

ISAIAH 60

1-7, 10, 16B., 22

Isaiah 60: 1-7

***"Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see.
For the glory of the LORD rises to shine on you.***

***[2] Darkness as black as night covers all the nations
of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and
appears over you.***

***[3] All nations will come to your light; mighty kings
will come to see your radiance.***

Isaiah 60: 1-7

[4] "Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home.

[5] Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy, for merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands.

Isaiah 60: 1-7

[6] Vast caravans of camels will converge on you, the camels of Midian and Ephah. The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense and will come worshiping the LORD.

[7] The flocks of Kedar will be given to you, and the rams of Nebaioth will be brought for my altars. I will accept their offerings, and I will make my Temple glorious."

Isaiah 60: 10, 16b, 22

[10] "Foreigners will come to rebuild your towns, and their kings will serve you. For though I have destroyed you in my anger, I will now have mercy on you through my grace.

[16b] "You will know at last that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.

[22] "The smallest family will become a thousand people, and the tiniest group will become a mighty nation. At the right time, I, the LORD, will make it happen."

From this chapter and onward, Isaiah predicts the glories of the restored Hebrew people. In a secondary sense, they are also true of the Church, for we are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Galatians 3:8-9

"What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith."



**GOD WILL
MAKE IT
HAPPEN**

The 3 Great Truths

1. The Glorious Light

2. The Great Treasures

3. The God Who Makes It Happen

Introduction:

A key to understand the truth of this chapter is to remember that Isaiah did not separate the material world from the spiritual world. When he speaks of the city of Jerusalem he is also talking about the spiritual body of the church, and when he refers to the material restoration of the New Jerusalem he is also foreseeing the spiritual restoration of the Church identified as Zion.

I. THE GLORIOUS LIGHT

v.1a - *"Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see..."*

"Arise, shine; for your light has come".

With the double imperative **"arise, shine"** the prophet invokes the power of God to bring the people of Israel from their prostrate position in the dust of sin to the dignity of standing.

Isaiah 59: 9- 10 *"So there is no justice among us, and we know nothing about right living. We look for light but find only darkness. We look for bright skies but walk in gloom. We grope like the blind along a wall, feeling our way like people without eyes. Even at brightest noontime, we stumble as though it were dark. Among the living, we are like the dead."*

Light has come – so God tells us to respond to it, and to arise and shine.

Responding to the light.

- **RECEIVE** God's light - your light has come
- **SERVICE** to perform - arise, shine.

v.1b - 2 - *"For the glory of the LORD rises to shine on you. Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you."*

When the light of God's favor has come, we must respond: arise, shine.

Light, brighter than the light of the sun, is as close as we can come to describe the shining glory of God's redeeming presence.

As the sun is the source of light in the physical universe, so God is the source of light in the spiritual universe.

Only as the light of God rises over the church and within the hearts of its people will the church reflect the glory of His redeeming presence.

What is this Glorious Light?

1. The Light of Redemption.

Isaiah's analogy of light fills in the details of his earlier prophecy in **Isaiah 9:2**. *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined"*

The analogy of light also links back in the history of Israel to the exile in Egypt *"But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings"* (**Ex.10:23**).

In contrast between the light and darkness, John says of Christ, *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it"* (**John 1:4–5**).

Against the darkest of darkness, the light of the glory of God is even more radiant and brilliant.

2. The Light of Excellence.

A bright light on a dark night will always get our attention.

Excellence is an overworked word and an underachieved goal in contemporary society.

Plato wrote in The Republic, **“Excellence is rare.”**
Almost everyone strives for excellence, but few achieve it.

John Gardner: **“Unless our philosophers and our plumbers are excellent, neither our philosophies nor our pipes will hold water.”** At best, human excellence is temporary and partial.

The eternal excellence that God promises for His people is another reflection of the light of His glory.

Only the knowledge of the Lord can transform a **“worm”** into a place of eternal excellence and a **“joy of many generations.”**

II. THE GREAT TREASURES

The rising of the light of the glory of God upon the city will turn its rags to riches.

v. 4 - *"Your sons shall come from afar"*

Sons and daughters of Israel will begin to come home.
Regathering.

Application: Those who have left will come back.
What we have lost will be recovered. Whatever we
own will be returned.

v. 5 - "Merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands."

Not only will we receive the treasure of our people but also the literal treasure of the merchants.

God will give you people that are treasures and blessings.

Application: We will be enriched with all the goodness and blessings of our people and of others.

v.6 - "The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense."

Why do the nations bestow such riches on little Israel? Why should others sow blessings to us?

I. they recognize that they give to God. *"They bring their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the LORD your God, and to the Holy One of Israel."*

II. they see the work of God. Because He has glorified you; because they see God in you. So they willingly give and serve. *"The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you."*

By the drawing power of His light, God Himself says, **(v. 7b) *"and I will make my Temple glorious."***

Application: God promised to restore the glory of Israel, Abraham's offspring, and the promise is applicable to the church and the faithful believers because we are the spiritual descendants of Abraham through Christ.

III. THE GOD WHO MAKES IT HAPPEN

When we remember the context of Isaiah's prophecy, it makes it even more precious. Isaiah was mostly written under the shadow of coming defeat and exile. **DESTRUCTION.** The enemy came and destroyed them and they wondered why God did not seem to rescue them from their trials. Why?

There is problem with God's people.

Isaiah 59:1- 3 *"Listen! The LORD's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore."*

- Jerusalem suffered economic impoverishment as well as spiritual darkness because of its sin.
- The population had been decimated by siege and exile.
- Commerce had ground to a halt because the city lay in ruins.
- Treasuries of the city had been sacked by its Babylonian conquerors, and the gold and silver of its Holy Temple had been stripped for tribute to its enemies.

How did they sin?

- 1. Isaiah 59:3a** *"Your hands are the hands of murderers, and your fingers are filthy with sin"*. Their hands are defiled with blood: They practiced and approved of violence and murder.
- 2. Isaiah 59: 3b** *"Your lips are full of lies, and your mouth spews corruption"*. They lied with ease and regularity.

3. Isaiah 59:4 - 6 No one cares about being fair and honest.

They did not share God's heart for what was fair and good; everyone simply thought in terms of their own good. Both justice and truth were distant concepts, and instead of justice there were empty words, instead of truth there were lies. They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity, as if they were snakes giving birth to more evil serpents, bringing nothing but death and more evil.

4. Isaiah 59: 7 The act of violence is in their hands.

Their feet run to evil: Both hands and feet are given to sin. But it doesn't end there; even their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity.

It was sin that separated them from God and sin separates us from God.

- **Sin separates us from fellowship with God,** because at the point of our sin, we no longer think alike with God.
- **Sin separates us from the blessing of God,** because at the point of our sin, we are not trusting God and relying on Him.
- **Sin separates us from the benefits of God's love.** The Prodigal Son (**Luke 15:11-32**) was still loved by the father but didn't enjoy the benefits of his love when he was in sin.

Sin separates us from the protection of God.

But **Isaiah 60:10** says, - ***"For though I have destroyed you in my anger, I will now have mercy on you through my grace."***

Why such people received mercy?

v.16 - *"You shall know..."*

It is not because Israel is so great and has earned this as an achievement through hard work. God does it that *"You will know at last that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel."*

He does a work so great that all will know it is HIS DOING.

This promise would not be fulfilled because the people of God were so good. Rather, the LORD said that it would be seen as the work of My hands, that I may be glorified.

CONCLUSION:

Isaiah 60 is a turn of events for Israel where all their past mistakes, sins and punishments were wiped away, not because of something good they did but because of God's mercy. God chose to act in His mercy. ***"I will now have mercy on you... So you will know that I am the Mighty One of Israel"***

A turn of events also happened in our fallen history where something good happened because somebody made it happen, that's when the grace of God was poured out on Calvary, ***"so that you will know that He is your Saviour and Redeemer."***

Jesus our Savior, Redeemer, the Mighty One can turn the previous chapters of your life into a new chapter.

"At the right time, I, the LORD, will make it happen." For he says: At an acceptable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! (2 Cor. 6: 2)

To those dispossessed people of God, Isaiah pointed them to a day when they shall inherit the promise.

