



Sermon Growth Guide

December 29, 2024

What Do You Name Him – We Are Renamed

Isaiah 62:1-7, 10-12

Key Verse: “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.” Isaiah 62:2

Big Idea: The Lord continues to redeem, rename, and give us reasons to rejoice.

Foundations

Isaiah 62 is contained within Third Isaiah, which begins, “...for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.” (Isa 56:1). Isaiah 56-66 contain words of comfort, warnings of judgment, and a clear message of hope for the exiled Israelites. What does their future look like? Who are they going to become once they return home? For what—or for whom—are they waiting?

Leading up to these questions are Isaiah’s four Servant Songs. Isaiah writes of the Servant who brings justice (Isa 42:1-4); the Servant who is a light to the nations (Isa 42:1-4); the Servant who suffers (Isa 50:4-9); and the Servant who will sacrifice his life for the sake of humankind (Isa 52:13-53:12). This is the Messiah, the fulfillment of God’s promises. But when will this fulfillment come?

Turn back one chapter and you’ll read the description of The Year of the Lord’s Favor (Isa 61). Jesus uses these words to declare Himself as the fulfillment of Scripture (Luke 4:14-21). He is their hope. He is the prophesied Servant, the Messiah for the poor, the captive, and for all nations.

In Chapter 62, the Lord calls those who love Him to hold fast to the covenant. Recently returned from Babylonian captivity, God’s people needed these words of encouragement and hope. Through a description of Jerusalem’s restoration and future glory, they know a rebuilt and renamed city and a will signify God’s special favor upon them. Zion’s vindication will shine forth.

Understanding God’s Word

Read together Isaiah 62:1-7, 10-12. At the heart of today’s passage is God’s act of renaming of Zion/Jerusalem. In the Old Testament, renaming was a significant event that marked a new identity, a new purpose, or even a new covenant with God. It said to the person, or in this case, the city: your story is about to change. Consider Abram, Sarai and Jacob; and in the New Testament, Simon and “the Sons of Thunder.”

In v.4, God promises Jerusalem the names Deserted or Desolate will be changed to Hephzibah, which means “my delight is in her,” and Beulah, which means “married.” This chapter concludes: “and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.” You also see here Zion called Daughter, and a marriage metaphor, which signifies a change in relationship.

Applying God’s Word

God promises to restore, rename, and even rejoice over Zion. He does this for us and for the world in and through his Son, Jesus Christ. In your faith journey, how have you experienced restoration? What causes you to rejoice? How have you accepted your new identity in Christ? How does Isaiah 62 show God’s love and commitment to his people?

Witnessing God’s Word

Who in your life needs to hear about the restoration Christ offers? What false identity about yourself needs to be renamed? God delights in you and rejoices over you! How can you demonstrate to others that you believe in God’s covenant promises?