



ISAIAH 60

THE GLORIOUS NEW DAY ~ ZION'S WEALTH ~ ZION'S RESTORATION ~ ZION'S HONOR ~ EVERYTHING MADE BETTER ~ ZION'S GLORY

To understand the context of Isaiah 60, we must begin with the end of the previous chapter: “The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob” (59:20). The language is literal. Zion is the physical city of Jerusalem, and the word Jacob refers to the nation of Israel. The Redeemer-Messiah is literally coming to the nation to establish His covenant with Israel (v. 21). The covenant involves the Holy Spirit coming upon the Jewish people, correlating to the New Covenant of Jeremiah 31:31 and Ezekiel 36:26–27.

The message of Isaiah 60 extends through chapter 66, weaving in predictions of end-times salvation and judgment, all in the context of a restored nation of Israel at the Lord’s coming. Consequently, chapter 60 speaks of Israel’s future and both its spiritual and national deliverance.

English Standard (ESV)	Passion Notes	Passion Translation (TPT)
<p>Isaiah 60:1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.</p>	<p>a 60:1 Or “break forth with the light of (a new) day.” See Eph. 5:27. Applying vv. 1–2 to the church, we see Jesus as the Light that shines upon us (John 8:12; 2 Cor. 4:6) and the light of the church shining upon the nations (Matt. 5:14–16).</p> <p>b 60:1 Here Isaiah begins a new section in his masterpiece. The theme of these last seven chapters is The Glorious New Day, corresponding to the Feast of Tabernacles. The Hebrew word for “glory” appears twenty-three times in chs. 60–66. A possible outline of these chapters is: (60) A New Day. (61) A New Priesthood. (62) A New Wedding. (63) A New Mercy. (64) A New Prayer. (65) A New Heaven and a New Earth. (66) A New Jerusalem.</p> <p>c 60:2 Or “thick clouds.”</p> <p>d 60:2 Or “breaks out over you.”</p> <p>e 60:2 See Isa. 60:19–22; Mal. 4:2; Rev. 21:2–3.</p> <p>f 60:3 Or “Nations will walk by your light.” Light is often seen as a biblical metaphor for understanding and revelation. See Eph. 1:18.</p> <p>g 60:3 Or “to the brightness of your sunrise.” The sunrise of our new day came at the resurrection of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>The Glorious New Day</p> <p>Isaiah 60:1 Rise up in splendor and be radiant, a for your light has dawned, and Yahweh’s glory b now streams from you! ² Look carefully! Darkness blankets the earth, and thick gloom c covers the nations, but Yahweh arises d upon you and the brightness of his glory appears over you! e ³ Nations will be attracted to your radiant light f and kings to the sunrise-glory of your new day. g</p>

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<p>⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.</p> <p>⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD. ⁷ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house.</p> <p>⁸ Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? ⁹ For the coastlands shall hope for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you beautiful.</p> <p>¹⁰ Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in my wrath I struck you, but in my favor I have had mercy on you. ¹¹ Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession. ¹² For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you shall perish; those nations shall be utterly laid waste. ¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious. ¹⁴ The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.</p>	<p>h 60:5 Or “As you understand you will sparkle.” The Hebrew word (nahar) can also be translated “flow together”— “As you understand, you will flow together.”</p> <p>i 60:5 This is not simply fish, but the fullness of the nations, the sea of humanity. See Rom. 11:25.</p> <p>j 60:5 Or “forces (armies), virtues, strength, might, power, riches, goods.”</p> <p>k 60:6 Midian was a son of Abraham and Keturah who settled near the Gulf of Elath.</p> <p>l 60:6 Ephah was a grandson of Abraham and one of the five sons of Midian. Camels were seen as a symbol of wealth. See Judges 6:5.</p> <p>m 60:7 Kedar was one of Ishmael's sons and his tribe became the dominant military power of the Ishmaelites in North Arabia (see Hitti, History of the Arabs, 42).</p> <p>n 60:7 Rams were brought as “consecration offerings” for the ordination of priests. See Ex. 29.</p> <p>o 60:7 Nebaioth was the firstborn son of Ishmael and Esau's brother-in-law and becomes a metonymy for the Ishmaelites. See Gen. 28:9; 36:3.</p> <p>p 60:7 We are now the glorious temple of God, adorned with even more glory than we comprehend. See John 17:22; Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 3:16–17.</p> <p>q 60:8 See 1 Kings 18:44; Heb. 12:1–2; Rev. 1:7.</p> <p>r 60:8 See Song. 1:15; 2:14.</p> <p>s 60:8 Or “windows” or “dovecotes.”</p> <p>t 60:9 Or “the ships of Tarshish.”</p> <p>u 60:9 See John 17:22; Rom. 8:30.</p> <p>v 60:10 Or “sons of foreigners.”</p> <p>w 60:11 See John 10:9–10. Jesus Christ is always ready to receive any who come to him.</p> <p>x 60:12 See Ps. 2:12.</p> <p>y 60:13 Or “I will make my footstool glorious.”</p>	<p>⁴ Lift up your eyes higher! Look all around you and believe, for your sons are returning from far away and your daughters are being tenderly carried home. Watch as they all gather together, eager to come back to you!</p> <p>Zion's Wealth</p> <p>⁵ Then you will understand and be radiant. h Your heart will be thrilled and swell with joy. The fullness of the sea will flow to you i and the wealth j of the nations will be transferred to you! ⁶ Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels loaded with goods from Midian k and Ephah. l All the wealthy merchants from Sheba will come, bearing gold and frankincense and singing the praises of Yahweh! ⁷ All the flocks of Kedar m will be gathered to you, and the rams n of Nebaioth o will be yours as acceptable sacrifices on my altar, and I will adorn with more glory my glorious temple. p</p> <p>⁸ Who are these who soar like clouds, q flying like doves r into their portals? s ⁹ Indeed, the distant islands eagerly look for me, with their large ships t leading the way. They are bringing Zion's children from afar. They come with offerings of silver and gold to honor the name of Yahweh, your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you! u</p> <p>Zion's Restoration</p> <p>¹⁰ Foreigners v will rebuild your walls and their kings will serve you. Even though I punished you in my anger, I will restore you in my gracious favor and show you my tender compassion. ¹¹ Your gateways will always remain wide open w around the clock to let in the procession of kings bringing their constant stream of the riches of the nations. ¹² The nation or kingdom that refuses to serve you will perish and be utterly ruined. x ¹³ Lebanon's glory will be yours. The cypress, fir, and pine will come to you to beautify the site of my holy place. And I will glorify the place where I rest my feet. y ¹⁴ The descendants of your oppressors will come bowing low before you, and all who hated you will bow down at your feet. They will call you The Beautiful City of Yahweh, Glorious Zion of the Holy One of Israel.</p>

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<p>¹⁵ Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age. ¹⁶ You shall suck the milk of nations; you shall nurse at the breast of kings; and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.</p> <p>¹⁷ Instead of bronze I will bring gold, and instead of iron I will bring silver; instead of wood, bronze, instead of stones, iron. I will make your overseers peace and your taskmasters righteousness.</p> <p>¹⁸ Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.</p> <p>¹⁹ The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. ²¹ Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. ²² The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it.</p>	<p>z 60:15 Or “an eternal excellency.”</p> <p>aa 60:15 Read this verse again with the understanding of its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>ab 60:16 This is a figure of speech for receiving the best from the nations and being enriched by kings.</p> <p>ac 60:17 These items are seen elsewhere in Scripture as symbols. Copper (brass) is a frequent symbol of judgment and gold a common symbol of the divine nature. God replaces our guilt with godliness. Unyielding iron can be seen as a symbol of stubbornness and silver is a common symbol of redemption.</p> <p>ad 60:19 See 1 John 1:5; Rev. 21:23.</p> <p>ae 60:20 Or “the moon withdrawing itself.</p> <p>af 60:20 The dark night of our sin and pain and grief are ended by the work of Jesus on the cross and the work of the Holy Spirit within us. See John 14–16; 19:30; Rom. 8:14–25.</p> <p>ag 60:22 Or “a tribe.”</p> <p>ah 60:22 See Zech. 12:8.</p> <p>ai 60:22 See Eccl. 3:1–8; Acts 2:1–4; Gal. 4:4.</p>	<p>Zion’s Honor</p> <p>¹⁵ “Although once you were rejected and despised, undesirable for anyone to pass through you, I will make you majestic forever, z a source of joy for every generation. aa ¹⁶ You will guzzle the milk of nations ab and suckle at the breast of kings. You will know me intimately that I am Yahweh, your Savior, for I am the Mighty Hero who rules over Jacob’s tribes, your Kinsman-Redeemer!</p> <p>Everything Made Better</p> <p>¹⁷ “I will replace your copper with gold, your iron with silver, ac your wood with copper, and your stone with iron. I will install peace and prosperity as your government and righteousness as your overseer. ¹⁸ Threats of violence will no longer be heard in your land, nor will destruction and ruin be found within your borders. You will name your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.</p> <p>Zion’s Glory</p> <p>¹⁹ “The sun will no longer be needed to brighten the day, nor the moon to shine at night, for Yahweh will be your unfailing light; your God will be your glory! ad ²⁰ There will be no more sunsets or new moons, ae for Yahweh will be your everlasting light and your days of sadness will be over. af ²¹ All your people will be righteous and will permanently possess the land. I planted them there as a tender sapling, the work of my own hands to display my glory. ²² I will multiply the least of you into a thousand ag and the weakest one into a mighty nation. ah I am Yahweh, and when the right time comes, ai I will accomplish it swiftly!</p>

Bible Knowledge Commentary

JOHN A. MARTIN

- PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO COME (chap. 60)

- **God’s glory to come to Israel.**

- **60:1-3.** Because of the Lord’s redeeming work (59:19a, 20-21), light (blessing) will fall on Israel, who in turn is to shine forth, as a spiritual light to the nations, revealing God’s Word and glory to them. In that way, she will be instrumental in removing the spiritual darkness that pervades the world (cf. 29:18; John 12:35; Acts 26:18; Rom. 2:19; Col. 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9). When the LORD returns to live among His people (Isa. 60:2) the nations will be attracted to the light of His glory (cf. vv. 19-20) and will flock to Israel for the light (the blessings of salvation from spiritual darkness). This will occur in the Millennium. Though everyone entering the Millennium will be saved, people will be born during that 1,000-year period of time. Many of them will come to salvation because of God’s work on Israel’s behalf.

- **The Nations' Wealth to Come to Israel.**

- **60:4-9.** At the beginning of the Millennium when Israel will be regathered to her land, her sons will come from great distances (cf. v. 9). Also Israel will rejoice because redeemed people from the nations (v. 5; the "sheep" of Matt. 25:31-46) will want to join Israel in her worship in Jerusalem (cf. Zech. 14:16-19). Those people will bring wealth to Israel (cf. Isa. 60:11; 61:6; Hag. 2:7-8; Zech. 14:14). Examples of the kinds of wealth to be brought are gold ... incense. ... flocks ... rams and silver (Isa. 60:6-7, 9). Examples of the nations that will bring those riches are: (a) Midian, south of the Dead Sea; (b) Ephah, a branch of the Midianites as Midian was Ephah's father (Gen. 25:4; 1 Chron. 1:33); (c) Sheba, probably the Sabeans in southwest Arabia (see comments on Seba in Isa. 43:3); (d) Kedar in northern Arabia; (e) Nebaioth, apparently an Arabian tribe (Nebaioth was Ishmael's eldest son, Gen. 25:13); and (f) Tarshish (probably in southwestern Spain; see comments on Isa. 23:1), whose ships will bring not only riches but also Israelites. Some of this wealth will be used as offerings (60:7; cf. 56:6-7) and some will be used to adorn the temple (cf. 60:13), undoubtedly the millennial temple (Ezek. 40-43). This wealth, brought in haste (Isa. 60:8), will all be to honor ... the LORD, who will have manifested His splendor (glory) in Israel (cf. v. 21; 35:2; 46:13; 49:3; 55:5; 61:3; 62:3).

- **The Nations to Acknowledge Israel.**

- **60:10-14.** Israel will occupy the foremost position in the world's political, economic, religious, and social structures. Foreigners and kings (cf. vv. 3, 11) will assist in rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, evidence of God's favor and compassion in contrast with His anger (cf. 57:16-18). The flow of wealth into Jerusalem will be steady (60:11). And any nation that might try to rise up against Israel will be defeated by God (v. 12). Even wood will be brought from Lebanon for the temple construction, thus again making it a place of beauty for the Lord (cf. v. 7). God called the temple His sanctuary and the place of His feet. People from the nations that formerly despised Israel will recognize that Jerusalem or Zion, is God's chosen city, the place where He dwells.

- **Righteousness to Come to Israel (60:15-22).**

- **60:15-16.** During this time of blessing righteousness will be evident throughout the land. In contrast with Israel's having been forsaken and hated (cf. v. 14), God will cause others to take pride in her. Much as a nursing child gets sustenance from its mother, so Israel will be sustained by the wealth of the nations (v. 16; cf. vv. 5, 11; 61:6). This blessing will cause Israel to recognize all the more that the LORD really is the unique God of the world, her Savior (see comments on 43:11), Redeemer (see comments on 41:14), and her Mighty One (cf. 49:26).
- **60:17-22.** Wealth to be brought to Jerusalem (cf. vv. 5-9) will include not only gold and silver (already mentioned in v. 9), but also bronze and iron. The city will be peaceful and joyful. Also the Lord will protect her as her Light and Glory (v. 19; cf. vv. 1-2). Her people will be righteous, displaying God's splendor (v. 21; cf. comments on v. 9), and they will be numerous (v. 22). The Millennium will be a utopia for which many people have longed.

TONIGHT'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If we hadn't spent so much time studying the relatively "negative" messages delivered by Isaiah in the first half, you would think these people were actually not the same exiles from Babylon. The first section talks about the people of God "shining." How does that work, exactly. How do we shine?
2. There is a definite change of seasons going on here. So much good being proclaimed by Isaiah, you tend to not pay much attention to details. One of the changes mentioned is that wealth will begin flowing back into Israel from the surrounding nations. Some commentators believe this reality will come with the

Millennium and not before. What say you? Is there any evidence the nation of Israel is beginning to experience that release of wealth now? What would that even look like?

3. When was the last time you experienced a major change in “seasons” in your life? Was that change from increase to decrease, or decrease to increase? Typically, how long do your seasons seem to last with you and God?
4. We are all currently waist-deep in a Covid-19 season. How long do you think this season will last? If it goes longer than you think, maybe past the first of the year, what changes will you need to make in your life to adapt to a prolonged coronavirus season?
5. We believe the season known as “The Great Tribulation” will last 7 years. This section of scripture seems to say that believers on Earth during that time are encouraged to, “Look carefully! Darkness blankets the earth, and thick gloom covers the nations, but Yahweh arises upon you and the brightness of his glory appears over you!” How are you preparing for this reality? How do you make yourself ready for an outpouring of God?