

Isaiah Chapters 60-61 – The Gentiles Bless Zion; The Good News Of Salvation!

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

JESUS SHALL REIGN WHERE'ER THE SUN – I. Watts; J. Hatton-Hustad Chorale

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does his successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
For Him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise With every morning sacrifice.
Let every creature rise and bring Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud Amen. Amen*

ISAIAH 40:1-66:24

The prophecies of chapters 1-39 addressed Judah in her situation during Isaiah's ministry (739 B.C. until c. 686 B.C.). The prophecies of chapters 40-66 address Judah as though the prophesied Babylonian captivity (Isa 39:5-7) were already a present reality, though that captivity did not begin until 605-586 B.C. The words "'There is no peace,' says the Lord, 'for the wicked'" (Isa 48:22; Isa 57:21) signal the divisions of this section into three parts: chapters 40-48 (Comfort of Jehovah), chapters 49-57 (Salvation of Jehovah) and chapters 58-66 (Glory of Jehovah). Four Messianic Prophecies-Songs of the Suffering Servant: #1 Chapter 42:1-9 -Servant of Jehovah-Jesus; #2 Chapter 49:1-13-Servant of God; Savior of the World; #3 Chapter 50:4-9-Jehovah Adonai-Humility of Rejected Prophet; #4 Chapter 52:13-53:12-Suffering Servant-Jehovah's Servant-Sin Bearer.

ISAIAH CHAPTER 60 This prophecy of Isaiah speaks about that day when the Redeemer would come to Zion. Thus in verse twenty of the previous chapter, Isa 59:20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD. In the following verse the LORD established His covenant: Isa 59:21 "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." The Lord is going to be reunited with Israel. This is the thrust of prophecy, the prophecy concerning the nation.

CHAPTER 61 Chapter sixty continues, but now at the beginning, in talking of the Messiah, he gives us aspects of the first coming of Jesus. So we have read in Isaiah chapter eleven, “the Messiah, the Spirit of the Lord will be upon Him. The root out of Jesse”, and here we read... *The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach the good tidings to the meek; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (61:1-2)*, Now when Jesus began His public ministry, He was baptized first of all by John in the Jordan river, the Spirit of God descended upon Him, and He began His ministry at that time.

Isaiah – Bible Timeline

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	<u>Isaiah 1 - 5</u>
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	<u>Isaiah 6</u>
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	<u>Isaiah 7</u>
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	<u>Isaiah 8</u>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	<u>Isaiah 9</u>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	<u>Isaiah 9:8</u>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	<u>Isaiah 10</u>
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	<u>Isaiah 11</u>
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	<u>Isaiah 12</u>
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	<u>Isaiah 13 - 22</u>
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	<u>Isaiah 22</u>
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	<u>Isaiah 23</u>
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	<u>Isaiah 24</u>
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	<u>Isaiah 25 - 27</u>
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	<u>Isaiah 28 - 32</u>
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	<u>Isaiah 32</u>
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	<u>Isaiah 33, 34</u>
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	<u>Isaiah 35</u>
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	<u>2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38</u>
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	<u>2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39</u>
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	<u>Isaiah 40 - 66</u>
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	<u>2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32</u>
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	<u>2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37</u>

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

THE LIGHT THAT WILL ARISE ON ISRAEL! - The Future Glory of Israel
Isa 60:1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

Isa 60:2 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.

Isa 60:3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

THE GENERAL MARCH OF NATIONS TO ZION – THE INEXPRESSIBLE SPLENDOR OF REBORN ZION!

Isa 60:4 "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.

Isa 60:5 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.

Isa 60:6 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.

vs. 1-3: THE GLORIOUS LIGHT OF GOD’S KINGDOM - The glory of Israel in the Kingdom of God. ***Arise, shine; for your light has come!*** After the thick and desperate ***darkness*** described in ***Isa 59:9-10***, this is the glorious rescue from the Redeemer. What beautiful verses to the nation! “Your Lord is come! ***Arise, and shine! The light has come!***” The glory of the Lord again upon Israel. “***Risen upon you.***” ***Light has come*** - so God tells His people to ***respond*** to it, and to ***arise*** and ***shine!*** Darkness is for lying down; ***light*** is for rising up. Darkness is for gloom and sleep; ***light*** is for shining. When the ***light has come***, we must respond, and ***arise, shine!*** First, we receive God’s light (***your light has come***), and then we have a service to put forth (***arise, shine***). You can’t shine until ***your light has come***, but once it has come, there is something wrong if you don’t ***arise*** and ***shine!*** (***Mt. 5:14***) ***And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you:*** This is no earthly light; this is light that emanates from the ***glory of the LORD*** (The ***outward beauty*** and ***glorious splendor of our Lord Jesus Christ in His coming again!***). This is like the light of Jesus in the Transfiguration, when ***His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light (Mat 17:2)***. Sometimes harsh, bright light can be disturbing or uncomfortable - but not this warm, wonderful light that pulsates from the ***glory of the LORD***. ***Gentiles shall come to your light:*** When the LORD lifts up His glorious light over Israel, the Gentiles nations shall see it and be attracted to the ***light***. Even ***kings*** will be attracted ***to the brightness of Israel’s rising***. This will be ultimately fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus, when Israel is lifted up among all nations. While in principle this chapter has application to all God’s people, it is specifically directed to Israel, and will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom. The LORD speaks of the ***Gentiles*** here in opposition to the subjects of the prophecy shows He speaks to ***Israel as Israel***. Replacement theology is wrong and doesn’t work here, or anywhere.

4-6 Your sons shall come from afar: Notice the theme of regathering. The people of Israel returning back, because they hear that God is working there Through this passage, one of the great themes is ***regathering***. We may suppose that in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus, every Jewish person remaining on the earth will be gathered into the land of Israel from every nation on earth. The present day regathering of Israel is a precious preview of this ultimate and complete regathering. ***The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you:*** Not only will they receive the treasure of their people, but also the literal treasure of ***the Gentiles shall come to Israel in the Millennial Kingdom***. Notice the camels bring gold and incense, ***not including myrrh***, as the Wise Men at the time of Christ’s birth. His ***Second Coming is not to die! Jesus rose from the dead and He lives forevermore!*** The nations will willingly give them their ***wealth***, much as the Egyptians willingly gave the Israelites riches when they left Egypt (***Exo 12:35-36***).

vs. 1-3 When the church is taken out of the earth, and the earth goes through that period of worshiping the Antichrist, and that great tribulation period, the earth outside of Israel will be covered with darkness. God will again begin to work with Israel. ***Rom 11:26-27 (Is. 59:20); Rom 11:27 (Is. 27:9)***

vs. 4-6 Here we see the coming of the Messiah, promised in the preceding chapter 59, as a presentation of the coming Redeemer. Notice God is using language that it is already a reality! The church has been looking for this since it’s founding nearly 2,000 years ago. Are we ready?

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 60:7 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.

Isa 60:8 "Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts?"

Isa 60:9 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.

Isa 60:10 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.

Isa 60:11 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.

Isa 60:12 For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, And those nations shall be utterly ruined.

Isa 60:13 "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.

vs. 7-13 They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory. One reason that the riches of the nations pour into Jerusalem in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus is to build and support the Millennial Temple. The Millennial Temple, described in Ezekiel 40-44, which will stand as a place memorializing God's presence and work in history. There will also be priests and sacrifices at the temple, but not for atonement - because atonement was finished at the cross. **The sacrifices are for worship, consecration, looking back on what Christ has done!**

Eze 42:13b There they shall lay the most holy offerings—the grain offering, the sin offering, and the trespass offering—for the place is holy. They bring their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the LORD your God, and to the Holy One of Israel.

Nations will bring their such riches to Israel, first, because they recognize that they give it to God. Secondly, because they see the work of God in Israel: *because He has glorified you*. So they willingly give to and serve Israel. *The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you.*

Gentiles, who have been judged, experiencing God's *wrath*, now have found *mercy* in God's *favor*. Therefore, the *gates* of Jerusalem are to be kept open *day* and *night that men might bring in the wealth of the Gentiles*, including *their kings in procession*. There is to be an abundance of beauty added to divine worship... *To beautify the place of My sanctuary; and I will make the place of My feet glorious:*

vs. 7-13 These great promises of God here are primarily directed to Israel. However, these promises have application to all believers. We, along with every believer can find comfort and encouragement with what is promised here when Jesus Christ our Lord makes His Second Coming a reality! How awesome that will be!

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APPLICATION

Isa 60:14 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.

Isa 60:15 "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."

Isa 60:16 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.

Isa 60:17 "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."

Isa 60:18 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.

vs. 14-18 The glory of Israel in the Kingdom contrasted with their previous state. How the nations treated Israel, and how they will treat them in the Kingdom. *The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you:* Those who previously persecuted Israel, and specifically Jerusalem, will have a different heart and mind in the Millennial Kingdom. Then they will *come bowing* to Jerusalem; they will recognize it as *The City of the LORD. I will make you an eternal excellence, A joy of many generations.* Note that although Israel had been forsaken and hated, now the LORD is promising to make them an eternal excellence and a joy of many generations! *Instead of bronze I will bring gold:* God will take what was old - and perhaps functional, but not full of glory - and replace it with far better things. More than a miracle than turning *bronze* to *gold* is turning *magistrates* to *righteousness!* *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:* What a glorious transformation! From the violence and unrestrained bloodshed of Isa 59:6-8, to walls called *Salvation* and gates called *Praise!* The ultimate fulfillment of these things waits, because the Millennial Kingdom is not yet here. But the King of that Kingdom is here, and wants to do some of that work on a different level. Why does the LORD do this? Because Israel is so great, and has earned this as an achievement through hard work? Not at all. He does it that *You shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.* He does a work so great that all know it is His doing. Jesus describes this event in Mt. 25:31-46! Following the Great Tribulation, The Lord will gather the survivors of all the nations and separate them into two groups – the sheep and the goats. The defining issue of this separation is show people treat Israel during the Tribulation in the face of the antichrist’s persuasion to hate the Jews. Nations who buy into this will be doomed, whereas those who befriend Israel will be brought into the Millennium!

vs. 14-18 What a glorious day it will be when there is no more rioting or gang fights in the streets, but great prosperity and abiding safety. Can you imagine what it will be like, if even for just one day there would be no violence? No need for locks on our doors, security systems, a police force or courtrooms to prosecute crime? But to think it will be that way, not just for a day but forever after Jesus returns and sets up His Kingdom here on earth. Luk 18:8 *I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"* We need to consider if we are praying as He taught us to pray – *Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven and that He will find us ready!* Note that although Israel had been forsaken and hated, now the LORD is promising to make them an eternal excellence and a joy of many generations! Does this not have application well to all believers?

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Isa 60:19 "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. Isa 60:20 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. Isa 60:21 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. Isa 60:22 A little one shall become a thousand, And a small one a strong nation. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time."

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE MESSIAH

The Year of the Lord's Favor

Isa 61:1 "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;

Isa 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

Isa 61:3 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."

vs. 19-22 How the LORD will treat Israel in the Kingdom. *The sun shall no longer be your light by day . . . but the LORD will be to you an everlasting light:* This is like the light of the New Jerusalem described in [Rev 21:23](#), where the LORD Himself is the light. But just as important as having the LORD as your *everlasting light* is having *your God your glory*, and to *glory* in no one or nothing else. *They shall inherit the land forever:* When we remember the context of Isaiah's prophecy, it makes it even more precious. In much of this book, he speaks from before the time of the Babylonian captivity and exile, to the time of the exile. To those dispossessed people of God, He points them to a day when *they shall inherit the land forever*. Why? Because they are so good? No, but the LORD says it will be so it will be seen as *the work of My hands, that I may be glorified. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time:* God didn't say it would happen soon, though in an eternal scale we might consider it soon. But God would *hasten it* - hurry it along, expedite it - *in its time*. When *its time* has come, the LORD will *hasten it*, but not before *its time*. The promise seems too good to be true, and we are conditioned to think that if it seems too good to be true, it is. But God is too good *not* to be true!

vs. 1-3 The empowerment of the Messiah's ministry. *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me:* Here, Isaiah prophetically speaks for the Messiah, and the Messiah announces that He is blessed and empowered by *the Spirit of the Lord GOD*. . In [Luk 4:16-22](#), Jesus spoke in the synagogue of Nazareth, His hometown. He opened up the scroll to Isaiah 61 - perhaps an assigned reading, perhaps chosen by Him - and read from the beginning of the chapter through the first line of verse. When He sat down, He simply said *today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing*. Jesus is the person described in [Isa 61:1-3](#) and He is the one *the Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon*. *Because the LORD has anointed Me:* This identifies the speaker as the Messiah, because *Messiah* means "Anointed One." Passages such as [Isa 2:10](#) refer to the Messiah as *His anointed*. The word "anoint" means *to rub or sprinkle on; apply an unguent, ointment, or oily liquid to*. Persons in the Old Testament were often literally anointed with oil. For example, priests were anointed for their special service to the LORD ([Exo 28:41](#)). Literal oil would be applied, but as a sign of the Holy Spirit upon their lives and service. The oil on the head was only the outward representation of the real, spiritual work going on inside them. As Christians under the New Covenant, we also have an anointing: *But you have an anointing from the Holy One (1Jn 2:20)*. In the New Testament sense, *anointing* has the idea of being filled with, and blessed by, the Holy Spirit. This is something that is the common property of *all* Christians, but something we can and should become more submitted and responsive to.

vs. 19-22 In Isaiah's day these seemingly were totally contradicting prophesies, the Messiah would come to suffer and would come to rule and reign over the whole world. How blessed are we in our time to have received the promise evidenced by His first coming, by receiving the Holy Spirit and by having the whole counsel of God available to us in writing!

vs. 1-3 If Jesus, the Son of God and God the Son, perfect in both His deity and humanity, needed the *Spirit of the Lord GOD*, how much more do we! Jesus preached Good Tidings to sinners. That's why they loved to be around Him. Today our challenge is to be sure that sinners love to be around us. May the Lord help us to be like Jesus, preaching good tidings, good news to the poor, to the sinners.

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OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

D. L. Moody Story-

There is power in the name of Jesus to sustain us. It is Jesus that saves us and Jesus that keeps us saved. I am reminded of the story of D.L. Moody who boarded a train. The conductor of the train was a devout Mormon. The conductor spent the evening and on up into the night trying to convert Moody to Mormonism. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Moody told the conductor, "there is only two letters difference between my religion and yours, you spell yours **D-O, Do, I spell my D-O-N-E, Done**"

Isa 61:4 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.

Isa 61:5 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner Shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

Isa 61:6 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.

vs. 1-3 (Continued) The ministry of the Messiah. The Messiah announces that He is here to heal the damage that sin brings. Sin has done great damage, so there needs to be a great work of redemption. Because sin impoverishes, He will *preach good tidings to the poor*. Because sin breaks hearts, He will *heal the brokenhearted*. Because sin makes captives, He will *proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound*. Because sin oppresses, He will *proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD*. Because sin is a crime that must be avenged, He will *proclaim . . . the day of vengeance of our God*. Importantly, Jesus stopped reading before this sentence. He stopped in the middle of the prophecy, because to *proclaim . . . the day of vengeance of our God* is relevant to His *Second Coming*, not to His first coming. The comma in *year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance* has stood for almost 2,000 years. This shows us something of the nature of Biblical prophecy: it may “shift gears” and time frames quickly, and without warning. We can compare a whole *year* of grace to a single *day* of vengeance. Because sin brings grief, He will *comfort all who mourn*. The extent of the comfort and restoration is beautifully described. Instead of the *ashes* of mourning, He gives His people *beauty*. Instead of the *mourning* itself, He gives His people *the oil of joy*. Instead of *the spirit of heaviness*, He gives His people *the garment of praise*. Why do we sit in the ashes, why do we mourn, why do we indulge the *spirit of heaviness* when Jesus gave us something so much better? The word *beauty* speaks of a beautiful crown or head ornament. It is translated *exquisite hats* in [Exo 39:28](#) and *headdresses* in [Isa 3:20](#). In mourning, ashes would be cast upon the head ([2Sa 13:19](#)). Here, the ashes are replaced with a beautiful crown. *That they may be called trees of righteousness*: The restored place of God’s people is glorious. They are as strong, beautiful, and useful as *trees* - and *trees of righteousness* at that. Most wonderfully, when people look at the trees, they see they are the *planting of the LORD*.

v.4 God’s people will rebuild what is ruined. *They shall rebuild the old ruins*: God loves to restore *ruins*. He wants to use His people to restore and rebuild things that broken down and **ruined**. Under the empowerment of the Spirit, and the ministry of the Messiah, God’s people will be rebuilders. *The desolations of many generations*: Even if the rubble has stood for *many generations*, God can still use His people to rebuild. A beautiful example - and partial fulfillment - of this is Nehemiah, who took the decades-old rubble of Jerusalem’s walls and rebuilt the walls.

vs. 5-6 God’s people will be set apart to serve the LORD. *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. They are *Priests of the LORD*, and *Servants of our God*. God provides others to take care of the *flocks* and to be *your plowmen and your vinedressers*.

vs. 1-3 (Continued) The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; A garment is something you can put on and take off, sort of like praise is. It’s a decision that we make every day. When our spirit gets heavy, we need to start praising and worshiping Him. It’s our choice!

v. 4 As we see here, God is not through with Israel. We cannot understand these prophecies unless we see clearly that the Lord still has a wonderful work to do with her. (*Romans Chapters 9-11*)

vs. 5-6 *Ex. 19* tells us that God’s original plan was that Israel was to be a nation of priests. As we see in these prophecies, when Jesus comes back, in the Millennium the Jews again will be ministers of God. We believers are to be priests too - *1Pe 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 61:7 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.

Isa 61:8 "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.

Isa 61:9 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."

Isa 61:10 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.

Isa 61:11 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.

vs. 7 God’s people will rejoice at God’s great blessings. What a change under the anointing of the Spirit and the ministry of the Messiah! No more *shame*. Now, *you shall have double honor*. No more *confusion*. Now, *they shall rejoice in their portion*. Indeed, *everlasting joy shall be theirs*, a joy that can never be taken away.

v. 8 The everlasting covenant. The heart behind the covenant. *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* if the heart isn’t right. Instead, *the LORD loves justice*. Sacrifices alone, and the sacrificial system in itself, are not enough. God has an alternative to the sacrificial system: *I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant*. As God directs the work, and as He makes an *everlasting covenant*, then His heart will be fulfilled in the people.

v. 9 *They are posterity whom the LORD has blessed*: This *everlasting covenant* brings blessing, and blessings so prominent that the blessed *shall be known among the Gentiles*. In fact, *all who see them shall acknowledge them*. The writer to the Hebrews pronounces a blessing regarding this *everlasting covenant*: *Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb 13:20-21)*

vs. 10-11 The covenant brings salvation and righteousness. *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD*: The joy isn’t in the blessing itself, but *in the LORD*. *Php 4:4, Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness*: The granting of salvation and righteousness to God’s people is represented by the picture of clothing them. These are *glorious garments: As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels*. These are *given* garments: *For He has clothed me . . . He has covered me*. The blessing of God grows. It isn’t manufactured, but it *grows*. Even *as the earth brings forth its bud . . . so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations*. There is a sense in which we can never *make* something grow. No one can get inside of a seed and “turn on” the genetic component that makes the seed *spring forth*, and *bud*. 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.

v. 7 double honor - The Jews are being told they will experience twice as much blessing as the confusion and shame they felt in captivity. This is also applicable people who become born again!

v. 8 How thankful we should be that *the LORD loves justice*. We know He loves alleviating the shame and suffering that injustice brings.

v. 9 The covenant brings prominent blessings. *They are posterity whom the LORD has blessed*: This *everlasting covenant* brings blessing, and blessings so prominent that the blessed *shall be known among the Gentiles*. In fact, *all who see them shall acknowledge them. (Heb 13:20-21)*

vs. 10-11 The song of the ransomed and redeemed, sung by the Jews upon their return from Babylon. It is sung by all believers, covered with the robe of righteousness of Jesus. It will be sung in the Kingdom Age. All will be sung to the glory and majesty of God! “*He has covered me with the garments of salvation*”. *I stand in Christ, complete. The righteousness that I have is acceptable to God because it is the righteousness of Jesus Christ, that God has accounted unto me, because of faith. “He has covered me with the robe of righteousness”.* Oh glory to God!