

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Isaiah 52:1-15

Sunday, November 30, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and 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?

God is speaking through Isaiah the prophet to both (Isaiah 45:1). God calls Babylon “daughter” and God calls Jerusalem “daughter.” Babylon will no longer be a princess with a throne, but will work as a slave as God’s punishment for her sins. Jerusalem will put on beautiful garments (fit for a princess), become holy, and be freed from slavery in Babylon because her punishment has ended.

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?

Wake up, exercise their strength, live holy, cleanse themselves, take off their bonds, no longer live as captives, return to Jerusalem or prepare for the exiles to return to Jerusalem.

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?

Peace, good news, salvation, and the message that your God reigns.
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4. How were the sentinels supposed to respond when they heard the announcement “upon the mountains”?

They were to lift up their voices and pass the good news they heard to the residents of Jerusalem. They were to sing with joy, and they were to sing with those who believed the

message. They look, and they see the evidence of what the messenger proclaimed—the LORD has returned.

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?

Both ways fulfilled earlier prophecies. They left Egypt in haste. They left with great treasure given to them by the people. They were to leave Babylon after careful planning (which they did). God's power defeated Pharaoh, the Egyptian king who fought God to keep God's people enslaved. God's power moved the minds of King Cyrus and King Darius to free and help God's people return to the Promised Land with the temple treasure that the Babylonians had taken to Babylon.

If time permits, ask your class how Jesus did much that Isaiah said when He came as the Messiah. What did Jesus do in a spiritual way? You may want to read again Isaiah 52:13-15 and Isaiah 53:1-8.

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