

Everlasting Covenant

Isaiah 61:4-11

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**BIG BEND
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Isaiah 61:4-7 – What God’s people will do (NIV)

⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. ⁵Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. ⁶And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. ⁷Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.

v4 – When will Israel rebuild the old ruins?

Certainly, when they return from Babylon. But this is but a foreshadow of their return from the Diaspora going on now.

- The second rebuilding is the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy since it refers to renewing *the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations*.

There will be another rebuilding at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom due to the devastation of the Tribulation...

Revelation 16:18-19 – *there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell*

v5 – When will strangers and foreigners take care of the menial labor in Israel?

This has to be the Millennial Kingdom after Israel has returned to the land and rebuilt the ruined cities.

v6 – Why will strangers and foreigners take care of the menial labor in Israel during the Millennial Kingdom?

You shall be named the priests of the LORD, men shall call you the servants of our God: God’s people, under the anointing of the Spirit and the ministry of the Messiah, have a holy occupation. God provides others to take care of the routine operations of the nation.

Zechariah 8:23 – *In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.*

v7 – What will Israel have during the Millennial Kingdom instead of shame and disgrace?

What a change under the ministry of the Messiah! Israel will have double honor. No more shame or disgrace. They will rejoice in their inheritance and have everlasting joy that will never be taken away.

Isaiah 61:8-11 – The everlasting covenant (NIV)

⁸“For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.” ¹⁰I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

v8 – What justice do you think the Lord has in mind here?

Fulfilling the promises God has made to His people after punishing those who have wronged His people.

Why do humans corrupt the justice of God?

Social justice philosophies like CRT is a human corruption of true justice seeking to force equal outcomes instead of rewarding people based on merit. It is effectively robbery.

Why is robbery such an offense to God?

- It is a violation of private property which is a principle God instituted (otherwise stealing would not be a sin).
- God actually owns it all so unauthorized change of possession is actually stealing from God.
- Stealing does harm to one's neighbor by taking what rightfully belonged to him.
- Stealing takes unfair advantage of one's neighbor.
- The one who steals harms himself, sin always has consequences.
- Robbery corrupts the nation and society

How is socialism robbery?

- It does away with private property.
- It takes from those who earned something to benefit those who have not earned it.
- It disincentivizes innovation.

Why do people continue to think socialism is good?

It is ultimately a spiritual problem... they hate God and His principles.

What insight does the NKJV contribute for the kind of robbery God hates?

For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering: The LORD explains how sacrifices such as a burnt offering can really just amount to robbery of God if the heart isn't right. Sacrifices alone, and the sacrificial system in itself, are not enough.

What is the everlasting covenant in which God will reward His people?

God has an alternative to the sacrificial system... the New Covenant. The New Covenant is the promise that God will forgive sin and restore fellowship with those whose hearts are turned toward Him.

- Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, and His death on the cross is the basis of the promise (Luke 22:20).
- The New Covenant was predicted while the Old Covenant was still in effect—the prophets Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all allude to the New Covenant.

v9 – Have the nations acknowledged that Israel has been blessed?

Begrudgingly, yes... but it has been a source of envy and antisemitism...

- 1901–1962 16% of Nobel prize-winners for science were Jewish; thus over-represented by a factor of 6.6.
- Jews have been about half of the world's top rated chess grandmasters between 1851 and 2000
- In Austria between the two World Wars, Jews were 3.5% of the population but 27.3% of university professors
- In Germany 1918 – 1933, Jews were >1% of the population but 16% of the doctors, 15% of the dentists, 25% of the lawyers, 50% of the theatre directors and had 80% of the positions in the Berlin stock exchange
- In Poland in 1931 Jews were 10.2% of the population but were 56% of the doctors in private practice, 33% of the lawyers, and 24% of the pharmacists
- In Russia 1917–1939, Jews were 1.8% of the population, but 9% of the officers in military academies, 15% of the university graduates, 11% of the doctors and 14% of the university professors
- In Britain 1809–1939, Jews were 28.4 times over-represented among the very wealthy
- In the USA 1957 – 1990, the average annual earnings of Jewish men were 130% of those of white gentiles
- In the 1990s Forbes Magazine article on the richest Americans, 45% of the top 40 and one-third of all American multimillionaires were Jews
- Who's Who in America for the years 1994–5, Jews were over-represented by a factor of 16.62.

Reference:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0191886907003674>

There is much speculation on why this is but rarely do people come to the conclusion that the Jews have been blessed by God in fulfillment of Isaiah 61:9.

v10 – What should the response be of the one whom God has blessed?

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD: The blessed one's joy isn't in the blessing itself but in the LORD.

Philippians 4:4 – *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

What is the ultimate blessing from God?

For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness: Eternal Life! The granting of salvation and righteousness to God's people is represented by the picture of clothing them.

v11 – How does this describe God blessing Israel among the nations?

As the earth brings forth its bud: The blessing of God grows. It isn't manufactured, but it grows. Even so, the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

How is a growing plant analogous to our spiritual growth?

The blessing of life and growth is miraculously within the seed. But we can provide the right environment for the seed to bud, grow, and be fruitful. That's also how we receive and flourish in God's blessings...

- We can't "make" or "manufacture" them. But we can put our hearts and minds in the right environments of faith, fellowship, and obedience, to see blessing grow and flourish.

What applications come to mind from our discussion?

- God will bless Israel during the Millennial Kingdom; but that blessing has already begun.
- The New Covenant is everlasting and for Jews and Gentiles alike.