

Glory of Zion

Isaiah 60:1-13

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Isaiah 60:1-13 – The Kingdom glory of Israel (NIV)

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. ⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord. ⁷ All Kedar’s flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple. ⁸ “Who are these that fly along like clouds, like doves to their nests? ⁹ Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your children from afar, with their silver and gold, to the honor of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor. ¹⁰ “Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you. Though in anger I struck you, in favor I will show you compassion. ¹¹ Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that people may bring you the wealth of the nations— their kings led in triumphal procession. ¹² For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined. ¹³ “The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the juniper, the fir and the cypress together, to adorn my sanctuary; and I will glorify the place for my feet.

v1 – What did God call His people to do?

Arise, shine; for your light has come: After the thick and desperate darkness described in Isaiah 59:9-10, this is the glorious rescue from the Redeemer. Light has come — so God tells His people to respond to it, and to *arise and shine*.

- Darkness is for lying down; light is for rising up. Darkness is for gloom and sleep; light is for shining.
- First we receive God’s light (*your light has come*), and then we have a service to perform (*arise, shine*). You

can’t shine until your light has come, but once it has, there is something wrong if you don’t arise and shine.

What does it mean to arise and shine?

Matthew 5:16 – *Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

It is not our light that should shine before others, it is the light of Christ.

- We let our light shine before others when we show compassion, practice humility, generosity, forgiveness, and share the gospel.

v2 – What is this light that appears over God’s people?

This is no earthly light; this is light that emanates from the glory of the LORD. This is like the light of Jesus in the Transfiguration, when His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light (Matthew 17:2).

- Sometimes harsh, bright light can be disturbing or uncomfortable — but not this warm, wonderful light that pulsates from the glory of the LORD.

v3 – What does the light of the Lord attract?

Gentiles shall come to your light: When the LORD lifts up His glorious light over Israel, the Gentile nations shall see it and be attracted to the light. Even kings will be attracted to the brightness of Israel’s rising.

- This will be ultimately fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom when Israel is lifted up among all nations.

How does this passage stand in opposition to replacement theology?

The fact that the LORD speaks of the Gentiles here as subjects of the prophecy shows He speaks to Israel as Israel.

v4 – What does it mean your sons shall come from afar?

Through this passage, one of the great themes is regathering. We may suppose that in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus, every Jewish person remaining on the earth will be gathered into the land of Israel from every nation on earth. The present-day regathering of Israel is a precious preview of this ultimate and complete regathering.

v5 – What will contribute to the wealth of Israel during the Millennial Kingdom?

The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you: Not only will they receive the treasure of their people, but also the literal treasure of the Gentiles shall come to Israel in the Millennial Kingdom.

- The nations will willingly give them their wealth, much as the Egyptians willingly gave the Israelites riches when they left Egypt (Exodus 12:35-36).

v6 – Why do the nations bestow such riches on Israel?

First, they recognize that they thereby give it 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. Second, they do it because they see the work of God in Israel: because He has glorified you. So they willingly give to and serve Israel (v10: *The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you*).

Should we practice blessing Israel today?

Yes, there is a principle here that applies to all ages; God promised Abraham concerning His descendants...

Genesis 12:3 – *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*”

What are people revealing when they curse Israel today?

That they don't believe God. Cursing Israel is the new antisemitism. They are not so much anti-Israel as they are anti-God.

v7 – What will the nations do in Israel?

To beautify the place of My sanctuary; and I will make the place of My feet glorious: Another reason the riches of the nations pour into Jerusalem in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus will be to build and support the Millennial Temple.

What do we know about the Millennial Kingdom temple?

The Millennial Temple — described in great depth in Ezekiel 40-47 — stands as a place memorializing God's presence and work in history. There will apparently also be priests and sacrifices at the temple, but not for atonement — because atonement was finished at the cross. The sacrifices are for worship, consecration, and perhaps historical reenactment.

v8-9 – How will people be traveling to Israel during the Millennial Kingdom?

By airplanes and ships... technology is a blessing from God and it will flourish during the Millennial Kingdom.

- Speculation: we may even have interdimensional vessels to transport mortals to far away planets so that they may better appreciate the glories of God.
- If the Millennial Kingdom is the front porch of the Eternal State, why wait?

Why did Christian Western Civilization develop more technology than other cultures?

The original scientists sought to learn more about the Creator by studying His creation. God blessed that motivation with discoveries that resulted in technology that has been a blessing to all humanity.

How has science and technology become corrupted?

It has become an idol and mankind has taken credit for what God has done. And it is being used to be a curse to humanity such as nuclear weapons to destroy people and AI to track and control people.

v10 – How will God show Israel compassion during the Millennial Kingdom?

He will arrange for foreigners and even their kings to serve and work for them.

v11 – Why will the gates of Jerusalem be always open?

So that the wealth of nations being brought to Israel will not be hindered.

What does this bring to mind about other gates that will never be closed?

Revelation 21:24-26 – *the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.*

This aspect of Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom foreshadows the New Jerusalem during the Eternal State.

What are these kings of the earth who will bring their glory and honor into the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:24)?

This has to be resurrected children of God...

Revelation 5:9-10 – *You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.*

What will we rule over in eternity?

God's creation... God intended us to be stewards over His creation from the beginning...

Genesis 1:28 – *God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

How does being fruitful and multiply apply in the context of eternity?

This is not revealed in Scripture; but perhaps God is not done being the Creator...

Isaiah 9:6-7 – For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end

How is it the government of the Lord will increase without end?

This is a mystery that has not been revealed in this Age. But is sure sounds like God is not done creating.

v12 – How is it fair that the nations that will not serve Israel will cease to exist?

The Millennial Kingdom will be a New World Order... serving Israel will be equated with serving God.

v13 – What is the place for the Lord’s feet?

This will be the Sanctuary, the temple in Jerusalem. And in a larger sense, it will be the Gentile nations during the Millennial Kingdom...

Psalm 110:1 – The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

What applications come to mind from our discussion?

- All who have the light of the Lord are called to arise and shine
- Replacement theology is in error and renders all Bible prophecy as worthless
- Blessing Israel is equated with blessing God.
- Technology is a blessing from God; but as we turn away from Him, it is becoming a curse.