

Our previous studies in Isaiah have shown us that there are multiple applications of many of the prophecies. That is not to say each prophecy was specifically for numerous times. In every case there is one specific fulfillment. However, there are intermediate applications that generally fit some of the prophetic predictions. That is the case with most of the prophecy we will look at today. Some of the wording would have been great encouragement to the people of Judah who were about to return from captivity in Babylon. Some of it sounds quite a bit like the coming of Jesus and the spread of the Gospel message. The very next verse after this chapter was quoted by Jesus as a prediction pertaining to Himself (Isaiah 61:1). But the specific wording of this chapter shows us that it is about the establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth.

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1 "Your Light" and "the glory of the LORD" is the same thing stated differently. The verse is expressing the same thing in two different ways. Isaiah chapter 9 verse 2 speaks of the Light being Jesus' ministry in the darkness of northern Galilee. For Jews light in general meant the blessing of God. For those reading these words in the time of the captivity, it would be read as the favor of the Lord returning to the Jewish people. Isaiah has already indicated that that time was coming (Isaiah 40:1-2).

For Christians since the time of Christ, it could be seen as God's favor on us because of the forgiveness we have received through Jesus. We shine because of His indwelling presence. When we express the fruits of the Spirit, people catch a glimpse of the glory of God (2 Corinthians 2:14). Like the rising sun gives light and warmth after a cold dark night, so the risen Son gives truth and grace to those who turn to Him (Malachi 4:2). This verse could be said to anyone who is ready to turn from self-reliance to faith in Jesus. It can be said to each of us as believers after we turn away, wallowing in self-pity but are ready to turn back to the Lord and have faith in Him. "Arise, shine for your Light has come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon you!"

Can the Holy Spirit apply a verse out of its context and use the wording to speak to other situations? We have a good example of that in Matthew 2:15. Matthew tells us that baby Jesus return to Nazareth from Egypt was a fulfillment of a prophecy in Hosea (Hosea 11:1) when that verse specifically says it is about Israel. We should be very cautious to do so and be certain it is the Holy Spirit's leading, lest we abuse Scripture. Matthew was obviously led to do so and shows us in the process that Jesus is the true Israel (the One who prevails with God). This is why we can say to the person who has accepted Jesus as Lord of their life, "Arise, shine, for your Light (Jesus) has come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon you!"

The context of this verse, however, is of the final conversion of the Jewish people and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth. The captivity they experienced

Commented [PW1]: Isaiah 61:1 (ESV)

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Commented [PW2]: Isaiah 40:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

Commented [PW3]: 2 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

Commented [PW4]: Malachi 4:2 (ESV)

² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Commented [PW5]: Matthew 2:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Commented [PW6]: Matthew 2:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

was not as severe as the future Great Tribulation. The Light will be the Messiah reigning in the heavenly city which will be established in Jerusalem.

² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Isaiah 60:2-3 "The darkest hour is just before the dawn" is not speaking of a physical condition. It's a spiritual one. Those in captivity would find that hope was waning just before their return. Those in Jesus' day thought the corruption of the priests and oppression of Rome was an unbearable combination. But the end of the Great Tribulation will seem as if all hope for mankind is gone. That is when the light dawns. That is when the Lord shows up and delivers the world from darkness. In the return of the Jews it was a physical deliverance and freedom. In the time of Christ to this day it is spiritual freedom. In the Second Coming it will mean both physical and spiritual deliverance (Zechariah 12:7-10).

Even verse 3 can be seen in the three different ways. Nations assisted in supplying material for rebuilding the temple. Kings and Queens have made pilgrimages to see the places Jesus ministered. But in the Millennial Kingdom, they will come to honor the King of kings and bring Him gifts and offerings (Zechariah 14:16).

⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Isaiah 60:4 Once again we see the return from the Babylonian captivity. It could also be seen as those coming into the family of God through the Gospel. Wherever you go in the world, you can find brothers and sisters in Christ. It could also be seen as the return to Israel in 1948. But the ultimate fulfillment will be when the gates of the heavenly city on earth are opened.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD. Isaiah 60:5-6 This could hardly be said of the return from Babylon, though there were taxes and physical goods offered up for the rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 6:3-10). You could say it was partially true when the wise men brought the gifts to baby Jesus (Matthew 2:11). The prosperity gospel would claim this for today, but the testimony of many saints show us that is not the case. This is the point where we begin to see the main application solely for that day to come.

There is quite a contrast here between the first readers in captivity and this prophecy. Though the Jews had done fairly well in captivity, they were still second class citizens who lived under laws they often didn't agree with. **This day that is predicted is a complete reversal of the suffering and ridicule the people of God have endured in this world.** In that day the whole world will have to recognize that our message was the one

Commented [PW7]: Zechariah 12:7-10 (ESV)

⁷ "And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah.

⁸ On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them.

⁹ And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

¹⁰ "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Commented [PW8]: Zechariah 14:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.

Commented [PW9]: Zechariah 12:7-10 (ESV)

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Commented [PW10]: Matthew 2:11 (ESV)

¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

true message. The gifts and good news the nations bring into New Jerusalem will be for the praises of the LORD. We will be honored as the beloved of the LORD. We will see all this and be radiant. Our hearts will thrill and exult! "Exult" means to be widened. It's the heart made large with joy! We will be so glad to know the whole world is under the reign of Christ, and that injustice has ceased, and that truth will no longer be ridiculed that we will shine with joy as hearts swell in our chests. I interpret the treasures to also mean those who turn to Christ as Lord and Savior in that age.

⁷ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house. Isaiah 60:7 How could there be an altar in that day when Jesus has already been our sacrifice? Just as the Jews looked forward to the coming of the Lamb of God through the sacrifices, so in that day they will look back by means of the sacrifices to the greatest of all sacrifices, the cross. Zechariah predicted that in that day the world will celebrate the Feast of Booths (Zechariah 14:16). That feast has prescribed sacrifices (Leviticus 23:33-36). While it did represent the Jews' wilderness journey to the Promised Land, perhaps in that day it will represent our journey through life in the tents of our mortal bodies to the heavenly promised land.

⁸ Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? Isaiah 60:8 We could see in this verse the three interpretations we've seen in some of the other verses. It could be the blessed return from Babylon to Jerusalem. It could also be seen as those who come to hear the Gospel. But ultimately it will be the rapture of church as she is transformed into the bride of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:17), New Jerusalem.

⁹ For the coastlands shall hope for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you beautiful. ¹⁰ Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in my wrath I struck you, but in my favor I have had mercy on you. Isaiah 60:9-10 The coastlands are the rest of the world. Many around the world have placed their hope in Jesus. He makes us beautiful for He is our covering. He transforms us from the inside out. He had favor on the Jews at the return to Jerusalem, in the coming of Jesus, but especially when all Israel will be saved (Romans 11:26).

¹¹ Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession. Isaiah 60:11 Now the prophecy is moving clearly and solely into the Millennial Kingdom. This verse along with some of the others are quoted or alluded to in the description of New Jerusalem. Here is the book of Revelation's parallel to this verse and some of the previous thoughts. *²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.* Revelation 21:25-

Commented [PW11]: Zechariah 14:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.

Commented [PW12]: Leviticus 23:33-36 (ESV)

³³ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
³⁴ "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD.
³⁵ On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.
³⁶ For seven days you shall present food offerings to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work.

Commented [PW13]: 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Commented [PW14]: Romans 11:26 (ESV)

²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

26 Open gates mean there is no threat of conquest. After Armageddon none will dare attempt it until the end of a thousand years when it will be too distant to remember.

¹² For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you shall perish; those nations shall be utterly laid waste. Isaiah 60:12 The Jewish nation ceased for 1900 years. The Roman Empire ended. The Soviet Union fell apart. ISIS is next. You don't mess with God's people and get away with it (Zechariah 2:8).

¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious. Isaiah 60:13 (See 1 Kings 5; Ezekiel 40-42) The place of God's feet is a reference to the temple. It could be interpreted on all three levels. The temple the Jews restored which was renovated by Herod the Great was said to be one of the wonders of the world. The temple built in the Tribulation period will no doubt be incredible. Jesus is the temple of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:22).

¹⁴ The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 60:14 Again we see the great reversal. Israel's captors were defeated, and those who resist the Gospel and persecute believers now and in the Great Tribulation will bow down at our feet. We will be called the city of the LORD, as seen in Revelation 21 (Revelation 21:9-11). We have now seen the title "The Holy One of Israel" in all three sections of Isaiah, which attests to its continuity.

¹⁵ Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age. Isaiah 60:15 This can only be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom. It is for the bride of Christ and speaks of our eternal reign with Him (Revelation 22:5). What a contrast from where the readers were, and even those in the time of Christ. (See last half of vs 17.) "Passing through" may refer to conquering armies or it could refer to the way the temple was abused. The location of the temple in Jerusalem and the topography of the city resulted in a short cut route right through the temple from one side of the city to the other. This was one of Jesus' contentions with the way the outer court was misused. Not passing through would mean you only came before the throne to worship and nothing else (Revelation 21:27). I imagine so, with Jesus physically present in His glory! Who would dare?

¹⁶ You shall suck the milk of nations; you shall nurse at the breast of kings; and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. Isaiah 60:16 We can clearly see here that the language is figurative, for kings don't lactate. ☺ The whole world will honor the LORD and His bride. In that day there will be no doubt that YHWH, the eternal God of Israel, is Jesus, the Savior, the One who redeemed us on the cross. He is also call the Mighty One of Jacob. That may be alluding to the fact that it is all by grace. Jacob was the conniving rascal who tried to cut deals with God (Genesis 28:20-22). But God's grace prevailed and made Jacob one

Commented [PW15]: Zechariah 2:8 (ESV)

⁸ For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye:

Commented [PW16]: Revelation 21:22 (ESV)

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

Commented [PW17]: Revelation 21:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."
¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,
¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Commented [PW18]: Revelation 22:5 (ESV)

⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Commented [PW19]: Revelation 21:27 (ESV)

²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Commented [PW20]: Genesis 28:20-22 (ESV)

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear,
²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God,
²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

of the patriarchs, just like His grace prevails in our lives to make us sons and daughters of God (1 Corinthians 15:10).

17 Instead of bronze I will bring gold, and instead of iron I will bring silver; instead of wood, bronze, instead of stones, iron. I will make your overseers peace and your taskmasters righteousness. Isaiah 60:17 We won't have second best in that day. Everything for the bride of Christ will be a step above. We may go without in this life, but we will never have anything but the best when Jesus reigns. Once again the contrast is drawn between their condition in captivity in Babylon and Egypt, with that coming day. Their overseers and taskmasters abused and drove them. In the coming age the overseers are peace and the taskmasters are righteousness.

18 Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders; you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. Isaiah 60:18 No more violence or destruction for us! Gun laws won't do it, politicians won't, and religion can't; Jesus must reign. That is because our walls are called Yeshua, the name of Jesus! Our gates are called Praise, and we enter His courts with praise (Psalm 100:4).

19 The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Isaiah 60:19 This verse is also quoted as pertaining to New Jerusalem. *23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.* Revelation 21:23 The Shekinah that lit the Holy of Holies will illuminate the entire city! Our glory will be God Himself! (Also see Revelation 22:5.)

20 Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. Isaiah 60:20 The LORD will be our *everlasting* light! Every scar on our hearts will be gone (Revelation 21:4). Everything for which we grieve will be forgotten. **We will be overwhelmed by His presence and the ever increasing knowledge of His love for us.**

21 Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. Isaiah 60:21 Israel as a branch is finally rooted and productive in spite of their past, for the grace of God has prevailed. The branch also refers to Jesus in several instances. This may then refer to the body of Christ, Gentile grafted into Jewish roots (Romans 11:23). All this is for the purpose of glorifying God. The wonder of what He has done with us displays His glory.

22 The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it. Isaiah 60:22 The captivity wasn't the end of Israel. The persecution of believers wasn't the end of Christianity. The Great Tribulation will not end in Satan being victorious (Revelation 20:10). God has destined us to be fruitful. When the time has come, it will proceed with haste, Jesus said it will be like that of woman in labor (Matthew 24:8). I can't help but feeling that time is near.

Commented [PW21]: 1 Corinthians 15:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Commented [PW22]: Psalm 100:4 (ESV)

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Commented [PW23]: Revelation 22:5 (ESV)

⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Commented [PW24]: Revelation 21:4 (ESV)

⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Commented [PW25]: Romans 11:23 (ESV)

²³ And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

Commented [PW26]: Revelation 20:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Commented [PW27]: Matthew 24:8 (ESV)

⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

Questions

- 1 What are the three applications of much of this chapter?
- 2 How may verse one apply to any believer?
- 3 What kind of deliverance is meant in verses 2-3?
- 4 How could there be an altar in that day?
- 5 What are three interpretations of verse 8?
- 6 How can we be sure of verse 11 interpretation?
- 7 What is the great reversal of 14 and 15?
- 8 Why may God use the name "Mighty One of Jacob"?
- 9 What are the walls, gates, and light of that city?
- 10 What is the purpose of all this?