Isaiah 62:1-3 For the sake of Zion I will not be silent. For the sake of Jerusalem I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth shining brightly, and her salvation burns like a torch. 2Nations will see your righteousness, and all kings will see your glory. You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will assign to you. 3Then you will be a beautiful crown in the Lord’s hand, and a royal diadem in the palm of your God.

Now I have to tell you that I think this text is one of the more difficult texts to preach on. It is not difficult because its message is unclear but rather difficult because it requires a lot of background and context to bring forth the real joy of what is being said. Well, I will try and do that to the best of my ability, I will try and help you grasp the joy and excitement of this text.

I am assuming that you caught the excitement! Isaiah, writing under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is actually giving us the words of the Lord our God. In other words, we are hearing what God is promising those who are his children, his believers. Our theme for today will be: **THE NEW NAME.**

So let’s just go through these words point by point. Again I want to remind you that Isaiah, while writing these words, is actually writing the thoughts and promises of the Lord our God. That is important to know, because it tells you just how the Lord our God feels and just what the Lord our God desires when it comes to his children, the souls of the world. It is clear, that God, yes the Lord our God is excited.

I know, that seems such a strange thing to say about the Lord and yet it really isn’t. The problem we have is that all too often the picture of God that we have in our mind is that of the gray haired older guy sitting on his throne looking rather somber and slightly scowling because the “kids” are being noisy and bothersome. Yet, I will tell you that as a child of God and heir of eternal life, that’s the very last picture you should have of God. The picture you should have in your head is that of the loving younger father, big smile on his face, waiting with open arms to give the biggest hug and greetings to the child running toward him. That’s how I picture God for myself. He is the person you long to see, that caring, loving, just glad you are there person who makes you feel like you are the most awesome child he has. That’s what these words bring to my mind. The text says, **“For the sake of Zion I will not be silent. For the sake of Jerusalem I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth shining brightly, and her salvation burns like a torch.”**

Here is the Lord God excited and happy, excited and happy about what He is planning and preparing for His people, here simply summed up by speaking of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was where His Temple was. Jerusalem was were His name was to be worshiped and praised, where the wonder of the salvation God was preparing was found in every single ceremonial law that the people engaged in. But in these words, God is looking ahead, looking forward to that time when what the Jewish faith and religion were about would be fulfilled and made known. In these words, God is looking forward to the time of His Christ, the time when righteousness and salvation will be wonderfully revealed.

If you would just think of the life of Jesus in a quick summary. The child born and the angels singing forth. Jesus as a man and beginning his ministry with his very first miracle at the wedding of Cana. Think of the marvel as Jesus taught of salvation because God would provide it and then as Jesus went to the cross to win the very salvation he spoke of. Think of the joy of the disciples, as Jesus, who died, is now found to be alive and glorified, and without doubt the Lord and Savior from sin. If you just think of these events, of all that Jesus is and did, you can grasp why God describes it as **“her righteousness going forth shining brightly, and her salvation burning like a torch.”** What Jesus is and what Jesus has done has changed the world. It is that change that God is excited about.

The next words continue to share that joy of the Savior Jesus. Now, the trick to understanding the next verses, yes verses 2-5 is to grasp that they are looking all the way to the future. What Jesus has brought us, what Jesus has done for us has a culmination and point. The pinnacle of the salvation of Jesus is fully seen and revealed in the Judgment Day of Jesus. For it is on the Judgment Day of Jesus that the complete and awesome truth of Jesus will be made clear. Verse 2-3 say, **“Nations will see your righteousness, and all kings will see your glory. You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will assign you. Then you will be a beautiful crown in the Lord’s hand, and a royal diadem in the palm of your God”**

I will tell you, as I read those words and those of the next verses, the only thing that pops into my head is all the glorious, the wonderful and awe inspiring visions of heaven that God shown us in the Book of Revelation. As the day of God’s judgment is revealed it is clear these words of Revelation are absolutely fulfilled. This world and all that it is will cease to be. There before us is the throne of God, majestic and glorious, beaming with the power and reality of God. Gathered before God are the righteous, those who have been made pure and holy through the blood of the Lamb. And yes, a new name is given us, a name we hopefully bear already, “Christian!” We are there because of Jesus the Christ. We are there because he has saved and forgiven. We are there because God has called us and named us His children and heirs. We are there because God has declared us His and co-rulers and co-heirs with Jesus for all eternity to come. No doubt, you want to see these verses in action then simple read Revelation.

But let’s look at even more. Verses 4-5: **“You will never again be called Abandoned, and your land will never again be called Desolation, for you will be called My Delight is in Her, and your land will be called Married, because the Lord delights in you, and your land will be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, your sons will marry you, and just as a bridegroom rejoices over a bride, your God will rejoice over you.”**

Here is how I will help you with these words. While it is true that in the history of the Old Testament the Jewish people often accused God of deserting and abandoning them, those diatribes against God by a people who had turned away from him, are really only a shadow of the reality of our living in an unbelieving world. I believe these words are a reflection and report on what you and I will have to endure until this Day of Jesus comes about. In other words, if you think about it, these words reflect the unbelieving world’s attitude toward the children of God.

Don’t you think it true that the world considers us “abandoned” and “desolate” because we believe in a falsehood and in an entity that we poor, miserable creatures have invented? More than once I have had shoved in my face the words, “I can’t believe you let a 2,000 year old book guide your life!” What they mean by that is God and all things about God are foolishness. We have proven evolution to show how foolish your idea of God a creator is. We have shown the vastness of this evolved world of ours, clearly greater than any god. Moreover, how could you, foolish, blind creature think your idea of God is any better than all the other ideas of god found in the world? Do you really think you are the only ones with the truth? Do you really think that if there was a god that he would only reveal himself to you and only speak in your bible? Poor, sad, wretched believers in Jesus!

Yes, that is our plight and our struggle, against the world and the children of the world who hated Jesus and as Jesus warned, will hate us. But when the final day of Jesus comes it will all be different. In the book of Philippians we are told of that day, **“At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

Or again we can turn to the Book of Revelation. In chapter 21, starting in verse 9 we hear: **“Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” He carried me away in spirit to a great and high mountain, and he showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God…I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God has given it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. There is not day when its gates will be shut, for there will be no night in that place. They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it….There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city. His servants will worship him. They will see his face. His name will be on their foreheads. There will no longer be any night or any need of lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will shine upon them. And they will reign forever and ever.”**

Did you notice how Revelation speaks of the Church, the Holy Christian Church, that is, all those everywhere who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior from sin? This church is called a bride and she is beautifully dressed and made glorious by the Lord? In truth, that is what Isaiah’s words are proclaiming to us. And just as important as who speaks these words is the one who does these words. The one acting and doing is always and only the Lord.

Now, let’s go back and review what we have learned. Our section starts out with the Lord telling us that he is all excited and he is not going to be quiet. He tells us that he is going to keep on working and teaching and guiding His people until that day when they will be a permanent part of his glorious kingdom. Included in that excitement is a hint at the Savior to come, the Lord our Righteousness, Jesus who is going to fully reveal the truth of righteousness and salvation. The end result of all of this will then be the glories and wonders of eternal life with God.

That’s when everyone will know and see the truth of God and his kingdom. Everyone will see the glory of the Lord. It is true, some will see this glory from a distance and will themselves be enshrouded with darkness and despair, but nevertheless, they will see this glory of God, the glory of his triumphant kingdom of life and salvation. From that day forward, God and his saved children will rejoice and be glad forever.

Now what is the point of all of this? To bring God’s children comfort and hope. To remind God’s children that everything is in God’s hands and for a purpose. The purpose of eternal life and salvation. God is acting and moving in our lives for our eternal good and triumph. God is working to bring about our forgiveness and our adoption as his children or as envisioned here, to make us his beautiful bride adorned with righteousness and glory.

I have to tell you I am reading the book Quo Vadis, by the author Henryk Sienkiewicz written in 1896. It is a novel set at the time of Nero and the early Christian church. One of the chapters has a meeting of Christians with the Apostle Peter. I don’t know what the author’s faith was, but as he portrayed this worship service and what was said through the eyes of a Roman tribune, a high ranking soldier who is an unbeliever, I can’t tell you how pleased I was as this author has the unbeliever in awe of what is said by Peter! In awe because he realizes that this Christian faith he is hearing about is not about this life, but rather about a glorious and wonderful life with God that is yet to come. How astute. That is really the very same message that we find in Isaiah. Have hope, have comfort because the Lord our God is going to save and bring us eternally into his kingdom.

Yes, our focus is to be the eternal life to come! Jesus came to let us know that this world with its sin and problems will and does have an end and with faith that end is eternity with Him. It reminds us that no matter what, God is with us and for us and we have no worries at all. That’s why Jesus came. That’s why this baby was born and then began a ministry of hope and love. The hope of heaven because of the love of Jesus that took him to the cross for our sins. This is our hope and confidence. Amen.