

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time  
The Good News of the Gospel  
Isaiah 52:1-12

We are easily distracted from the things that matter most. Most of us live day to day, shifting our priorities and reacting to the demands that are placed on us. We balance family, work, church, hobbies, and a multitude of other interests. It is easy to get lost in the sea of voices that vie for our attention. Sometimes we settle for good things, but in doing so, we miss out on great things.

1. The gospel empowers freedom and revelation.
2. The gospel enables redemption and salvation.
3. The gospel evokes purity and presence.

If we haven't already, we need to wake up to God's plan, listen up to hear His voice, have our hands cleansed and our hearts purified by the finished work of Christ and His cross, an trust in the promises of God. Life in this sinful earth is difficult. Jesus told us it would be. But our God reigns and His reign will bring an end to the consequences of sin and someday we will stand in the fullness of His glory in a place where there will be no more death or sorrow or crying. There will be no more pain. In the meantime, may we remember the words of our King in John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

#### Reflection

How does Isaiah 52 predict the joy of the restoration of the Jewish people from exile in Babylon. How does it mirror what God did for His people in the exodus? What verses should motivate us with a sense of boldness and urgency with regard to the spread of the gospel? What verses direct the sanctification of our lives and why would that sanctification be important in the spread of the gospel? In what ways or in what areas of your life do you need to "wake up" to the things of God? What means do you think God has ordained in order to accomplish what Isaiah predicts in 52:10? What then might that mean when it comes to your involvement in a global mission endeavor?