

“Your God Will Be Your Glory”

Isaiah 60:1-22

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The happiest place on earth is said to be Disneyland, but there will be a *far* better place in the future for believers. A place where I’m pretty sure that no matter how much chocolate I eat, my earrings will still fit, and I won’t have to avoid things that make me look fat, like mirrors and scales! Isaiah chapter 60 told us after Jesus returns, our first home on earth will be seen as the happiest place on earth.

The Holy Spirit’s words flowed through Isaiah’s reed pen, giving us a partial preview of what believers will experience during Christ’s Millennial Kingdom. “You are about to step into one of the most prophetic chapters in the entire Bible.” (Louise Kruger, Bible Verse Journal)

The chapter includes incredible prophecies about the literal kingdom Jesus will establish when He returns to earth. During the Millennium, the earth won't be as spectacular as the *Eternal Earth* will be, yet it will have some of its coming attractions, a prelude if you will, of the final, eternal state of *New Jerusalem*, all believers’ eternal home. This lesson reminded me how unimaginably glorious the Millennial Kingdom will be!

Theologian Dwight Pentecost said, “There's more information in the Bible about the Millennium than any other subject in the Word of God.” I believe God wants us to anticipate His magnificent plans for those who know Jesus as Savior.

I embrace the *pre-tribulation rapture position*. Basically, after Christ raptures His Church, on earth, there will be a seven-year period called the Tribulation. After those seven horrific years, Christ will return to earth – His Second Coming. He will defeat enemies in the Battle of Armageddon, complete His judgment of the living and the dead, defeat the Antichrist, and imprison Satan for 1,000 years in a bottomless pit called the Abyss, and Jesus will establish His throne in Jerusalem!

Revelation 20 says the Millennium will last 1,000 years. The word millennium is Latin for “mille” (thousand) and “annum” (years). “The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and His Name the only Name.” (Zechariah 15:9)

In this chapter, Isaiah gives us a glimpse of the restored Jerusalem, the glorious reality of Christ’s 1000-year reign on earth, and when nations will flood into Jerusalem to worship. Isaiah shared prophecies that focused specifically on Israel, and when the prophecies are fulfilled:

Zion will be told to rise and shine
Zion will emanate the glory of God
Zion will draw nations to the glory
Zion will be blessed by nations' wealth, resources, and their praises to Jehovah
Zion will be restored from being insignificant to mighty

THE GLORY OF ZION

Isaiah told Israel: "Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you. Nations will come to Your light, and to the brightness of Your dawn. (60:1-3) The beginning of this verse reminds me of a song I learned in Sunday school, "Rise and Shine." The root of the song is from Isaiah 60 verse 1. The chorus goes like this (don't worry, I'm not going to sing): *Rise and shine and give God the glory, children of the Lord!*

God's people will be told to get up! Perhaps meaning, get up out of the shame they have experienced for thousands of years; feel good about themselves because the light and the glory of God has arrived! What a picture! The light of God will shine on His people after darkness covered the earth, possibly meaning during the events of the Tribulation, and nations will be drawn to God's light with His glory emanating from Jerusalem. At that time, Jerusalem will be called Yahweh Shammah – *The Lord is Here*. (Ezekiel 48:35)

The light won't be an earthly light, but God's glory – His presence. Do you recall the Transfiguration of Jesus when, "*His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light*"? (Matthew 17:2) The brilliance of God's light is incomprehensible, and it will illuminate everything.

NATIONS, WEALTH, RESOURCES, GOD'S PEOPLE WILL POUR INTO ZION

Through Isaiah, God told Israel: Look at your fellow Jews coming to you from afar. You'll be radiant; your heart will swell with joy; ships will bring you silver, gold and incense. Nations bringing all this will be praising My name. Herds and flocks of animals will cover your land. I'll accept them as offerings on My altar and I will adorn My glorious temple. They are bringing all this to honor Me, the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel. I have endowed you with splendor. (60:4,5,6,7,9)

One of the great themes in this passage, is the *regathering* of Israel's people. For centuries, Jewish people have lived dispersed throughout the continents. Yet Isaiah saw them returning – regathering from around the world.

A present-day regathering is happening now and is called *Aliyah*. Many Jewish people are relocating to Israel – a preview of the ultimate regathering Isaiah may have prophesied about in chapter 2: "Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let's go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the

house of the God of Jacob, so that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” (2:3)

In the Millennium, nations will bring multitudes of animals, silver, gold and incense to Israel. Apostle John saw the same vision: “The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.” (Revelation 21:24)

Nations who once beheaded believers and killed Jewish people will come to Israel praising the Lord, sacrificing to Him, and honoring Him because, “God will endow Israel with splendor.” (60:9)

FOREIGN NATIONS WILL REBUILD AND SERVE ISRAEL

“Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and their kings will serve you...” (60:10) Foreign nations and kings, including former haters of the Jews who wanted to eliminate their race, will give of their wealth and resources to rebuild Zion. Zechariah saw the same vision: “Those who are far away will come and build the Lord’s temple.” (Zechariah 6:15)

JERUSALEM’S GATES WILL REMAIN OPEN

“Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that people may bring the wealth of the nations and their kings [will lead the] triumphal procession.” (60:11) Apostle John’s vision of the Millennium agreed: “Its gates will never be shut; there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.” (Revelation 21:25,26)

It’s believed that because there will be so much material, animals, wealth, Jews and Gentiles, rulers and goods, streaming into Jerusalem, its gates will be kept open 24/7. And imagine, kings of nations who once ruled over Israel will lead the procession!

When nations stream through Zion’s gates to worship Christ, they will represent an astonishing diversity of cultures. And because of Christ’s physical presence in the world, the cultures will be united. We’ll even witness Ishmael’s descendants bring offerings to Yahweh. “The world will flourish under the hand of the King of heaven.” (Mark Hitchcock)

WARNING! NATIONS WILL SERVE ISRAEL

In light of Christ’s reign, rebellion won’t survive. “For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined.” (60:12) The consequence for nations that will not serve Zion, including the worship of King Jesus, will be ruination.

Annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem will be required. God gave Zechariah this message: If any of the peoples do not go to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain, and plagues will be inflicted upon them. (Zechariah 14:17,18)

Each year, nations will be commanded to go to Jerusalem to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Israel. Israel might consider forming Messiah Airlines for the world's annual trips to their country! I look forward to those annual trips because coffee in Jerusalem is out of this world, well at least until the new Earth, when it will be even better!

There will be no worship of Allah, Mohammed, Buddha. The Millennial temple will become the center of global worship of Jesus alone, the Holy One of Israel. "Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles." (Zechariah 14:16)

Israel will be transformed from the dishonor and discipline they had experienced because of their sin, and for centuries of being shunned, persecuted and killed. Isaiah declared those days will end. "The Jews will be the primary nation on earth, revered and respected by all Gentile nations." (Lamb and Lion Ministries)

The gospel will spread to every nation on earth and diverse styles and traditions of worship will be there, influenced by their cultures, bringing some of their ways of worship that may be foreign to us, but, "In those days people from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jewish man and say, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'" (Zechariah 8:23) People from all over the world will come to the temple to learn God's Law.

THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE

"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." (60:13) Another reason riches from nations will pour into Jerusalem will be to build the Millennial Temple, described in Ezekiel 40-47. That the temple, God's sanctuary will be built, confirms it will be during the Millennial Kingdom because in the *New Jerusalem*, there will be no temple: "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple." (Apostle John, Revelation 21:22)

"The Lord's temple will be established, and all nations will stream to it. Nations will come to it and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths." (Isaiah 2:2,3)

RESTORATION AND HONOR OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Those who oppressed and despised the Jewish people will bow before them and will call Jerusalem the "City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel" and will make them the everlasting

pride and joy of all generations. (60:14,15) Because of Israel's long history of sin against God, they had been disciplined. They were abandoned, conquered, despised and exiled from the Promised Land. However, in the Millennial Kingdom, nations who persecuted them will have a different heart.

“Then you [Israel] will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.” (60:16b) It's been said that this one statement summarizes the central message of the book of Isaiah. Part of Israel's restoration will be to know Jesus is their Savior, Redeemer, Mighty One.

In the Law of Moses, the "kinsman-redeemer" was the nearest male blood relative who was responsible for protecting the lives of his extended family. In Hebrew, he was called the *go'el* or *redeemer*. The title “redeemer” meant "to buy something back." Jesus will buy Israel back as He has bought us by His shed blood.

UPGRADES!

“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.” (60:17) Included in God's promise of Israel's restoration will mean that upgrades would be coming! The restored nation will be beautified and enriched. What was ordinary will become precious. What was strong will become even stronger. Gold instead of bronze, silver instead of iron, bronze instead of wood, iron instead of stones. These exchanges were likely part of God's plan to raise up His people from a state of commonness to distinction and honor.

WAR NO MORE

“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.” (60:18) Jerusalem's walls will be given a name – Salvation – and its gates will be named Praise. Perhaps we'll hear: “Hey, want to meet up at that little coffee shop at the corner of Salvation and Praise?”

The world would probably say their dream, as well as the dream of every beauty pageant contestant, is “world peace.” There's a sculpture at the United Nations of a man using a hammer to make his sword into a farming tool, symbolizing man's desire for a war-free world and it comes from Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3. Those prophets wrote that there will be a time when people will “beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” It's ironic this sculpture about peace was donated in 1959 to the U.N. by the Soviet Republic.

Because King Jesus will be reigning, wickedness and hostility will be crushed. Peace throughout the globe can and will only be achieved by the Messiah. For centuries, Jerusalem has heard the sounds of invasion, destruction and hate, which unfortunately they will hear also hear

during the Tribulation. However, in the Millennial Kingdom, they will experience peace. War, violence, and destruction will cease for 1000 years. Christ will settle disputes between nations and war will be eliminated. Peace will be worldwide because Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

THE LORD: OUR LIGHT, OUR GLORY – NO SUN OR MOON NEEDED

In verses 19 and 20, Isaiah returned to the imagery he began in this chapter – light and glory. Here, his vision may also have been of the New Jerusalem: “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. 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.” (60:19,20)

At creation, God’s first command spoken into darkness was, “Let there be light.” Throughout Scripture, light is one of the clearest symbols of God’s presence.

I googled why LED light bulbs came to be. “LED bulbs are up to 90% more energy-efficient, use less electricity, last 25 to 50 times longer, reduce energy bills, require fewer replacements, produce minimal heat...” All that’s great news for us who live on this side of the Millennium, but we won’t need LED bulbs then because the glory of God’s presence will be the source of illumination for our eternal lives. And the absence of the sun and moon will extend into the *New Jerusalem*: “The city [the New Jerusalem] does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.” (Revelation 21:2)

GOD’S COVENANT PEOPLE WILL BE RIGHTEOUS

Isaiah saw visions of the Millennial Kingdom, however verse 21 may be another about the New Jerusalem: “All your people will be righteous; they will possess the land forever; they are the branch I planted, the work of my hands, so that I may be glorified.” (60:21)

Isaiah never held back regarding Israel’s failures. But here, the prophet saw a future when his people would *all* be righteous. And not because of their own merit, but because God Himself restored them. He planted them and they are the work of His hands, for the display of His splendor. The restoration of Israel will be a testimony of God’s power for what He had planned from the beginning of time.

ISRAEL – THE MIGHTIEST NATION

“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.” (60:22) Perhaps ever since the nation was formed, Israel has been considered insignificant and small by larger, evil nations who have wanted to plunder, destroy and wipe them off the face of the earth. Yet, although Israel was considered “the smallest”, they will become “a mighty nation.” And when God’s plans begin to happen, they will happen quickly.

God never changes. All the way back in Genesis He promised Abraham, the father of the Jewish people: "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 27:29; Numbers 24:9; Genesis 12:2-3)

This lecture is just a brief overview of the Millennium Kingdom based upon our lesson passages. But oh, there is so much more about His Kingdom! It will be magnificent – a time of world-wide peace, righteousness, joy, environmental restoration... Let's just say, Jesus is not done!

Resurrected saints, along with King Jesus, will rule.

Animals' natures will change to live in harmony.

Knowledge of God and righteousness will fill the earth.

Believers who survive the tribulation and resurrected saints will live there.

Covenants made to Israel will be fulfilled:

- They will be regathered and see Jesus as their Messiah.
- Land borders promised to Abraham will be made permanent.
- Jerusalem will be the world's capital.
- A massive temple will be built in Jerusalem.

In the Millennial Kingdom Jesus will come to rule and reign in peace, without the presence of Satan and without sin, at least in the beginning. At the end of the Millennium, will be the final judgment over the earth. Satan will be released from the Abyss; he will deceive unbelievers; and he will gather an army to march against Jesus and Israel. But the battle will be a short-lived battle!

There are glorious events that follow that battle. If you haven't heard about what the Lord God has in store for us, He has provided details throughout Scripture. Especially check out Revelation 20-22 and Isaiah 65:17-25.

So, why should we learn about the Millennium? Because of how much Scripture contains about those thousand years, I believe God wants us to know what He has planned, including that we will reign with Christ (Revelation 25:10) – a much more meaningful future than floating on a cloud playing a harp! And don't you *yearn* for peace? It's one thing to accept the truth of God's promises, but it's another thing to anticipate their fulfillment!

And here's more reasons: the Millennium "gives us a limited snapshot of what heaven will be like." (Dr. David Jeremiah) and "Knowing God's incredible promises for the future gives us hope in the present." (Lamb and Lion Ministries) The Millennial Kingdom is a prelude to what, "Eyes have not seen, nor ear heard, nor entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

For those of us who know Jesus, let's consider this application from Isaiah 60 for our lives. Are we living in such a way that those we interact with, especially non-believers, see God's light shining from our life? Matthew 5:16 tells us; "Let your light shine before men that they may see your goodness and grace because of your relationship with God in ways that lead them to give glory to God in heaven."

Yes, believers in Jesus will be in the Millennial Kingdom and then onward into the New Jerusalem – our final home. Until that time, we must reflect God to those around us so they may be drawn to Christ as nations in the Millennium will be drawn to God's light and glory.