

**THURSDAY**

**Oaks of righteousness  
(v3-9)**

**Isaiah 61:1-11**

**JOY**

**FROM THE ASHES**

5-11 AUGUST 2023



# Spiritual growth

Isaiah – *“Here am I. Send me!”* (6:8)

Transformation – the developmental journey from babes in Christ to mature believers, who are established in their faith (Acts 15:41, 16:3).

- Formed (Galatians 4:19)
- Conformed (Romans 8:29)
- Transformed (Romans 12:1-2)



# Oaks



- **Strong**
- **Sturdy**
- **Enduring**
- **Shelter**
- **Fruitful**

# Transformation

Oaks of righteousness –  
Romans 3:22, Isaiah 53:11,  
2 Corinthians 5:21

The planting of the Lord

Display of His splendour



These oaks require years of cultivation, because such is the long act of restoration.

These oaks only grow from the broken-hearted. Their roots are planted in heartache, watered with tears, made resilient by storms, strengthened by seasons, grown great by loss, made magnificent in surrender, made hospitable by empathy and beautiful by sacrifice.

They grow in the light of hope.



# 1. Reviving hope (v4)

Back to the time of the return from Exile

Optimism in the face of disappointment, then and now

- rebuild
- restore
- renew

God's concern for people and places (cities)



## 2. Receiving strangers (v5)

God's vision for the nations.

National exclusivity is shattered

- The blessing of immigration
- The emergence of the global church – shift in the centre of gravity
- A glorious vision, no room for gloom



# 3. Releasing gifting (v6)

The priesthood of all believers –

Exodus 19:6, 1 Peter 2:9,  
Revelation 1:5-6

A place for ordained ministry, but  
the need to recognise and use the  
gifts of all.





## 4. Removing shame (v8)

Israel's legacy of shame

Shame = a painful feeling of humiliation or distress caused by the consciousness of my own wrong or foolish behaviour or what has been done to me.

Healing = forgiveness + acceptance

Healing = recognition + justice



# 5. Rewarding faith (v8-9)

The nature of God – He loves justice (Isaiah 58:6-7)

Directed to the faithful remnant – the reward of faith (trust) – Hebrews 11:6, 6:10 and Isaiah 8:12, 26:3-4

A missionary people

Blessed by the Lord



# Splendid!

A people being transformed,  
showing realistic optimism and  
openness to others,  
exercising their God-given gifts,  
with a healthy self-esteem,  
demonstrating a love of justice  
and mission,  
& living under the favour of God.



**Be who you are**

