

1. We often hear the saying “What goes around comes around” in a negative context, but how can it relate in a positive way too?
2. How has God come around and around for you? How has your faith kept you?

## COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLICAL TEXT

### The Faithful Will Be Rewarded (Isaiah 61:8-9)

#### KJV

**8 For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in *truth*, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.**

**9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed.**

#### NIV


**8 “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and**

**wrongdoing. In my *faithfulness* I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.**

**9 “Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”**

Here in the above verses, the Messiah is speaking through Isaiah. The prophecies of Isaiah remind God’s people that our Father is a loving and faithful God. Also, God is a God who loves justice and righteousness and who will judge us accordingly (**verse 8a**). God is ethical, and those who love Him will live ethical lives. The Jews were sacrificing all types of animals to God in great quantities. However, oftentimes it is not always about quantity but about quality. Because of God’s faithfulness, He would reward His people and make an everlasting covenant with them (**verse 8b**). God deserves our best because He is worthy. The people were not giving their best and God wanted their best, just as He requires from us today. In addition, they had broken their covenant with Him over and over again. However, God was going to give them another chance if they remained true in their hearts. God said that He remains faithful as well, not because of who we are but because of who He is. The Jews would be vindicated for all the wrongdoing perpetrated on their people. He was going to make a covenant with His people this time that is everlasting. God was going to right the wrongs of His people. They

had suffered for His name's sake while in Babylon. He was going to reward Israel openly with this new covenant, and their descendants would be known across the land. How would they be known? God's children are supposed to be happy and joyous people. His people would be recognized by their Godlike attitudes. The nations would see power along with justice and judgment. God is righteous and adores those who strive to be like Him. The ones that are faithful unto His name will be rewarded, as well as their children. The children of God will have abundant love, forgiveness, and blessings (**verse 9**). So, remember to be faithful unto the Lord. Always give God your best in every situation. And never do these things for a reward but to honor the one who is worthy.

 **What Do You Think?** List and discuss some specific times when society has wronged the church, and how the church was vindicated in the final outcome.

## Our Spiritual Appearance (*Isaiah 61:10-11*)

### KJV

**10** I will greatly *rejoice* in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

**11** For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

### NIV

**10** I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul *rejoices* in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

**11** For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.


This passage of Scripture is interpreted by some to be a song of joy and praise that was to be sung by the prophet in the name of Jerusalem, congratulating the city on the blessed change of her circumstances in the fulfillment of God's promises. However, there are others who make it to be spoken by Jesus Christ, the Messiah in the name of the New Testament church as she triumphs through the Gospel of grace. Many biblical scholars take in both—the former as a type of the latter. The prophet teaches us here to rejoice with holy joy to God's honor.

In this outline, God is displaying His people whom He has vindicated. Those that rejoice in God have cause to rejoice greatly, and the awesome promise is that we need not worry about being extreme in expressing our joy when we make God the gladness or object of our joy.

In **verse 10**, the idea is presented concerning the salvation that God will work for us that will present us as beautiful as those who are clothed with the richest garments. Our sackcloth of sorrow will be turned into robes. We will be surrounded by glory, as garments do cover the body.

When Jesus comes, He is going to fill His people with blessings, and they are going to be clothed with precious garments ready for salvation. This will be the love of God that will cover us with His

righteousness. Nevertheless, our sins will be washed away and covered with the robe of righteousness of God. He will not see our sins. He will only see His children that look like Him. They should have a personal relationship with God through faith. No matter what, justice will prevail. The chosen people will experience a worldwide harvest of praise, blessings, breakthroughs, and healings through Christ. There will be a well-watered garden—watered with justice—and the seed is going to produce much fruit before everyone (**verse 11**). Once restored, our mission is to live our lives to be pleasing to God. It is our responsibility to restore a healthy, more peaceful order in local churches while in the midst of a sinful world. Our godly appearance must shine from the inside outward. As Christians, we are most recognizable by our appearance. If you are truly walking with God, then His Spirit will shine through you long before you begin to speak.

 **What Do You Think?** As a class, list and discuss godly appearances versus ungodly appearances.

## A New Name in Glory (*Isaiah 62:2-4a*)

### KJV

**2** And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

**3** Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal *diadem* in the hand of thy God.

**4** Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate.

### NIV


**2** The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

**3** You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal *diadem* in the hand of your God.

**4** No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate.

The people of God are going to be redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus is going to declare the glory of His bride. As God spoke through Isaiah, He declared His love for His people and the holy place Zion. It is a parallel relationship (the historical occurrence and current issues of today): the return of the Jews from captivity in Babylon and the church (the bride) and Jesus. Everyone, all nations, will see the church grow and be blessed in righteousness (**verse 2a**). And all the leaders in the land will acknowledge our transformation and witness our glory (**verse 2b**). Jesus will return to His new kingdom; however, this will be the old land with a new name (**verse 2c**). God often renames characters and places in the Bible when talking about their present or future purpose, such as Abram to Abraham (becoming the father of all nations) and Jacob to Israel (see Genesis 32). Every nation, even the ones that have not yet been converted, shall bow before the elect and be attracted to Zion (**verse 3**). Zion will become populated and filled, no longer empty (**verse 4a**). The people of God were called many things, such as “forsaken,” “idolaters,” and “rebels against God.” However, once repentance has occurred, all their sins will be forgiven and washed clean. The city would be filled with justice, and God would give them a new relationship with Him and a new name

(verse 4b). This applies to us today; therefore, we must repent of our sins. Once washed of our sins through the blood of Jesus, He will rename us as a new creature in Christ. The whole world will see our transformation in Him.


 **What Do You Think?** Compile two lists of names. The first list should be names that people are labeled while in sin. The second list should be names given once restored.

## Your Life

In our lives, we all have been wronged in some form, shape, or fashion. However, we know as Christians that our Lord and Savior will renew, rename, and reward us, if we remain faithful unto Him. As God's children, we will be judged and vindicated for our long suffering.

## Your World!

The world today has an awful appearance of injustice. It is our responsibility as Christians to keep the appearance of righteousness regardless of our location. Sometimes, Christians are all that nonbelievers have through which to see Christ in this dreadful world.

 **Closing Prayer** Our Father, we pray for the ones experiencing injustice right now. We ask that You give them hope, for we know that You will bring justice to all those situations. We thank You, Lord, in advance for the victory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Home Daily Bible Readings

<b>MONDAY</b> , April 27	"God Promises Restoration of Israel's Fortunes"	(Deuteronomy 30:1-6)
<b>TUESDAY</b> , April 28	"God Will Shepherd the People"	(Ezekiel 34:11-16)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> , April 29	"God Will Strengthen the People"	(Zechariah 10:6-12)
<b>THURSDAY</b> , April 30	"Christ's Forgiveness of Israel's Sins"	(Acts 5:27-32)
<b>FRIDAY</b> , May 1	"Leaders, Priests, and Prophets Don't Listen"	(Zephaniah 3:1-7)
<b>SATURDAY</b> , May 2	"God Will Preserve a Remnant"	(Zephaniah 3:8-13)
<b>SUNDAY</b> , May 3	"Rejoice in God's Glory and Salvation"	(Zephaniah 3:14-20)