

Isaiah 60 and 62 – The Glory of Zion

Read Chapter 60v1-3 in a darkened room and light a candle (symbolising that the light shines on us and we display God's glory).

Read Isaiah 60 and 61.10-62.12

What do you not understand? What stands out and inspires? What doesn't sit well with you? Get everyone in the group to write down thoughts/questions, comments, and stick them up so that you can think about them throughout the Bible study.

What are the themes in these chapters? Are there any repeated ideas? (What is their significance?)

These chapters are about Zion (or Jerusalem in some translations), Zion refers to the place where God reigns and dwells among His people, which refers to God's kingdom, pointing ultimately to heaven. We are God's people, He dwells and reigns in us through His Spirit so these promises ultimately hold true for us. It is important to remember that many are figurative, and need to be read through the original context and understanding of Isaiah's time.

What does God promise to do for his people? Discuss what those promises mean and write them down.

Why is God building up his people in this way?

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Look back over God's promises. They are all true! All God's promises are 'yes' (i.e. fulfilled) in Christ (2 Corinthians 1.20), so you are made for the display of his splendour, you are a holy people, you are a royal diadem. This is so liberating. The reality is that we do struggle to believe, like the man in Mark 9.24 who exclaimed to Jesus 'I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief'

Which ones do you struggle to believe? Split into twos or threes and pray these promises for each other.

How will these promises affect the ways in which you interact with the various people in your life? Given that God calls His people to action in being part of fulfilling these promises, what is God calling you to be or do in some of those situations?

(It may be helpful to make prayerful commitments, write those down and help each other fulfil those)

Isaiah 62v6-7 says 'You who call on the Lord give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth'.

What does that mean for your small group as Christians at Queens?

Pray for the fulfilment of all that God promises, that the nations will come, that we will raise a banner for the people!

Continue to pray through the week for the person you prayed promises for.

Light the candle again and re-read Isaiah 60v18-22 and 62.12– go out as people sought after by God, displaying His radiance, and splendour! Arise and shine!