

Session 5 The Forerunner Message in Isaiah 60-61

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The prophetic message and promises given in 60:1-63:6 state that the Lord will transform Jerusalem spiritually, financially, relationally, and politically. This passage elaborates on 59:16-21, as here the Lord sends the champion promised in 59:16-21 to transform Jerusalem and all nations.
- B. Isaiah 60-62 is one of the most detailed prophetic descriptions of Jerusalem's glory and destiny. Isaiah 60 describes Jerusalem filled with God's manifest glory, joyful citizens, and great wealth. Isaiah 61 introduces the Anointed One, who brings transforming glory to Israel and the nations. Isaiah 62 sets forth the Anointed One's passion for Jerusalem and the beauty He imparts to her. Isaiah 63:1-6: The Champion of 59:16-21 destroys the Antichrist's armies surrounding Jerusalem.
- C. God's manifested glory resting on Jerusalem will result in Israel bringing blessing to all nations, which will fulfill God's promise to Abraham: that in his seed, all the families of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:3); and His commission to Moses: that Israel would be a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6) who are His witnesses to all the nations (43:10) to bring the nations to God (49:6).
- D. Outline for Isaiah 60-61
- 60:1-22 Jerusalem filled with God's glory, joy, and wealth**
 - 60:1-9 God's glory will attract the nations to Jerusalem
 - 60:10-14 The nations serve God's purpose for Jerusalem
 - 60:15-21 Seven contrasts in the city of Jerusalem
 - 61:1-11 The Anointed King transforms Jerusalem and the nations**
 - 61:1-3 Jesus transforms people spiritually, emotionally, and physically
 - 61:4-7 Jesus rebuilds broken lives, cities, fields, and economies
 - 61:8 Jesus' faithfulness is the source and security for Jerusalem
 - 61:9 Israel's priestly ministry will impact the nations
 - 61:10-11 Jesus has joy in bringing salvation to Israel and the nations
- E. What will happen *in fullness* when Jesus returns is occurring *in part* now, in an increasing way.
- F. Jesus is zealous for Zion (Jerusalem) and will return there to live there forever. I want to be zealous for whatever He is zealous for. His eternal purposes are "Jerusalem-centric," so we study Jerusalem to cultivate understanding and love for it because it is so important to Jesus.
- ²***"I am zealous for Zion with great zeal...³I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst..."***
(Zech. 8:2-3)
- ¹⁰***Rejoice with Jerusalem...all you who love her; rejoice for joy, all you who mourn for her...***
(Isa. 66:10)
- G. We can ask the Holy Spirit to let us see and feel what He sees and feels about Jerusalem.

II. GOD’S GLORY WILL ATTRACT THE NATIONS TO JERUSALEM (ISA. 60:1-12)

- A. God’s manifest glory will powerfully attract the nations and their top government leaders to come to Jerusalem to worship and be taught by Jesus as well as to bring their wealth to build up the city and the temple (60:1). This restoration occurs after Jesus destroys the Antichrist (63:1-6).
- B. The inhabitants of Jerusalem are called to “arise” to take action in bringing God’s glory to the nations (60:1). This exhortation repeated what Isaiah said earlier (51:17; 52:1) in light of her divine mandate to speak God’s words with power as promised in the previous verse 59:21.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come! and the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. ²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you [Jerusalem], and His glory will be seen on you. ³The Gentiles [nations] shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isa. 60:1-3)

1. She is called to rise up from the despair caused by her great sin (59:3-15) and by the desolation she experienced in the Great Tribulation.
 2. This exhortation also echoes Jesus’ call “to go” to the nations as witnesses of the kingdom (Mt. 28:19; Acts 1:8) to be the light of the world (Mt. 5:14).
- C. **Deep darkness:** The deep darkness is related to the Antichrist’s activity and oppression. Jesus appeared the first time in the midst of great darkness (9:1-3).
- D. **Unique dynamics:** There will be unique dynamics created by darkness and glory operating in the same timeframe. A measure of glory will be manifested in Jerusalem through the two witnesses and the outpouring of the Spirit on believers (Joel 2:28-31). The reality of deep darkness causes some to conclude that there is no point in contending for an increase of glory, so they abdicate. Others are intimidated by the darkness and retreat into silence instead of “arising” to action.
- E. **Everlasting light:** Jesus will illuminate the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:23) and millennial Jerusalem; He is “the” light to the nations (60:19-20; cf. 42:6; 49:6; Rev. 21:24).

²³The city [New Jerusalem] had no need of the sun...the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. ²⁴And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light... (Rev. 21:23-24)

- F. **Glory has risen on you:** The glory will be visibly seen, heard, and felt as Israel saw God’s glory and fire on Mt. Sinai, heard loud trumpets, and felt the quaking of the ground (Ex. 19:16-20) and as Spirit’s fire rested on the disciples who heard and felt Him like a mighty wind (Acts 2:2-3).

⁵The LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. (Isa. 4:5)

²Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house...³There appeared to them...tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. (Acts 2:2-3)

- G. **Your rising:** The kings will come to see the “progressively” increased manifestation of God’s glory in Jerusalem as the city and temple is built and as the people learn more of Jesus’ ways and walk them out in a righteous way, increasing in their wealth (60:9, 11).
- H. Malachi described the progressive increase of God’s light as the “Sun of righteousness” arising to heal Jerusalem and equip them to bring healing to the nations (Mal 4:2).
²But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness [Jesus] shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. (Mal. 4:2)
- I. God’s glory will impact all the nations (Gentiles), their kings, and top governmental leaders. They will come to Jerusalem to encounter God’s glory (Isa. 60:2-3; 62:2).
- J. The context here is at the end of the Tribulation when unprecedented darkness is on the nations (60:2). The darkness will be moral (Rev. 9:21), political (Rev. 13:7, 15), and physical (Rev. 16:10).
- K. They will be radiant with joy in seeing foreigners bring their children and wealth to Jerusalem (60:4-5).
⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. 60:4-5)
1. The Jewish people will gather to Israel (11:11-12; 43:5-6; 49:18, 20-22; 54:7; 62:10).
 2. Jerusalem is exhorted to look to see their people coming to Israel, including nursing infants.
- L. Wealth will come from the surrounding Arab nations that had recently attacked Jerusalem (60:6).
⁶The multitude of camels shall cover your land, the dromedaries [Arabian camels] 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. ⁷All the flocks of Kedar [Saudi Arabia] shall be gathered...the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you [food, sacrifices, etc.]; they shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, and I will glorify the house of My glory [the temple in Jerusalem]. (Isa. 60:6-7)
- M. Jewish people and wealth will be transported to Jerusalem by planes (fly like clouds?) and ships (60:8-9).
⁸Who are these who fly like a cloud...? ⁹The ships of Tarshish [Spain] 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. 60:8-9)
- N. God will glorify Jerusalem (60:9) by His manifest presence and with wealth and godly citizens (60:21).

III. THE NATIONS SERVE GOD’S PURPOSE FOR JERUSALEM (ISA. 60:10-14)

- A. Foreigners will finance and help build Jerusalem instead of attacking it (60:10-11). The gates of Jerusalem will never close because so many people will be coming with financial gifts.

¹⁰The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you...

¹¹Therefore 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. 60:10-11)

- B. Every nation on earth will be required to honor God’s purpose for Jerusalem (60:12).

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

- C. Any nation that does not submit to God’s sovereign call on Jerusalem will suffer destruction.

¹⁸If the family of Egypt will not come...they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not...keep the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zech. 14:18)

- D. The money and the materials (cedars of Lebanon, cypress, pine, and box trees) will be used to build the temple in Jerusalem. The temple is called the place of “His sanctuary” and “His feet.”

¹³The 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. (Isa. 60:13)

1. Jesus will rebuild the city with beautiful sapphire gems in the foundations of the building materials throughout the city, and her gates will be clear crystal with sparkling jewels.

¹¹“...I will lay your stones with colorful gems and lay your foundations with sapphires.

¹²I will make your...gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones.” (Isa. 54:11-12)

2. Jesus and people on the millennial earth will build the millennial temple together.

3. The millennial temple will be built by Jesus (Ezek. 37:26-28; 40-48; Isa. 2:3; 60:13; Joel 3:18; Mic. 4:2; Hab. 2:20; Hag. 2:7-9; Zech. 6:12-15; 14:16-21; Mal. 3:1-3).

¹²And He shall build the temple of the LORD; ¹³Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne... (Zech. 6:12-15)

4. The kings of the earth will be awestruck when visiting Jesus in Jerusalem (Ps. 48:6).

¹Great is the LORD ...in the city of our God in His holy mountain...²the joy of the whole

earth...the city of the great King...⁴Kings...passed by together. ⁵They saw it, and...

marveled; they were troubled; they hastened away. ⁶Fear took hold of them... (Ps. 48:1-6)

- E. The former enemies of Jerusalem will see the city through God’s eyes.

¹⁴The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at...your feet; and...call you The City of the LORD ... (Isa. 60:14)

IV. SEVEN CONTRASTS IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM (ISA. 60:15-22)

- A. **Contrast #1:** In how Jerusalem is *viewed*. It will be seen as excellent because of God's glory, and it will bring joy to the nations, instead of being seen as forsaken by God and hated by men. Eternal excellence will be seen in the city because of Jesus' throne being there forever (62:6-7).
¹⁵Whereas 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. 60:15)
- B. **Contrast #2:** In how Jerusalem is *supplied*. It will be abundantly supplied by the nations because the Lord will supernaturally move them to do this.
¹⁶You 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. 60:16)
- C. **Contrast #3:** In how Jerusalem will *build*. They will replace less expensive building materials with expensive ones. Two valuable, precious metals—gold and silver—replace bronze and iron, while two stronger metals—bronze and iron—replace wood and iron.
¹⁷Instead of bronze I will bring gold, instead of iron I will bring silver, instead of wood, bronze, and instead of stones, iron. (Isa. 60:17a)
- D. **Contrast #4:** In how Jerusalem will be *governed*. Jerusalem governmental officials referred to as officers and magistrates will bring peace and righteousness instead of violence and corruption.
¹⁷I will also make your officers peace, and your magistrates righteousness. ¹⁸Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction... (Isa. 60:17b-18a)
- E. **Contrast #5:** In how Jerusalem will live *spiritually*. All interaction with its leaders and inhabitants will cause the visitors from the nations to experience God's salvation with praise.
¹⁸But you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. (Isa. 60:18b)
- F. **Contrast #6:** In how Jerusalem will be *illuminated*. Its light will come from Jesus and His glory coming from the New Jerusalem, which will descend close to Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10).
¹⁹The 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 ...²⁰Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself... (Isa. 60:19-20)
²³The 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. ²⁴The nations...shall walk in its light... (Rev. 21:23-24)
- G. **Contrast #7:** In how Jerusalem's *people live in righteousness and multiply*. Jerusalem will be a completely righteous society that will continue forever. It will forever have a righteous society.
²¹"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. ²²A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation..." (Isa. 60:21-22)

V. THE ANOINTED KING TRANSFORMS JERUSALEM AND THE NATIONS (ISA. 61)

- A. Isaiah 61 presents the mission of the Anointed One who will transform Jerusalem in 60:1-22. Jesus transforms people spiritually, emotionally, and physically (61:1-3).

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me...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; ²to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, ³to 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... (Isa. 61:1-3)

- B. Jesus announced in the Nazareth synagogue that He fulfilled this prophetic passage. However, He stopped reading after “the acceptable year of the Lord” and did not read “and the day of vengeance of our God” (Lk 4:18-19). The *day of salvation* had begun (49:8; 2 Cor. 6:2), while the *day of vengeance* begins in Great Tribulation (34:8; 35:4; 63:4; Mic. 5:15; Rev. 6-19)

- C. Jesus rebuilds broken lives, cities, fields, and economies (61:4-7).

⁴They shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities...⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. ⁶But 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...⁷Instead of your shame you shall have double honor...therefore in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs. (Isa. 61:4-7)

1. Their fields, flocks, and crops will be transformed. The sons of the oppressors will serve as their herdsmen and farmers.
2. This foreign work force will not be forced laborers but will perform this as a labor of love done in gratitude to be near the God of Israel. In Isaiah 61:4, they rebuild old ruins.

- D. Jesus’ faithfulness is the source and security for Jerusalem (61:8).

⁸“For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct [prophetic] their work in truth and will make with them an everlasting covenant.” (Isa. 61:8)

- E. Israel’s priestly ministry will impact the nations (61:9).

⁹Their 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 [the descendants] whom the LORD has blessed [anointed]. (Isa. 61:9)

- F. Jesus has joy in bringing salvation to Israel and the nations (61:10-11).

¹⁰I 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...

¹¹For 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. (Isa. 61:10-11)