

June 04, 2023



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Never measure God’s unlimited power by your limited expectations

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**  
The writer of Psalm 93, who penned its words during the time that kings reigned, knew that God is the ultimate King over all

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The Lord is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved

(Ps 93:1 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 19 2017)

**Series: The Righteous Reign of God**

**UNIT 1: The Prophets Proclaim God’s Power**

**NEXT WEEK**

**God’s Kingdom of Peace (Isaiah 65:17-25)**

## God Reigns Isaiah 52:7-12

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Isaiah 52 falls into five sections: verses 1-2, 3-6, 7-10, 11-12, and 13-15. Each of the first four sections invites exiled Israelites to return home because Babylon is about to fall to the Persians under Cyrus the Great (see Isaiah 44:28; 45:1, 13). The poems in these four sections personify Zion as a woman, and depict the period of exile as one of slumber for the ancient city. The prophetic poetry of Isaiah 40-55 has come a long way by the time we get to Isaiah 52. The section began with a distraught, heartbroken people living in a foreign land, subject to the whims of foreign rulers. They had given up hope in God’s care for them since their ancestors’ sins had brought an ongoing catastrophe upon them. But at the point of today’s Scripture, they stood on the verge of a new and bright future. For the ancient audience of Isaiah 52, the call to return home involved a literal, physical movement from Babylonia to the land of Israel, more than 1,000 miles away. Yet the more important movement was not that of a four-month journey across the land, but that of an interior journey of faith, in mind and spirit. The greatest enemy of faith is often traced to a loss of hope. This week’s text called on the people of Israel to reclaim their hope so that they could act in faith toward the God who sought their trust, their obedience, and their love. The temptation to despair undoubtedly remained strong, and that is not something one can simply will away. But by refreshing memories of God’s saving actions of the past, Isaiah’s prophetic vision of the future could be believed and acted on. A renewed realization of God’s presence is always in order! But several things had to happen for that realization to take root. These included (1) affirming the value of the messengers; (2) trusting those messengers to do their jobs in speaking truth; (3) accepting the opportunity to transform ruins, both physical and spiritual, into places of rejoicing; and (4) reintroducing of worship as God desires. All these foundational elements became reality as God set forth his plan of rescue. As such, the text takes a full-orbed view of the return (the new exodus), considering the actions and attitudes of all parties involved. Such a wide lens repeats the picture that appears in Isaiah 40, the opening of the “comfort section” of the book. There can be no greater calling than that of bearing God’s words of hope to people who are seemingly without hope. That is true whether we are talking about the sixth century BC or the twenty-first century AD. And just as the announcement of rescue to the ancient Israelites was to result in rejoicing, so also for us. The good news of God’s saving work should always create a climate of gratitude, joy, desire to share the news, and generous acceptance of all who receive it. Because God was in the picture, all was not lost for the Jews in Babylonian exile. The same is true today for those exiled spiritually in sin, enemies of God. Today’s gospel messengers—all Christians—are to join God’s work in spreading that message of eternal rescue (Matthew 28:19-20). The courage and faith required of the ancient Israelite is our must-have as well. Let us celebrate the good ways in which God can use us as his vessels to transform the lives of those around us. .

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Reigns Resulting in Good News (Isaiah 52:7-10)**

#### *Good news of peace (7-8)*

- Peace through having a mind controlled by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:6)
- Peace through trust in God (Rom 15:13)
- Peace from the God of peace (1 Cor 14:33)
- Peace through the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22)
- Peace through Jesus (Eph 2:14)
- Peace through unity of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:3)
- Peace that transcends all understanding (Phil 4:7)
- Peace that comes through faith (Rom 5:1-2)
- Peace that comes through the kingdom of God (Rom 14:17)

#### *Good news of redemption (9)*

- Redemption through Jesus (Rom 3:23-24)
- Redemption of our bodies (Rom 8:23)
- Redemption that Jesus became for us (1 Cor 1:30)
- Redemption through Jesus' blood (Eph 1:7)
- Redemption that is guaranteed by the seal of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13-14)
- Redemption from the dominion of darkness (Col 1:13-14)
- Redemption from the law (Gal 4:4-5)

#### *Good news of salvation (10)*

- A salvation that God appointed through Jesus (1 Thess 5:9)
- A salvation Jesus will bring with Him at His second coming (Heb 9:28)
- A salvation through justification by Jesus' blood (Rom 5:9)
- A salvation that is gained through belief in Jesus (John 6:40)
- A salvation that brings eternal life (John 11:25)
- A salvation that is hidden in Jesus (Col 3:3-4)

### **Reigns Resulting in Returning of His People (Isaiah 52:11-12)**

#### *Returning to righteousness (11)*

- A righteousness that comes through faith (Rom 3:22)
- A righteousness that comes from being under grace (Rom 6:12-14)
- A righteousness that comes from Christ being in us (Rom 8:10)
- A righteousness that comes from Jesus ending the penalty of sin (Rom 10:4)
- A righteousness that is part of the kingdom of God (Rom 14:17)
- A righteousness that is part of the armor of God (Eph 6:14)

#### *Returning with God with us (12)*

- God promises to be with us to the very end (Matt 28:20)
- The Holy Spirit will be with believers forever (John 14:16)
- God will never forsake His people (Deut 31:6)
- God loves and will never forsake His faithful ones (Ps 37:28)
- When God is with us, there should be no fear but courage (Josh 1:9)