

Isaiah 60-61

Bible Study

Review

Chapter 58—Three elements of prophecy: rebuke, warning and promise

Isaiah's message from God: "Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins"

Their displays of religion were a pretense, an outward show

God would not accept their fasts because of their hypocritical attitudes
A proper fast is to draw near to God and a desire to love and help other people

Obligations to help others and the promised blessings for doing it

Millennial promises of revival and restoration (restoration of Jerusalem)

The Sabbath to be kept holy—what God requires in light of His promises

Review

Chapter 59—description of Israel's national and individual sins
God could save them, but their sins separate them from God

A listing of the nations sins [v. 3-15] (a reflection of today's world)
Lack of truth and justice, violence, innocent blood shed
They way of peace they have not known

God moves to intervene—to save mankind from his terrible condition
Prophecy moves from judgment to the time of the kingdom

Isaiah 59: 20-21

²⁰ The **Redeemer will come to Zion**, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the Lord.

Millennial verse

²¹ "As for Me," says the Lord, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the Lord, "from this time and forevermore."

v. 20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion"—the focus as we begin next chapter

Chapter 60

Zion/Jerusalem—the light that will come

- Zion is symbolic of the Church

1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you,
And His glory will be seen upon you.

v. 1 “Arise, shine”—the message (Command) to Jerusalem, the millennial Jerusalem

- “your light has come”—the light being Christ and His glory shining upon Zion
 - The opposite of the awful spiritual condition of Chapter 59: 9-10

Ephesians 5:14 (As it applies to the faithful/converted)

Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

v. 2 Spiritual darkness has covered the earth and its people throughout the ages

- But spiritual light will cover the earth with Christ ruling

[v.2 Last part] “And His glory will be seen upon **you**”

Millennial Jerusalem will experience God’s glory but in a limited measure, anticipating the New Jerusalem

- Also the faithful who have become sons of glory

3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

All of the nations will come to Jerusalem to the light (Christ)...and even leaders of nations will pay homage to the light...and Israel will finally be a light

Isaiah 49: 18 (Nations gathered)

Lift up your eyes, look around and see; All these gather together and come to you. As I live,” says the Lord, “You shall surely clothe yourselves with them all as an ornament, And bind them on you as a bride does.

Revelation 21: 23-24 (The light of the city)

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.
And 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.

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 nursed at your side.

“lift up your eyes all around, and see” —physically to watch the gathering of people...Israel and all peoples

- But also to **spiritually see**...and light to come forth on all people

Isaiah 49: 20-22 (Section ‘God will remember Zion’)

The children you will have, After you have lost the others, Will say again in your ears, ‘The place is too small for me; Give me a place where I may dwell.’

Then you will say in your heart, ‘Who has begotten these for me, Since I have lost my children and am desolate, A captive, and wandering to and fro? And who has brought these up? There I was, left alone; But these, where were they?’ ”

Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, And set up My standard for the peoples; They shall bring your sons in their arms, And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders;

“And your daughters shall be nursed at your side”

Literally: “And your daughters on the side shall be supported” —to be taken care of

The nations wealth to be brought to Zion

5 Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.

6 The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

v. 5 “you shall see...your heart shall swell with joy” —Zion will rejoice because people from all nations will want to worship in Jerusalem

v. 5 “The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you” —wealth and gifts will be brought to Jerusalem for the rebuilding of the city (v. 10) and God’s temple (v. 13)

v. 6 Some of the nations that will bring wealth: “and proclaim praises of the Lord”

Midian—south of the Dead Sea

Ephah—a branch of the Midianites

Sheba—Sabeans in southwest Arabia

7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory.

8 “Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts?”

v. 7 Kedar (2nd son of Ishmael)—northern Arabia...
Nebaioth—an Arabian tribe (was Ishmael’s eldest son Gen. 25:13)
Flocks and rams were their wealth

These tribes will “minister” (Heb. *sharet*)—personal service

v. 7 “the flocks...the rams...shall ascend with acceptance on My altar”

“acceptance” (Heb. *rason*)— ‘describes acceptance of a gift or sacrifice’ (Theological Wordbook OT)

v. 8 “who fly like a cloud”—description of wealth being brought in a hurry by a multitude of people
“like doves to their roosts?”—a place of safety and security

9 Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the name of the Lord your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, Because He has glorified you.

v.9 “the coastlands”—maritime countries (Israelite nations)
Tarshish—located in southwestern Spain
Ships will bring wealth and Israelites who had been scattered

All the wealth brought will be to glorify the Lord, who will manifest His splendor on Israel

- Resurrected saints will be glorified at Christ’s return as well

The rebuilding of Jerusalem

10 “The sons of 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.

11 Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession.

v.10 Foreign nations and kings will assist in rebuilding Jerusalem (a stark contrast from the past)

God’s mercy and compassion will be a contrast to His previous anger at Judah/Israel, and the nations

v. 11 No need for the gates to be closed

The flow of the wealth will be continual and steady

Revelation 21:25

Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

The beautification of the temple

12 For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, And those nations shall be utterly ruined.

13 “The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, The cypress, the pine, and the box tree together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I will make the place of My feet glorious.

v. 12 Any nation that would not participate in rebuilding, or rise against Israel will be defeated

v. 13 “To beautify the place of My sanctuary”

- Valuable materials will be brought to beautify the temple

The worship that will be performed at Jerusalem

14 Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

15 “Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, So that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal excellence, A joy of many generations.

v. 14 Ones that had afflicted the city and its people in the past (their descendants) will bow down to its inhabitants [in a limited way to the residents] (definitely to glorified inhabitants) (Rev. 3:9)

- And will recognize that Jerusalem is God’s chosen city, the place where He dwells

v. 15 In contrast to the time that Zion was forsaken and despised, other peoples will take pride in her

“an eternal excellence”—in the millennium and ultimately the heavenly Jerusalem

16 You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, And milk the breast of kings; You shall know that I, the Lord, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

17 “Instead of bronze I will bring gold, Instead of iron I will bring silver, Instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. I will also make your officers peace, And your magistrates righteousness.

18 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.

- v. 16 As a nursing child gets sustenance from its mother, so Zion will receive resources/wealth from the nations
 - ‘the breast of kings’—the quality of the resources
 - Three titles of God—resources/wealth provided because the Lord brings it to pass

v. 17 Outward beauty—gold and silver instead of iron and bronze
Living quality shall be improved under Christ’s reign, peace and righteous rule

v. 18 An end to violence
“you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise”
People will flow to Jerusalem to learn about salvation and give praise to the Lord

The city filled with the brightness and glory of the Lord

19 “The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory.

20 Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the Lord will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended.

God is light and provides light (Rev. 21:23; 22:5) and will provide light, as her light and glory

v. 20 “For the Lord will be your everlasting light”
God’s glory will fill Jerusalem and no other gods will be worshipped
Light symbolizes God’s presence and salvation

“And the days of your mourning shall be ended”—the days when sin overwhelmed the world
Apostasy and darkness are a thing of the past

21 Also your people shall all be righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.

22 A little one shall become a thousand, And a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time.”

v. 21 Zion’s people will be righteous (Psalm 119:172) and will thrive in the kingdom

“The branch of My planting, The work of My hands”—they will receive care and spiritual nourishment from God

v. 22 The population shall grow in the kingdom

[Last part] “I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time”
God says He will bring about the population growth

Chapter 61

The glorious kingdom promised by God

Isaiah prophecies of the One who will rule in the kingdom

¹ The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

“Me”—the Messiah, He would read His own prophecy

“preach good tidings”—gospel of the kingdom

“heal the brokenhearted”—broken by sin and guilt

“liberty to captives, opening the prison”—of those who were slaves to sin

Luke 4: 17-19

And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,

And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

[1st part] “To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”—Christ stopped reading in Luke 4:19 because it pertained to His 1st coming

➤ To preach the gospel and As a sacrifice for all of mankind

[Last part] “And the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn”—pertains to His 2nd coming

Future renewal—spiritual and physical (2nd coming)

3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

Restoration to take place after the vengeance on the nations

“console those who mourn”= Comfort after the time of judgment

“beauty for ashes”= His forgiveness (for ashes of repentance)

“oil of joy for mourning”= rejoicing instead of mourning

“garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness”= spiritual renewal

“called trees of righteousness”= strength through righteousness

“The planting of the Lord”= His work of righteousness

4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.
5 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner Shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

v. 4 Cities and lands that were desolated will be rebuilt

v. 5 Peoples will be ready to serve ("stand" *amad*) in agriculture and flocks

6 But you shall be named the priests of the Lord, They shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast.

7 Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, And instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs.

v.6 'priests and servants'= ministers and teachers of God's word

- Reaping blessings physical and spiritual

v. 7 The shame of sin and confusion will be replaced with joy and blessings

"double" (Heb. *mishenah*)= a doubling or repetition—the blessings would be duplicated

8 “For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, And will make with them an everlasting covenant.

9 Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, And their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, That they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed.”

v. 8 “I hate robbery for burnt offering” —(NIV) “robbery and iniquity”

Two words for “burnt” (Heb. *olah*) Strong's 5930—ascent, burnt offering sacrifice

*Also, 5766 (*olah*)—iniquity, perverseness (The opposite of God's character) Fits here

“I will direct their work in truth”—the truth will be taught

v. 9 All people will acknowledge that God has blessed Israel

Spiritual renewal

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

v. 10 “clothed with garments of salvation...robe of righteousness”= spiritual condition

v. 11 Righteousness and praise to spring forth before the nations because of the renewed spiritual condition of the city/nation

Lessons

Spiritual light will replace the darkness that has plagued the earth over the ages
We will be teachers of that spiritual light

Jerusalem will be rebuilt and nations will flow to worship God and learn the truth
To be offered their opportunity for salvation

All of the promised blessings show that Christ will be ruling on earth and the millennium established