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You Will Call Your Walls Salvation and Your Gates Praise

60: 15-22

You will call your walls salvation and your gates praise DIG: How long does the Lord say that the Jews will possess the land of Isra'el? Why is that so? How does this relate to world events today? How does this song (60:1-22) parallel the whole movement of the believer's experience from conversion, to spiritual growth, to eternity with Yeshua Messiah?

REFLECT: What is the relationship between peace and righteousness? What would be different if those qualities were seen in your family today? Your neighborhood? Your world? The world? How can these verses encourage you at a time when it seems that peace and righteousness are absent from your life? How has the LORD kept His promises to you?



Although you have been forsaken and hated, with no one traveling through, I will make you the everlasting pride and the joy of all generations (60:15). Here Isaiah contrasts the former condition of the nation as exemplified by the city of Jerusalem, with its latter condition. The emphasis is on the changed condition. Once the City was forsaken

and hated. Now it will be **the everlasting pride and the joy of all generations.** We can learn a valuable lesson from this. If we abandon all attempts to pay tribute to ourselves and allow **God** to be **God**, then **He** will delight in lifting us up with **Him (57:15).** To some degree or another, the entire book of **Isaiah** from **Chapter 2** on has been about this truth. The same can be said of **joy.** The only true **joy** comes from **ADONAI**, and any attempt to produce it on our own terms can only be doomed to failure. There is only one place of true **joy**, submission to **Jesus Christ.**

You will drink the milk of nations and be nursed at royal breasts. Much as a nursing child gets sustenance from its mother, so **Isra'el** will be sustained by the wealth of the nations (**60:5, 11 16** and **61:6**). Kings will bestow their wealth upon **Isra'el** and they **will know He** is their **God**, their **Savior**, their **Redeemer** because **He** has been willing to act as **Next-of-Kin** and shoulder the needs of **His people.** **Then you will know that I, the LORD, the Mighty One of Jacob, am your Savior and your Redeemer (60:16).** This is the point that **God** has been trying to drive home to **Isra'el** and to the world at least since **Chapter 40.** Throughout **Isra'el's** history, **God's** purpose was that **they** should **know Him.** Why? Because only through the knowledge of **Him** is there any hope of our reaching the possibilities for which we were created. Thus, **God** says the exodus was all in order that they may **know Him.** And so it was also in the establishment of **Isra'el** in **the Promised Land**, in the return from exile in Babylon, in the coming of **the Messiah**, and now, here, in the culmination of all things.²⁴²

In language reminiscent of **First Kings 10:21** and **17**, **Isaiah** speaks of the **glory** that **God** will give to **the City** as **He** replaces the good with the best. As a result, **Jerusalem** will be exalted and precious metals will become commonplace. **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 (60:17a).** These are simply poetic ways of talking about the wonder of living under the blessing of **God** as opposed to every other way of life. Spiritually speaking, it is to know the best, to know a permanence that cannot fade away, to know a security that no enemy can break through.

The social transformation will match the material well-being. **I will make shalom, peace, your governor and righteousness your ruler (60:17).** In Hebrew, **peace** and **governor** are **in** apposition, meaning each is the same definition of the other. To say **peace** is to say **governor** and to say **governor** is to say **peace.** The word **ruler** is the exact word used in **Exodus 3:7** for *slave drivers*. The very worst of their past exemplified by the oppressive rule of Pharaoh, will become the very best that **ADONAI** has to offer. During this time of blessing, **righteousness** will be evident throughout **the Land.**

Jerusalem during the Messianic Kingdom will be a place of permanency and security. **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).** These two words balance each other. **Salvation** is what **God** offers; **praise** is how we respond. **Peace (26:1-3), righteousness, and joy** will permeate the Kingdom. There **will no longer be violence, nor ruin or destruction within the borders of Isra'el** because **every knee** will have bowed to **Him (Philippians 2:10-11)**. The **salvation of the LORD** will be the **walls**, protecting all from the greatest enemy of all: **sin**.

Why will **Jerusalem** be a place of permanency and security during the Messianic Kingdom? Because **Yeshua Messiah, the light of the world (John 8:12)**, will be there (**to see link click Db - The Nine Missing Articles in the Messiah's Coming Temple**). These verses climax the references to **the light of God in Chapter 60. 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 Sh'khinah glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more for ADONAI will be your everlasting light (60:19-20a)**. In the old order of creation, life was rigidly controlled by **day** and **night**, by the ever-changing orbit of **the sun** and **the moon**. But in the new order of salvation the guiding principle will be the unchanging presence of **His Sh'khinah glory**. Consequently, there will be no need for **the sun by day, or the moon** at night.

And then Isaiah adds: **Your days of sorrow will end (60:20b)**. Earlier in **40:2 God** had instructed **Isaiah** to **speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her warfare had been completed, that her sin had been pardoned, and that she had received from the Lord double for all her sin**. The Psalmist wrote that **weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5)**. Although different words are used, the same thought also appears in **40:2**. It often seemed to **Isra'el** that the night of mourning for its sins and its broken Covenant would never end. Calamity and despair seemed to follow without end (**3:26, 24:4, 33:9**). But more troubling was **her** inability to learn from **her** mistakes and change **her** behavior (**59:10-11**). Nonetheless, **Isaiah** prophesied that daylight would indeed come. The **night** of mourning would come to an end; more than that - it **had been completed**. Why? Because **Messiah** will come in **His** grace and power (**63:1-6**). **He is the Sun** that does not set, and **the Moon** that will not disappear. Truly, **rejoicing comes in the morning**.

The last two verses turn from the description of **the City** to the discussion about the condition of **the people** in it. Four things are said about **them**. **They** are all **righteous**; **they** are promised eternal life (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Ms - The**

Eternal Security of the Believer); they are established by ADONAI for **His splendor**; and they will be great in number. **The prophet** writes that at that time, **all of your people will be tzaddikim, or righteous**, and because they will be **righteous they will possess the Land forever (60:21a)**. **Her people will be righteous**, displaying **God's splendor**. **The rabbis of the Mishnah teach from this verse that all Isra'el will have a share in the world to come**. However, what the rabbis ignored was that when **the prophet** said **all of your people will be righteous** (see **61:3d**), **he** was referring to **all of** the Jews living at the end of the Messianic Kingdom. **He** was not referring to every **Jew** who ever lived, **as the sages teach**, because the context will not allow it. In addition to that, the Bible teaches that **Jesus was no respecter of persons (Matthew 22:16)**.

In **60:21b** the **LORD** tells us that **the Israelites are the shoot I have planted** (see **61:3d**), **the work of My hands, for the display of My splendor** (see **61:3d**). The phrase **the shoot I have planted** refers to **Isra'el** and not **the Messiah** because of the context. Earlier in **57:13** **Isaiah** said that those who take refuge in **God** would possess **the Land**. That promise is confirmed here. **ADONAI** will nurture **His people** like a tender **shoot** in a vineyard (**5:1-7, 27:2-6**). They are **the work of His hands**, and **He** will weed around them and prune them carefully. Why? So **their essential splendor** might be known to the world. This is why the character of **His people** is so important: if **the LORD's true splendor** is to be seen through **His people**, they must reflect **His righteousness**.

*This is why we can depend on **Him** until the end of time. **He** is the one constant in the universe. We are **in Christ** and **He** is **in us (Ephesians 1:1-14)**. **The Ruach Ha'Kodesh** takes this imagery even further by making **Yeshua** the vine and **His people** the branches. To belong to **Him** is not only to be planted and tended by **Him**, but to have **His** very life flowing through us: **I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5)**. This is exactly what **Isaiah** is speaking of when **he** promises that by the grace of **God** we can share in **the righteousness of Christ**.*

Lastly, the nation will also be great in number. **The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation (60:22a)**. This is precisely opposite of **30:17**, which states that **one** of the enemy was able to chase **a thousand** of **Isra'el** because **she** trusted in **her** military might instead of **ADONAI**. Now **Isaiah** sees a day in which that situation is reversed, when out of the tattered remnants of the nation of **Isra'el** will come **a King** who would rule the world from a throne made from two crossed pieces of wood, where a handful of **His** frightened apostles, empowered by **the Spirit of God**, could shake the world. This is the climax of a theme that runs through the TaNaKh, and the B'rit Chadashah picks up on

(First Corinthians 1:26-31). That is the power of the weak, the triumph of the unlikely and the fruitfulness of the barren. The kingdom of **God** is not built with human strength; it is built by human weakness. It is only through our weakness that **the LORD** can move. **But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me one who will be Ruler over Isra'el, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times (Micah 5:2).**

I Am the LORD; in this time I will do this swiftly (60:22b). In addition, **the Lord** says that **in its time I will do this swiftly.** But **the Jews** would ask, "Why has **the Messiah** been so long in coming when **Isaiah** says **the LORD will do this swiftly?** **The rabbis teach that if all Isra'el was righteous, God would swiftly usher in the Messianic Kingdom. But if Isra'el were not righteous, it would come in its destined time.** However, **60:21** indicates that when the messianic Kingdom is ushered in, *then all* of the Jews **will be righteous and possess the land forever.** So **the rabbinical** interpretation of **60:22** seems to contradict **their** interpretation of **60:21** but somehow **the rabbis** do not see the inconsistency of it all. But as believers, we know that **when the appointed time arrived, God sent forth His Son. He was born from a woman, born into a culture in which legalistic perversion of the Torah was the norm, so that He might redeem those in subjection to this legalism and thus enable us to become the children of God (Galatians 4:4; John 1:12b CJB).**

As we come to the end of **Chapter 60**, we can confirm once again that **ADONAI** is **the Promise Keeper.** The Good News for us is that because **the LORD** has kept, and will keep, **His** promises to **Isra'el, He** will also keep **His** promises to you.