

The Glory of Zion

Isaiah 60:14-22

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**BIG BEND
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Isaiah 60:14-22 – Kingdom glory contrasted (NIV)

¹⁴ *The children of your oppressors will come bowing before you; all who despise you will bow down at your feet and will call you the City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.* ¹⁵ *“Although you have been forsaken and hated, with no one traveling through, I will make you the everlasting pride and the joy of all generations.* ¹⁶ *You will drink the milk of nations and be nursed at royal breasts. Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.* ¹⁷ *Instead of bronze I will bring you gold, and silver in place of iron. Instead of wood I will bring you bronze, and iron in place of stones. I will make peace your governor and well-being your ruler.* ¹⁸ *No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders, but you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.* ¹⁹ *The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.* ²⁰ *Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.* ²¹ *Then all your people will be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor.* ²² *The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly.”*

v14 – Who will come bowing before Israel?

The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you: Those who previously persecuted Israel, and specifically Jerusalem, will have a different heart and mind in the Millennial Kingdom. Then they will come bowing to Jerusalem; they will recognize it as The City of the LORD.

v15 – How will Israel be *the everlasting pride and joy of all generations*?

Because God used them to bring us His Word and the Messiah. We will be with the Lord in eternity because of the Jewish Messiah and God’s Word written down by Jews.

v16 – What does it mean that Israel *will drink the milk of nations*

They will get physical and spiritual nourishment from other nations as they seek to glorify God.

What will be the result of other nations helping Israel?

Israel will grow in their understanding of their role in being God’s chosen people.

v17 – What does it mean that *instead of bronze I will bring gold*?

God will take what was old — and perhaps functional, but not full of glory — and replace it with far better things. More of a miracle than turning bronze to gold is turning magistrates to righteousness.

v18 – What does this verse have to say about what will characterize the Millennial Kingdom?

Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise: What a glorious transformation! From the violence and unrestrained bloodshed of Isaiah 59:6-8, to walls called Salvation and gates called Praise.

How may we realize some of these Millennial Kingdom promises now?

The King of that Kingdom is here with us and wants to do some of that work on a different level. For example, a home can see a beautiful transformation right now. It can be said of a Christian home, violence shall no longer be heard in your home, neither wasting nor destruction within your walls; but you shall call your walls Salvation and your doors Praise.

Why does God bless Israel so much?

To fulfill His promises to them...

- It is not because Israel is so great and has earned this as an achievement through hard work. He does it that You shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. He does a work so great that all know it is His doing.

v19 – What is this talking about?

The sun shall no longer be your light by day...but the LORD will be to you an everlasting light: This has got to be a reference to the light of the New Jerusalem...

Revelation 21:23 – *The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.*

But just as important as having the LORD as your everlasting light is having God as your glory, and to glory in no one or nothing else.

- In the old order of creation, life was governed by night and day governed by the ever-changing phases of the sun and moon. But in the new order of salvation, the ruling principle is the changeless presence of the Lord.

How may we realize this promise personally in the here and now?

By accepting the Truth that Jesus was God's Anointed to make the way for our sins to be forgiven... all who believe that will be blessed with eternal life.

- Once we are born again, we have the eternal Light of the Lord in us
- In John 14:16-17, Jesus promised that His born again disciples would have the Holy Spirit indwelling them forever.

v20 – What does it mean *your sun will never set again*?

This too is a reference to the Eternal State when the light of the Lord will dominate the illumination of the world so that the sun will not be needed. Speaking of the New Jerusalem:

Revelation 21:25 – *Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there)*

How is it the days of Israel's sorrow would end?

There will be no sorrows during the Eternal State:

Revelation 21:4 – *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*

So, is this passage about the Millennial Kingdom or the Eternal State?

Both... the blessings of Jesus tabernacling with His people begin in the Millennial Kingdom and are extended into the Eternal State. The Millennial Kingdom is the front porch of the Eternal State.

v21 – What does it mean that *Israel will possess the land forever*?

The New Jerusalem is the eternal abode of those Israelites faithful to God along with all the faithful Gentiles as well. This promise is especially resonates with the dispossessed people of God.

Why did God make this promise?

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.

v22 – How else would the Lord bless His people?

By multiplying them, both physically and spiritually.

How quickly would God's people realize these promises?

I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time: God didn't say it would happen soon, though in an eternal scale we might consider it soon. But God would hasten it — hurry it along, expedite it — in its time. When its time has come, the LORD will hasten it, but not before its time.

- See Daniel 9:26, Matthew 24:8, and Revelation 22:20... the exponential growth curve seen in nature explains the rapid course of events that characterize the Lord's return.

Are God's promises too good to be true?

We are conditioned to think that if it seems too good to be true, it is. But God is too good not to be true.

What applications come to mind from our discussion?

- We will reign with the Lord during the Millennial Kingdom and in eternity; eternal blessings are real!
- The King of the Kingdom is with us now; we can realize many of the Millennial Kingdom today!