

Our God Reigns

International Bible Lesson

Isaiah 52:1-15

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“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” (Isaiah 52:7—KJV).

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns’” (Isaiah 52:7—NRSV).

In the history of Israel and the world, Isaiah’s prophecy has been fulfilled twice in totally unexpected ways. In the first situation, a messenger sent by God came from Babylon and announced to those in Jerusalem that Babylon had fallen and God had moved a victorious conqueror and king to free His people from exile and slavery so they could return to Jerusalem. With God’s help, they could now rebuild their city, the city’s walls, and most importantly the temple where they could worship God. In addition, God moved the new king to return the temple vessels to Jerusalem that the Babylonians had also carried into captivity. Such good news of salvation led God’s people to rejoicing, and the restoration of God’s kingdom and people proves that God reigns. Then, as Isaiah chapter 52 concluded and 53 began, Isaiah foretold the sacrifice of the Messiah who would come to reign in the future.

After about 600 years, when Jesus the Messiah began His ministry He proved that God reigns by everything He said and did. As Isaiah described, God made Jesus’ “life an offering for sin;” furthermore, God said “the righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities” (Isaiah 53:10-11). Jesus freed God’s people from spiritual exile and slavery to self, sin, and Satan. The good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection still brings salvation to believers around the world and proves that God still reigns and leads His followers to rejoicing and spreading the message about Him and His power to save all believers forever.

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Thinking Further

1. Read Isaiah 47:1-2 and Isaiah 52:1-2. In what way does Isaiah describe Babylon and Jerusalem that is similar? What does he say will happen to them?
2. In Isaiah 52:1-2, what did God want the exiled Jews and those left in Jerusalem to do when their time of punishment ended?
3. What was the messenger supposed to announce in Jerusalem “upon the mountains” in Isaiah 52:7? What did Jesus the Messiah bring when He came? What does He bring into the lives of His followers?
4. How were the sentinels supposed to respond when they heard the announcement “upon the mountains”?
5. How did the Israelites leave Egypt? How did God say through Isaiah that His people would leave Babylon? How do both ways demonstrate the awesome power of God?