

Isaiah 60

As a result of the events of Isaiah 59 (Israel's repentance and spiritual regeneration at the end of the Tribulation, along with the Second Coming of Christ), the Messianic Kingdom will be established. Therefore, Isaiah 60 addresses the manner in which the Jewish people will be blessed during the Messianic Kingdom. You will find Isaiah 60-66, the last seven chapters of this book, to be well worth your time.

Is. 60:1 "Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

The words “*light*” and “*glory*” of Isaiah 60:1, when taken through the full counsel of God’s word, are truly fascinating. Did you realize that the glory, which appeared to Moses in the form of *fire* (Exodus 3:1-3) and to Israel in the form of *fire, cloud, thunder, and lightning* (Exodus 19:16-18), later entered into the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-35) as well as King Solomon’s temple (2Chronicles 5:11-14). However, it departed from Solomon’s temple and returned to heaven in Ezekiel 9-11, but came back to earth at Jesus’ First Coming (Luke 2: 8-9). This stands to reason since Jesus is the glory of the *Father* (John 1:14). When Jesus (the *glory*) was rejected at His First Coming, the *glory* went back to heaven when He ascended to the Father (Acts 1:9) only to return to live in all believers during the Church age (Acts 2:1-3; Colossians 1:27). When the church is taken to heaven at the Rapture, it will be *clouds (glory)* that receive her (1Thessalonians 4:16-17) as she departs from the earth. God’s *glory* will once again return to the earth at the Second Coming of Christ (Matthew 16:27; 24:30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-16) to dwell in Jerusalem in the Person of Jesus (John 1:14; Psalm 48:1-2; Isaiah 2:2-4; Ezekiel 48:35). In fact, when Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation to rescue spiritually regenerated Israel, *the glory of the Lord* will serve as the *light* of the nation (Isaiah 60:1-3). It will, consequently, cover the land of Israel, since the Jews, covered by this glory, will inhabit the land (Isaiah 35:1-2). Therefore, it will cover Millennial Jerusalem as well (Isaiah 4:3-6). This same glory will also serve as *a wall of fire around Jerusalem* (Zechariah 2:5) throughout the Millennium as well as dwell in the holy of holies of the Millennial temple (Ezekiel 43:5). No wonder Isaiah stated that it would serve as the nation’s *rear guard* throughout the Messianic Kingdom (Isaiah 58:8). This is the *light, the light* of His *glory* that the nation desires as she repents at the end of the Tribulation (read the notes associated with Isaiah 59:9). Wow!

Is. 60:2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth, And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you, And His glory will appear upon you.

When the *glory* returns to the earth in the form of the Messiah, it will shine forth during a time of *deep darkness*. In other words, severe *darkness* will have engulfed the heavens and earth before the Second Coming (also read Matthew 24:29-30). Consequently, there will be no doubt as to who Jesus is when He returns, for the light of His *glory* will pierce a *darkness* of unimaginably intensity. No wonder the Scriptures teach that *every eye will see Him* (Revelation 1:7). How could they miss Him?

Note: It will also be Israel’s darkest hour shortly before the Second Coming. It will appear as though the Antichrist will accomplish his goal of wiping the Jews off the earth. What a glorious event the church will witness when she returns with Christ (Revelation 19:11-16)! You can read about this event in the notes associated with Isaiah 13:3. Note too from Isaiah 60:2 that God’s *glory* will provide light for all the land originally promised to the Jews—*And His glory will appear upon you*, the “*you*” being the Jews.

Is. 60:3 "And nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

The Gentile *nations* will not only honor the Jews throughout the Millennium but desire to serve them as well. Much of the remainder of this chapter addresses this most remarkable subject. This Gentile attraction will result from the presence of the *light, God’s glory, the brightness* that will shine upon the Jews (also read the notes associated with Isaiah 66:18). It is obvious that Jerusalem will be greatly blessed as a result of the honor bestowed on the Jewish nation—a subject that Isaiah addresses intermittently in Isaiah 60-66.

Is. 60:4 ¶ "Lift up your eyes round about, and see; They all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, And your daughters will be carried in the arms.

It will be the Gentiles who will carry the Jews back to their homeland (also read Isaiah 14:2, 49:22, and 66:18-21). We must not forget that *angels* will assist in this regathering as well (Matthew 24:31). Can you imagine Jerusalem's excitement as she watches her people return?

Is. 60:5 "Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you.

Not only will the Gentiles assist Israel as she returns to her homeland (v.4), but they will share their *wealth* with her as well (v.5). No wonder the Jews will *be radiant ...and rejoice*. Israel will finally reap the benefits of being the Father's *first-born* (Exodus 4:22), a double portion indeed (we discussed this topic in association with Isaiah 43:1).

Is. 60:6 "A multitude of camels will cover you, The young camels of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba will come; They will bring gold and frankincense, And will bear good news of the praises of the Lord.

Verses 6-9 list the names of a few Gentile nations and how they will support and encourage the Jews during the Millennium. We could discuss in depth the background of these nations, but you can research that yourself if you desire. The main point here is that these Gentile nations, who serve as an example of how all Gentile nations will respond during the Millennium, will not only love and respect the Jews, but honor them with their wealth as well.

The first nation mentioned is *Midian*, a nation which sprang forth from *Abraham* and *Keturah* (Genesis 25:1-2). *Moses fled from...Pharaoh to Midian* (Exodus 2:15) and became the son-in-law of *Jethro... the priest of Midian* (Exodus 2:16-21; 3:1)—confirming that a friendly relationship existed between Israel and the Midianites. The Midianites later, however, attempted to corrupt *Israel* as she traveled from Egypt to Canaan (Numbers 22:2-7) and even made war with her in the days of *Gideon* (Judges 6-8). All of this enmity will be nonexistent during the Millennium.

Ephah was a son of *Midian* (Genesis 25:4) and, therefore, Abraham's grandson.

Sheba, the queen of which visited Solomon in 1Kings 10:1-10, is present day Yemen. Yemen is an Arab nation that is almost entirely Muslim.

During the Millennium, these nations will bring much wealth to Israel as well as *bear good news of the praises of the Lord*.

Is. 60:7 "All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth will minister to you; They will go up with acceptance on My altar, And I shall glorify My glorious house.

Kedar was the second son of *Ishmael* (Genesis 25:13; 1Chronicles 1:29), an Arab tribe. Their *flocks* will be sent to Israel during the Millennium.

Nebaioth was the *first-born* son of *Ishmael* (Genesis 25:13). He was evidently the chief of an Arab tribe which bore his name. *The rams of Nebaioth* will be sacrificed on the *altar* to *glorify* the Millennial temple. These sacrifices will not be offered for the purpose of covering or

removing sin, but will serve as a reminder of what Jesus accomplished beforehand through the cross. (The notes associated with Isaiah 19:21, 50:4, and 56:2 tie in well here).

Is. 60:8 "Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like the doves to their lattices?"

It is uncertain as to what this verse is making reference. Even Isaiah has questions concerning what he is observing. Whatever he is seeing is in flight, so it could be any number of things, maybe even *angels* since they assist in Israel's return (Matthew 24:31). It could possibly be airplanes, but one thing is certain. Even though we can't be dogmatic about it now, we will know exactly what it is after we return with Christ. Why? We will witness it firsthand.

Is. 60:9 "Surely the coastlands will wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, For the name of the Lord your God, And for the Holy One of Israel because He has glorified you."

In Isaiah 60:9, we find that *the ships of Tarshish* will assist in transporting the Jews back to their homeland. (The notes associated with Isaiah 23:1 discuss the fact that *Tarshish* is a name that was given to a variety of colonies established by the Phoenicians.) Therefore, large numbers of Jews will be transported through the assistance supplied by these Gentiles. These Gentile territories will give *Their silver and their gold* to the returning Jews for the purpose of honoring God and acknowledging the manner in which He has *glorified* the Hebrew people.

Is. 60:10 ¶ "And foreigners will build up your walls, And their kings will minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, And in My favor I have had compassion on you."

As in verses such as Isaiah 14:1-2, 45:14-17, 49:22-23, and 60:1-9, Isaiah 60:10-14 continues to describe how the Gentile nations (*foreigners*) will serve the Jews during the Millennium. The Gentiles will assist in the building up of Millennial Jerusalem (Isaiah 60:10). In fact, these Gentiles *will minister to* the Jews in a variety of ways throughout the Millennium.

Note: Jerusalem will need to be rebuilt, having been destroyed by the earthquake that occurs when Jesus stands on the Mount of Olives at the end of The Campaign of Armageddon (Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 16:18-19). The notes associated with Isaiah 13:3 (**Stage 8 of The Campaign of Armageddon**) give additional input concerning the subject.

God has *struck* Israel severely during her times of rebellion and will continue to do so until she repents at the end of the Tribulation. As we learned in Isaiah 40:2, Israel is the only nation to receive *Double for all her sins*. However, she will be shown much *compassion* once she turns from her wrongdoing, receiving a double blessing due to her *first-born* status with Jehovah (Exodus 4:22).

Is. 60:11 "And your gates will be open continually; They will not be closed day or night, So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, With their kings led in procession."

The *gates* of Millennial Jerusalem *will not be closed day or night* so *the wealth* of the Gentile nations can enter the city. Also, Millennial Jerusalem will be ten miles square (Ezekiel 48:30-35), meaning that ample space will be available to store this enormous stockpile of riches.

Is. 60:12 "For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish, And the nations will be utterly ruined."

According to Zechariah 14:16-19, there will be fixed dates on which all the Gentiles are to bring their wealth into Millennial Jerusalem. If any Gentile nation or kingdom fails to comply, it *will perish and be utterly ruined* (Isaiah 60:11-12). After all, according to Zechariah 14:16-19, *no rain* will fall on its land if such disobedience occurs.

Is. 60:13 "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, The juniper, the box tree, and the cypress together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I shall make the place of My feet glorious.

The Gentiles will also assist in the rebuilding of the *sanctuary*, the Millennial temple. The phrase, "*glory of Lebanon*," is interesting in that, just as King Solomon's temple was constructed of *cedars from Lebanon* (1Kings 5:1-6), the Millennial temple will be made of the same. This temple will be *glorious* (Isaiah 60:13), not only outwardly, but inwardly as well. After all, God's *glory* will dwell there throughout the Millennium (read Ezekiel 43:1-7).

Note: The phrase, "*And I shall make the place of My feet glorious*" (Isaiah 60:13), ties in perfectly with the phrase, "*this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever*" (Ezekiel 43:7). Is the word of God not amazing?

Is. 60:14 "And the sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, And all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; And they will call you the city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

The sons of those who had previously afflicted the Jews will submit to Israel during the Millennium. They will recognize, unlike their forefathers, that Jerusalem belongs to the Jews only. In fact, they will call Jerusalem the city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. It is fascinating to study the turmoil that has surrounded Jerusalem just since 1948. There has been continual strife between Israel and the Arab nations concerning ownership and occupation. This strife will permanently end when Jesus returns and establishes the Millennial Kingdom. All other peace efforts, at best, will be temporary and ineffective.

Is. 60:15 ¶ "Whereas you have been forsaken and hated With no one passing through, I will make you an everlasting pride, A joy from generation to generation.

The special place that Jerusalem will occupy in the Millennium is addressed in Isaiah 60:15-22. Instead of being *forsaken and hated With no one passing through*, she will be greatly exalted and *A joy from generation to generation*.

Is. 60:16 "You will also suck the milk of nations, And will suck the breast of kings; Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

Jerusalem (and the Jews, of course) will receive the wealth and favor of the Gentile *nations* and *kings* throughout the Millennium. This will cause Israel to understand that only *the Lord*, their *Savior* and *Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob*, could bring about such a powerful turn of events.

Is. 60:17 "Instead of bronze I will bring gold, And instead of iron I will bring silver, And instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. And I will make peace your administrators, And righteousness your overseers.

Millennial Jerusalem will be adorned with *gold, silver, bronze, and iron* instead of materials of lesser value. Godly leaders will also rule; therefore, *peace* and *righteousness* will prevail. The

notes associated with Isaiah 54:13 address who these godly leaders will be.

Is. 60:18 "Violence will not be heard again in your land, Nor devastation or destruction within your borders; But you will call your walls salvation, and your gates praise.

No *Violence, devastation, or destruction* will exist in the *land* during the Millennium. Therefore, Millennial Jerusalem's *walls* will be called *salvation*, and her *gates* will be called *praise*.

Is. 60:19 "No longer will you have the sun for light by day, Nor for brightness will the moon give you light; But you will have the Lord for an everlasting light, And your God for your glory.

The majority of the *light* that will shine over Millennial Jerusalem, in fact over all the land of Israel, will be generated by God's *glory*. This *glory* will greatly supercede the *light* from *the sun* and *the moon*, as is verified by the following verse. A quick read of the notes associated with Isaiah 60:1-3 might also be helpful.

Is. 60:20 "Your sun will set no more, Neither will your moon wane; For you will have the Lord for an everlasting light, And the days of your mourning will be finished.

As in Isaiah 60:19, we again see that God's glory will serve as *light* for the Jews during the Millennium. It will greatly exceed the light provided by the *moon* and the *sun* (read the notes associated with Isaiah 24:23 and 30:26 for more input).

Is. 60:21 "Then all your people will be righteous; They will possess the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.

We must be careful with the phrase, "*Then all your people will be righteous.*" By no means does this teach that every Jew who has ever lived will obtain a righteous standing before God—although many within Israel have concluded that it does. Paul spent a great deal of time in the book of Romans proving that a Jew is not right with God just because he is a Jew. The phrase, "*Then all your people will be righteous,*" actually points to the end of the Tribulation, when every Jew on the earth (at that time) accepts Jesus as Messiah. Israel will then *possess the land* originally promised to Abraham in Genesis 15:18 so God *may be glorified*. There is no doubt that Jehovah will receive much glory as a result of fulfilling His unconditional promises to the physical Jewish nation. His trustworthiness will be undeniable.

The phrase, "*The branch of My planting,*" points to the fact that the Jewish nation is God's *vineyard* (Isaiah 5:1-7). During the Millennium she will finally *produce good grapes* instead of *worthless ones*.

Note: Isaiah 60:21 states that Israel *will possess the land forever*. From Revelation 21:1, it is clear that the present heavens and earth will one day pass away. How then is this apparent contradiction reconciled? The answer is found in the notes associated with Isaiah 56:3. There we find that the word "*forever*" in the Hebrew points to a specified period of time that is totally dependent on the context of its usage. A quick read of those notes might be helpful.

Is. 60:22 "The smallest one will become a clan, And the least one a mighty nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time."

Israel will experience a population explosion of unmatched proportions during the Millennium,

all to God's glory. After all, He will have taken the smallest (Deuteronomy 7:7), as well as the most hated and persecuted nation on the earth, and prevented her extinction. This is absolutely amazing considering Israel's history. Truly, what a mighty God we serve.