

Clothed in Righteousness

Isaiah 61:10

Isaiah served as a prophet to the nation of Israel. He dealt much with the coming judgment of God, but he also revealed much about the coming of Christ and the Millennial Kingdom yet to come. While he lived some 700 years before the birth of Christ, he provided exact details of His birth, life, and death on the cross.

Our text comes from a chapter that covers thousands of years. It opens with prophecy regarding the life and ministry of Christ. The middle portion deals with the restoration of Israel during the Millennial Reign of Christ. The chapter closes with a chorus of praise for salvation in the Lord. Regardless of where one fits within the timeframe of this chapter, salvation is possible. Christ came, just as the prophets of old predicted, giving His life a ransom for the salvation of mankind. He rose again triumphant over death, hell, and the grave. He ascended back to the right of the Father with the promise of coming again. I can certainly relate to the words of Isaiah, even though they were written thousands of years ago.

As we consider the [characteristics](#) of the believer expressed in our text, I want to deal with the thought: [Clothed in Righteousness](#).

I. The Believer's Rejoicing (10a) – [I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.](#) Isaiah spoke of the believer's rejoicing regarding our relationship with the LORD. Notice:

A. The Awareness – He was well aware of the God he served, and the mighty attributes associated with Him. He referred to Him as the LORD – *JEHOVAH*, Redeemer, the self-existent One, the I AM. I am convinced Jehovah in the Old Testament is Christ our Lord in the New Testament. He came robed in flesh, fully God and fully man, to redeem us from sin and provide for our salvation!

➤ He is God – *Elohim*, the Strong One. Elohim is a plural noun in the Hebrew language. Plural nouns always consisted of three or more, thus referencing the Trinity – God the Father, Son, and Spirit. Such awareness of the gracious and powerful God we serve ought to generate an attitude of rejoicing within our hearts!

B. The Abundance – *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God.* Isaiah spoke of greatly rejoicing in the LORD. He spoke of a joyful soul in the God he served. Such rejoicing was not temporal or influenced by outside circumstances. His rejoicing was in the LORD. Having such a powerful and stable source in which to rejoice, created a continual attitude of rejoicing.

- We have much to rejoice in through Christ Jesus our Lord. He has offered grace where judgment was deserved. We have been saved by His grace and placed within the family of God. We are promised eternal life and a glorious inheritance in heaven. Surely that will generate an abundance of joy within our hearts!

II. The Believer's Righteousness (10) – *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.* Isaiah was also aware of the righteousness afforded believers. Consider:

A. The Apparel – *The believer is clothed in the garments of salvation.* Isaiah wrote these words prior to the atoning sacrifice of Christ for our sin, but they remain true nonetheless. We all were born in sin and separated from God. We stood condemned, in need of salvation. In His mercy and grace, God provided the means of our salvation through the sacrifice of His Son for our sin. Where we once stood clothed in the rags of sin and condemnation, we now stand clothed in the garments of salvation. Christ bore my sin, enduring the judgment I deserved, so that I might be pardoned from sin and reconciled to God. As I came to Christ in salvation, I traded the old garments, stained by sin, and put on a clean garment of salvation. I am thankful He provided an opportunity for me to take off the old coat and put on a new one in Him!

B. The Acceptance – *Those in Christ have been covered with a robe of righteousness.* This accompanies salvation by grace through faith. We stood condemned in sin, having no way of obtaining the righteousness God demanded to fellowship with Him. We were lost and undone, without hope before God. In His mercy, God sent His Son as the sacrifice for our sin. Following salvation in Christ, we are clothed in salvation and robed in righteousness.

- What exactly does that mean for us? Simply, we are now acceptable to God. We are viewed as righteous due to our relationship with Christ the Son. As God looks at those who are saved by grace, He no longer sees the garments stained by sin, but a robe of righteousness obtained through Christ. His righteousness has been imputed to my account. The debt of sin I owed has been paid in full. I am accepted of the Father because of the Son! *2 Cor. 5:21 – For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

C. The Appropriation (10) – I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels. Twice Isaiah affirmed the gracious work of God in providing for our redemption. We are not saved by our works or merit. We are saved by the good grace of God through the finished work of Christ upon the cross. God made the way for our salvation; He provided forgiveness and eternal life! Surely He is worthy of our praise and adoration for such gracious provision.

III. The Believer's Reflection (10) – I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels. Finally Isaiah used the analogy of a bride and groom at a wedding to reveal how we now appear to the Lord and bear witness of Him among the world. Consider:

A. The Beauty – Likely you will agree that weddings are beautiful ceremonies. The man and woman are in love with each other and are making a commitment together as husband and wife. Isaiah likely spoke of the customs of that day – the bridegroom wearing his finest ornaments and the bride wearing her finest jewels. They have prepared themselves to look beautiful for their spouse.

- I assure you, we are viewed as a thing of beauty to our Lord. He loved us enough to give His life in our place. He purchased our redemption; we are His. A life once marred and wrecked by sin is now cleansed and made new in Christ. The old man of sin has died and we have been resurrected a new creature in Christ!

B. The Purity – Marriage was a solemn vow in Isaiah's day, just as it should be today. In that culture, the couple was expected to be physically pure at the wedding day. They had each saved themselves for the other, coming together in purity as they pledged their vows one to the other.

- Such is the picture following salvation. Those who are saved by grace are viewed as the bride of Christ. He has purchased to Himself and bride, free of blemish and spot, through His redeeming work on the cross. We are no longer dirty and condemned, but clean and pure through the cleansing blood He shed for us. We will be welcomed in to the Marriage Feast, not based upon our merit, but through faith in the saving grace of our Lord.

C. The Stability – I am not certain of Isaiah’s full intention here, but I was reminded of the stability marriage brings when it is entered in obedience to the Lord and submission to one another. Isaiah did speak of both the bride and groom. Once there were two, and now they have come together as one. Marriage usually is just the beginning for a couple. Many go on to have children and develop a family. This generates a sense of wholeness and completion.

- So it is when we come to Christ in salvation. We no longer stand alone, separated from the Father. We begin a wonderful journey with our Lord that brings stability and completion to the longing within our hearts. We have One on whom we can depend to provide in our moments of weakness. He has promised to never leave or forsake us, being completely faithful to His bride. I am thankful for the stability found in Christ the Lord. He alone provides what everyone so desperately needs! We are complete in Him.

Conclusion: I hope you have been encouraged in the Lord through the message. I haven’t shared anything new, but it does remind us of the blessings associated with salvation. If you are saved by grace, rejoice in the Lord and rest in His eternal provision. If you have yet to respond to His gracious invitation, come to Him in faith and repentance. He wants to save you today, clothing you in the garments of salvation and covering you in His righteousness!