

Isaiah Chapters 61-62 Summary - John Karmelich

Title: What do we do after we die?

One of the questions I (as a devout Christian) ponder is, what do we do after we die? Of course, I don't like the term "die" as we immediately are in God's presence after we move into the next life. One of the many myths I don't like is we each get a big mansion and then we kick back on a couch for eternity say playing a harp! Jesus said in His father's house are many mansions! (John 14:2.) Sleep won't be needed in heaven, so our places there will be close to Jesus. I refuse to believe boredom will occur there! Jesus will guide us as to what we do there (details coming up in this study). As I've stated for years, the Bible mainly teaches who Jesus is and how He wants us to live this life. We only get a few clues in the Bible what it is do in the next life. These chapters give us a few clues. Let me continue:

I'll argue God never does for us what we can do ourselves. As an example, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus didn't wave his hand and the gravestone moved. Someone had to move it and then the miracle of Lazarus coming alive again! I mention that because right before Jesus returns, there's all the "Revelation Bad Stuff" (for a lack of a better term), and much of Israel will be destroyed. This text here in Isaiah describes people working to rebuild Jerusalem after all that. So, what do we do then? It's stated here in Isaiah and in Revelation (1:6), that we will be priests as well as kings. Realize that some will survive "Revelation". They'll come to Jerusalem to bring Jesus gifts when He rules the world from there. People living then will need to know how to worship God, and what He demands of people! He wants people to be priests then to help others draw close to Him. In effect, that is the job of a priest, to help people draw close to God. Therefore, knowing what God expects of us know trains us to live with Jesus forever. If you thought you were going to kick back on a couch and watch sports or eat chocolate forever in heaven, you need to study your bible more! With that said, time for the details.

Before I go further it may help to give the classic mountain illustration: One might see mountains on a clear day in the distance. What we may not see is a big valley between two sets of mountains. Realize that as Isaiah will discuss Jesus First and Second Coming in one paragraph. Remember to Isaiah this is way in the future (by many centuries) as God is explaining the future, since He is outside of time as we know it. We are in a section of scripture focusing on life after the "Revelation stuff", when Jesus rules the world from Jerusalem.

Chapter 61 opens with versus that Jesus quotes in Luke 4:18-19. Jesus read this portion of Isaiah when He spoke in a synagogue and stated bluntly this Isaiah passage is about Him! The word "me" is used a number of times in the passage. Like my "valley between mountains" illustration, there are aspects we can apply to His First and Second Coming in this passage! In short, this passage states how Jesus gives comfort to the downhearted. I like to ask my Jewish friends, do you believe another Jewish person will going to give more comfort to more people than Jesus did? Jewish records don't deny His miracles just that He was raised from the dead! Notice in Verse 2, Jesus pauses on a comma (I know no punctuation in the original text) and in Luke a period is used instead of the comma in Isaiah. That comma has been there for 2,000 years as the second of part Verse 2 describe the "day of vengeance of God". Given that we're still around and "Revelation stuff" hasn't begun, means God's vengeance hasn't happened yet!

All that leads to a discussion about life when Jesus is ruling. Other Bible places say we'll judge angels. I don't think Jesus elbows us and asks, "What do you think, should I send this one to hell?" It's to learn what they did and didn't do to carry out His will! At the least, it is a reminder our behavior matters not for salvation's sake but for heavenly rewards sake! Bottom line we won't be sitting on thrones for 1,000

years judging people. I'm convinced the main thing we do is be priests for God. That means we'll lead people who survived "Revelation" closer to Him. What if you say, "I'm not cut out to be a priest?" We must realize there's no financial needs in heaven. Second even if you think you're not educated enough to do that, remember Jesus will NEVER give us something we can't handle. I wouldn't worry about all that, the issue about heaven is about being close to Jesus and if He says, do this, we should obey! What we must remember is we'll be eternally blessed as Jesus rules the world from Jerusalem. We'll see then the city of Jerusalem being rebuilt! Things such as disease and wild animal attacks won't be an issue as God will end all that then. We'll have peace, and Jesus will keep each of us busy! As I say, I must sing in church as we'll be doing a lot of that in eternity (note final verse of Chapter 61).

Chapter 62 focuses on the coming salvation to the Nation of Israel. (For those who believe God is done with Israel, I present this chapter as a contradiction to that false argument!) The key point is God wants to give us hope despite all the problems we deal with! About 100 years after Isaiah wrote his book, the Israelites were kicked out of their land for disobedience. Israel went roughly 2,700 years without being an independent nation. God's saying in effect, despite all that suffering history will not end that way for the Jewish people! Good for them, how does any of that affect me now? The millennium, a 1,000-year period after "Revelation bad stuff", is when all this takes place. If we trust in Jesus' sin payment for our salvation, I'm convinced that since we'll be close to Jesus for eternity that is where we'll be at that time. Let me also ask a famous question, why is that 1,000-year period necessary? Satan is bound up during all that time. It's to show people are capable of sinning and evil even with Satan is not in the picture! It leads to eternity with Jesus ruling from a new heaven and earth.

So why trust a 2,700-year prediction that hasn't happened yet. In short, God's timing is His business so we must accept it. EVERY aspect of Jesus first coming is predicted somewhere in the Old Testament. I use that as my proof that the hundreds of Old Testament predictions about His Second Coming are true and we must wait on His timing. If God wanted us to know the date and hour, He'd say so. God wants us to be a living witness for Him until that occurs. That's His "game plan" and we must accept it! Also remember 1 Peter 3:8 says "With God, a day is like 1,000 years" meaning He works on His timing!

Meanwhile a few more thoughts on Chapter 62. Verse 5 reminds us how much God will love us for all of eternity not because we deserve it, but simply because He chose us. As I've stated, Jerusalem will be rebuilt at that time. I suspect that's where we'll live. What I do know is, God wants us to have peace at that time. There will even be watchmen on the walls. I don't see anyone defeating Jesus but again life's going to have imperfect people who survived Revelation and again God wants us to have peace there!

The text even mentions food for those there. I don't know if we require meals then. I suspect we won't have stomachs anymore (1st Corinthians 6:13). We won't have to worry about calories! Chapter 62 is a reminder that we'll have a wonderful eternity despite whatever we are dealing with now! At least we never have to worry about heaven being boring. God wants us close to Him and promises a wonderful eternity for those trusting in His payment alone for our salvation! Ok, 2 more lessons and that's a wrap for this big project. Grateful God's getting me through it!

With that said, hope you like this study. I wrote a more detailed one some years back. If you want to read that, click on one of the links below. It is still a joy to study this stuff and again I'm grateful for you reading this. The rest of this email is links to questions you may have. If you're new here, realize you're always welcome to e-mail me. Thanks again for reading this!