



- Considering the condition of the world can make the call of missions seem daunting at best.
 - Haiti Mission Experience
 - Russ – “You can’t hit a rock in Haiti and not hit a need.”
 - It is easy to look around in a place like Haiti and think, “Where is the hope for the nations?”
- **Big Idea: Hope is an indispensable motivation for world missions.**
 - Yet our hope does not lie in our resources our innovations.
 - Missionary hope resides in knowing that the cause to which God is calling us will undeniably triumph in the end.

Thus, our participation in world missions is never in vain. Not a single life that has been sacrificed in the cause of world missions is ever lost in vain. Not a single dollar given to missions is given in vain. No call to missions is voiced in vain. No sermon preached about missions is preached in vain. No prayer prayed for missions is prayed in vain. No trip for missions is ever taken in vain. The Gospel going forward never advances in vain.

Though, from our perspective, the battle to win the lost of all nations may ebb and flow, victory has already been planned by God; victory is being carried out by His power; victory will come according to everything God has promised. The energy and focus we are called to cultivate for missions is sustained and strengthened by our hope that the kingdom of God will triumph in the world.

This passage in Isaiah is a picture of that hope, and by it we are reminded of our matchless hope for missions and called to press on in hope-filled allegiance to Christ and hope-filled missions in the world.

1.) There is hope for the nations in the plan of God (v. 1).

- In this text, we are presented with a vision God gave Isaiah that stretches from eternity past to eternity future.
 - In the same breath, Isaiah looks forward to the glorious end planned by God and back to eternity past when He planned it.
 - v. 1 – *“In perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.”*
- Most of us know the frustration of being involved in an endeavor that has no plan (Spring Break 1996).
- God is never caught without a plan.
 - Isaiah 46:9-10 – *“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’”*
 - When we respond to God’s call to world evangelization, we are never involved in random or unnecessary activity.

2.) There is hope for the nations in the power of God (v. 2-5).

- v. 2-3 – God is stronger than the strongest nations on earth, and his compassion and mercy will win hearts in even the most ruthless nations.
- v. 4-5 – God’s power is exercised perfectly among the nations.
 - v. 4a – For the poor and needy (spiritually poor and longing for mercy) God is a refuge, bringing salvation.
 - v. 4b – From the storm, He is a shelter, bringing protection.
 - v. 4c – From the heat, He is our shade, bringing comfort.
 - v. 5 – Against the uproar of the nations, He brings silence.
- As easily as desert heat is subdued by a cloud, so all the clamoring of the world is subdued by the God of peace.

3.) There is hope for the nations in the promise of God (v. 6-8).

- **The End of All Division (v. 6)**
 - People from every nation will celebrate together forever in the finest heavenly feast.

- Matthew 8:11 – *“I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.”*
- Colossians 3:11 – *“Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.”*
- **The End of All Delusion (v. 7)**
 - Illustration – Toy Story in 3-D – Trying to see through the popcorn grease on my 3-D glasses.
 - Unbelieving Jews are blinded to the truth:
 - 2 Corinthians 3:14-15 – *“Their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.”*
 - Unbelieving Gentiles are blinded to the truth:
 - Ephesians 4:17-18 – *“You must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.”*
 - God will remove this veil of delusion from representatives of every nation.
 - v. 7 – *“On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations.”*
 - 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 – *“But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away... And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”*
- **The End of All Death (v. 8a)**
 - 2 Timothy 1:9-10 – *“This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*
 - Hebrews 2:9 – *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”*
- **The End of All Despair (v. 8b)**

-- Revelation 21:4 – *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

-- **The End of All Disgrace (v. 8c)**

-- Romans 8:1-4 – *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.”*

4.) There is hope for the nations in the pathway to God (v. 9).

-- v. 9 – The pathway to God is trust in the Lord.

-- Romans 10:11-13 – *“As the Scripture says, ‘Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”*

-- Trust placed in the Lord leads to joy that is eternal for all who will come by faith in Christ.

In conclusion, as we press on to send out for the glory of God, as we consider the lost and respond to the call of missions, let us go forth with an indomitable hope in Christ. Let us remember that we go out according to the plan that God put into effect before the foundation of time. Let us recall that we go forth with the power of God that is perfect for every need. Let us send forth according to the promise of God, knowing our Lord will bring the end of all division, the end of all delusion, the end of all death, despair, and disgrace. Let rejoice that God has made a pathway for all who believe through the atoning sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord. There is hope for missions, and His name is Jesus.