

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #88

Isaiah 60:1-22

The United States is once again trying to negotiate some peace agreement in the Middle East so that all people may get along like good neighbors. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week that it is important that we at least try to talk and resolve issues so we may have a peaceful existence.

What I think would be most interesting would be if the peace talks were based on the Word of God, specifically the prophecies of Isaiah. I am sure that not too many nations, especially Arab nations, would want to hear what God has to say, and certainly they would not want to hear what Isaiah says in **Isaiah 60**.

In **Isaiah 60** we get a futuristic glimpse of amazing data pertaining to the future of Israel. Dr. C. I. Scofield said this chapter shows us a "Glorious Zion in the Kingdom Age." It is predicted in this chapter that Israel will one day shine forth as the nation of God, and she will be the most prosperous and peaceful nation in existence. It is predicted that all nations, including Arab nations, will bow down to Israel and bring her their wealth and their honor.

The last two verse of **Isaiah 59** predict that a Redeemer would come to Israel. G. Campbell Morgan said we must see chapter 60 in connection with the preceding section. Unless you have the confession of sin and a Redeemer, you cannot have the blessings of chapter 60 (*The Prophecy of Isaiah*, Vol. 2, p. 185). What we see in **Isaiah 60** is what life will be like when He does come to Israel. The obvious point of **Isaiah 60** is:

**ISAIAH PREDICTS THAT THERE WILL COME A DAY WHEN JESUS CHRIST WILL REIGN IN ISRAEL; AND WHEN HE DOES, ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD WILL HONOR HER AS THE GREAT NATION OF GOD.**

This text of Scripture speaks of a time when Israel will enjoy the glory of God and enjoy her existence. Right now Jews are scattered all over the world. I have a book written by Martin Gilbert called the *Jewish History Atlas* which shows places where Jews have scattered. A large number are in the United States and many in New York City. But there are also Jews in Great Britain, Russia, China, South America, Africa, and Australia. There are Jewish people all over the world. But a day is coming when they will all be in their Promised Land enjoying the full blessings of God, and that is described here in **Isaiah 60**.

There are five amazing predictions made concerning Israel's future:

**PROPHETIC PREDICTION #1** – God's Glory will come to Israel. **60:1-3**

**Verse 1** begins with a command for Israel to "Arise and shine." Every honest Jewish person should ask, "Well just exactly how do we do this in view of the fact we don't even acknowledge our sin?" The answer is a Redeemer will come and cause this to happen. If you want to shine now in this world, cultivate a personal relationship with your Redeemer and you too will shine.

What is described in these verses is that God's light and glory will one day specifically shine in Israel and all the nations of the world will be drawn there to see it and share it.

The noun "light" is often used for literal light and it is often used metaphorically for God's blessings and the Word of God. It is predicted that one day God's glory will literally be seen in Israel and nations will go to Israel to see it. There is coming a day when all nations of the world will stream into Israel just to see the glory of God. There will be no anti-Semitism anywhere in the world. Israel will be the most esteemed nation in existence. In fact, as **verse 3** says, the kings and leaders of the world will be promoting and leading this parade to Israel. The Word of God will herald forth from Israel and all the nations of the world will go forth to hear it.

Now it is stated in **verse 2** that this light will shine when there is deep darkness on the rest of the earth. It is quite obvious that in over 2000 years of preaching the Gospel, this world is not becoming brighter; it is getting darker and darker. The world is not getting better; it is getting worse. Why is this? Because any form of God's light that has ever shined forth in this world has been rejected and it continues to be rejected. So if God's light is to shine forth in this world in a way that will dominate the world, God, Himself, will have to do it because what we are doing isn't working.

There will be no darker time on this earth than the Tribulation. The stage is being set for it right now. The Tribulation is graphically described in Revelation 6-19 and it is very dark. When the darkest hours hit this earth, then God will shine His light on Israel. Jesus Christ will return to Israel and He will turn on the light of righteousness for the whole world.

If I were to be asked, what can we do to promote peace in the Middle East? my answer would be this: God is the only One who can bring peace to the Middle East; and if the Arab world will right now give Israel her land and honor Israel, God will not only bless Israel but He will bless the Arab world, and there will be a peace He will give like has never been seen before.

## **PROPHETIC PREDICTION #2** – All nations will bring their wealth to Israel. **60:4-9**

What is described in these verses is a time when all nations of the world, including the entire Arab world, are bringing their wealth and their gifts to Israel and joyfully doing this. All nations of the world are interested in the welfare of Israel. **Verse 4** says this will start with a major migration of Jews back to Israel. Nations will actually help and promote that Jews go back to their homeland, and then they will bring their financial gifts to Israel so she may flourish. They will specially want to support God's glorious "house" (**verse 7**), which is a reference to the Temple. There will be an altar there and all nations will bring their offerings to it. Some of the places named are Arab countries and they will actually bring their wealth to Jerusalem so that the city and the Temple may be made beautiful for the glory of God. Just imagine a time when Arabs have no more interest in their idolatrous mosques.

Many have wondered, when Jesus Christ reigns in Jerusalem, whether or not there will be actual animal sacrifices on the altar? There are two possibilities:

- 1) No - there will not be any blood offerings. Delitzsch says that since the animal sacrifices have been abolished by the work of Jesus Christ, there will be no animal sacrifices when Christ is physically here on earth;
- 2) Yes - just as the Church celebrates the Lord's Supper as a memorial to what Jesus Christ accomplished, so Israel will offer sacrifices as a memorial to what He accomplished. They will not do this for propitiation purposes, but for the purpose of remembering all the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

If we look carefully at these verses, we will see that **verses 6-7** suggest that nations will travel by land; **verse 8** suggests people will travel by airplane, flying in the sky; and **verse 9** suggests people will travel by ships. **What is clearly stated is that all nations are heading to Israel to bring their wealth.** It is interesting that the "gold and frankincense" mentioned in **verse 6** were two of the gifts brought to Jesus by the wise men of the East when He was born. It is nothing compared to what all nations will bring to Him when He reigns.

Nations will bring material goods, money and even animals to Israel so she will have an abundance. The reason why they will do this is because "The Holy One of Israel ... has glorified you" (**verse 9**). One of the great parallel prophetic texts that speaks of this is Haggai 2:6-9. God says He will shake all the nations and they will bring all their wealth to Him in Israel.

This passage has been used by various "Christian" ministers and leaders to promote the idea that there is nothing wrong with them soliciting their financial support and funding from the unsaved world. In fact, some have used this section of Scripture to promote the idea that it is justifiable to put up elaborate, costly buildings for public worship. Many have spiritualized this text to say that the wealth of unsaved people should be welcome in the church, just like the wealth of the Gentile world will one day be welcomed in Israel.

However, there are a couple of points clearly missed for one who believes this. **First**, we have clear statements in Church Age Scripture that God's ministers and God's Church is to be supported by God's people and not by lost people (III John 7-8). **Second**, when this event happens, it will be after Jesus Christ has returned to Israel and after His judgment of the nations, which means all who are left on earth are believers. It is nothing but delusional greed that would solicit funding from the unsaved world.

**PROPHETIC PREDICTION #3** – All nations will come to help and honor Israel.  
**60:10-14**

I want to point out something from **verse 10** that John Calvin spotted clear back in the 1500s. It is something every political leader in the world should see. When political leaders honor Israel and serve Israel, they do not lose their authority but are enabled by God to reign and rule. Those political leaders who bless Israel will be blessed by God.

Not only will nations bring their wealth to Israel, they will actually willingly and joyfully serve Israel. They will help rebuild cities. Think of this; nations that were former enemies of Israel are joyfully working to help rebuild her.

They will have a reverence for her because they will realize how special she is to God. **Verse 12** is a specific reference to the Judgment of the Nations that will occur when Christ returns, which is based on how one treated Jews (Matthew 25:31-46). Those who demeaned Israel during the Tribulation will perish in the eternal lake of fire.

Now the emphasis on their gates being continually opened in **verse 11** is a reference to Jerusalem and the Temple operating in the Millennium. Nations will line up to help and honor Israel. It is clearly stated in **verse 13** that this will include the Arab world, Lebanon. Notice **verse 14** that those nations who previously afflicted Israel and despised Israel will be bowing down before Israel. In other words, people will be honoring Israel from the same areas that once demeaned Israel. They will honor Israel, Jerusalem, and the Temple.

It is interesting that this very point is applied by Jesus Christ to the church of Philadelphia (Revelation 3:9). There will come a day when the enemies of God's people will be bowed down at their feet - both for Israel and the Church.

One of the Jewish believers, who is a very serious Bible student and teacher and author of *Israelology: The Missing Link of Systematic Theology*, is Arnold Fruchtenbaum. During the six-day war in 1967, he was in Jerusalem working on his master's degree. He did not accept the counsel of authorities to leave. He was living just four blocks from the Jordanian border and shells were falling all around him. He wrote an article for a Jewish publication called *The Chosen People* and in the article he said this: "Walking outside after the war with Jordan was over, I saw a car pass by with the words 'Rebuild the temple' painted on its side. One Israeli soldier told me that they still have one wall of the temple, the Wailing Wall, and all they need to do is to build three more walls and a roof and they would have the temple back" (Cited from a story told by S. L. Johnson, *Isaiah - Vistas of the Future, or the Glory of the Kingdom of God: Isaiah 60*, p. 6).

What Isaiah predicts is that one day all the nations of the world will bring their resources to Israel and offer their help to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple. When Jesus Christ returns this will all happen.

**PROPHETIC PREDICTION #4** – God will give peace stability to Israel. **60:15-18**

Look at what is describe in these verses. Israel has been a hated nation. Israel has been despised. But there is coming a day when all the world will take pride in Israel. There is coming a day when Israel will be stable and be at total peace.

God will cause the nations of the world to honor Israel. She will be as secure with other nations as a baby is with its mother. No more violence. No more destruction. Jerusalem will be a place of peace and praise.

**PROPHETIC PREDICTION #5** – God will shine forth His light from Israel. **60:19-22**

F. C. Jennings said Isaiah “foresees a day in which Jerusalem shall be as glorious as she has been contemptible, as attractive as she has been repulsive” (*Studies in Isaiah*, p. 699). G. Campbell Morgan said, “The result of perfect government will be perfect glory” (*Isaiah.*, p. 188).

Think of it, forever Israel will shine forth the light as the nation of God. No more days of mourning but all days of joy.

**Verses 21-22** says at that time 1) all Jewish people will be righteous; 2) Israel will possess all her land; 3) Israel will be seen as the nation of God; 4) God will be glorified by all; 5) The Jewish people will be the most numerous and prosperous people in the world.

Could you imagine if our President walked into peace talks with Arabs and said, let’s take a look at Isaiah 60.

**PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS:**

1. As God’s people we are to shine forth the glory of God in our lives which comes by an intimate relationship with our Redeemer.
2. We should always be supportive of Israel.
3. We should always remember that those who honor God will be honored by God.
4. God’s future will exceed anything we could ever dream of.