

## ISAIAH 60 | *The Glory of Millennial Zion*

### *Nations Shall Come to Your Light*

1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen upon you [Israel]. 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples. But Yahweh will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.<sup>1</sup> 3 And nations (גוֹיִם) shall come to your light, and kings (מְלָכִים) to the brightness of your rising.

### *Yahweh's Beautiful House*

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 carried on the hip. 5 Then you shall see and be radiant. Your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations (גוֹיִם) shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah. All those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense,<sup>2</sup> and shall bring good news (בִּשְׂרָה), the praises of Yahweh. 7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you. The rams/rulers of Nebaioth shall minister (שָׂרָה) to you. They shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house.

### *Children from Afar*

8 Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? 9 For the coastlands shall wait in hope (קוֹה) for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them,<sup>3</sup> for the name of Yahweh your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you beautiful.

### *City of Yahweh*

10 Foreigners (בְּגֵי־נֶכֶד) shall build up your walls, and their kings (מְלָכִים) shall minister to you. For in my wrath I struck you, but in my grace (רַחֲמִים) I have had mercy (רַחֲמִים) on you. 11 Your gates shall be open continually. Day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession. 12 For the nation and kingdom that will not serve (עֲבָד) you shall perish. Those nations shall be utterly laid waste.

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<sup>1</sup> **Ge 1:1-3** 1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light, and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

<sup>2</sup> **Mt 2:11** 11 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>3</sup> **Ex 3:21-22** 21 And I [Yahweh] will give this people [Israel] grace in the sight of the Egyptians. And when you go, you shall not go empty. 22 But each woman shall ask of her neighbour, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewellery, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.

13 The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious. 14 The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet. They shall call you the City of Yahweh (עִיר יְהוָה), Zion of the Holy One of Israel (צִיּוֹן קְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל).

*Majestic Forever*

15 Whereas you have been abandoned and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age. 16 You shall suck the milk of nations. You shall nurse at the breast of kings. And you shall know (יָדַעַ) that I, Yahweh, am your Saviour and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

*Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Iron*

17 Instead of bronze I will bring gold, and instead of iron I will bring silver, instead of wood, bronze, instead of stones, iron. I will make your sentries (פְּקֻדָּה) shalom (שְׁלוֹמִ) and your ruling body (גַּשׁ) righteousness (צְדִיקָה). 18 Violence (חַמָּס) shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders. You shall call your walls Salvation (יְשׁוּעָה), and your gates Praise (תְּהִלָּה).

*Everlasting Light*

19 The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light, but Yahweh will be your everlasting light (אֹר עוֹלָם), and your God will be your glory/splendour/beauty (תְּפִאֲרָת). 20 Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself, for Yahweh will be your everlasting light (אֹר עוֹלָם), and your days of mourning shall be ended. 21 Your people shall all be righteous (צְדִיקִים). They shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. 22 The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation. I am Yahweh. In its time I will hasten (חָוֵשׁ) it.

## Commentary

### 1. Isaiah 60.

- a. Is 60-62 forms the centrepiece of Is 56-66. It shows Israel's final destiny as the restored people of God in whom God's salvation is displayed to all the nations.<sup>4</sup>
- b. Is 60 follows a string of prophecies about the glory of Zion in the Messianic age.
  - (1) **Is 2:2-3** 2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of Yahweh shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills. And all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the Torah, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
  - (2) **Is 4:3-5** 3 And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, 4 when Yahweh shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. 5 Then Yahweh will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night, for over all the glory there will be a canopy.
- c. In interpreting Is 60, we will follow a literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic. We will not allegorise or spiritualise its phrases unless the author intends for us to do so.
  - (1) "When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense. Therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the fact of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise."<sup>5</sup>
- d. Isaiah is talking about millennial Jerusalem, similar to Ezekiel in Eze 40-48.
  - (1) Don't spiritualise or allegorise this. We are talking here of literal Jerusalem. The focus is on the remnant of Israel at Jesus' second coming.
    - (a) "The new Jerusalem is not a rebuilt earthly city, but the entrance of thee divine kingdom of god, thee creation of a new heaven and earth. Yet the promise is still tied to the faithful of Israel...."<sup>6</sup>
  - (2) No aspects of this prophecy have yet been realised. It is entirely future.<sup>7</sup>
  - (3) **Zec 1:14-17** 14 ... Thus says Yahweh of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion. 15 And I am exceedingly angry with the nations that are at ease. For while I was angry but a little, they furthered the disaster. 16 Therefore, thus says Yahweh, I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy. My house shall be built in it, declares Yahweh of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem. 17 Cry out again, Thus says Yahweh of hosts: My cities shall

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<sup>4</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 534.

<sup>5</sup> David L. Cooper.

<sup>6</sup> Brevard S. Childs, *Isaiah*, 500.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. John N. Oswalt, *Isaiah*, NIVAC, 641.

again overflow with prosperity, and Yahweh will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.

- e. In Re 21-22, by contrast, John discusses the new Jerusalem.
  - (1) **Re 21:10** 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God...
  - (2) Millennial Jerusalem and the new Jerusalem are to be distinguished, though there is an obvious connection between the two. Millennial Jerusalem will be rebuilt using earthly materials. The new Jerusalem will descend from heaven.

## 2. Nations Shall Come to Your Light (Is 60:1-3).

- a. **Is 60:1-3** 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen upon you [Zion]. 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples. But Yahweh will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. 3 And nations (גוֹיִם) shall come to your light, and kings (מְלָכִים) to the brightness of your rising.
- b. Zion is to rise and shine because the light of Yahweh has risen upon her (v. 1).
  - (1) Like a woman awaking from a drunken stupor, Zion is to arise.
    - (a) **Is 51:17** 17 Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of Yahweh the cup of his wrath....
    - (b) **Is 52:1-2** 1 Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion. Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city. For there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean [unbelievers]. 2 Shake yourself from the dust and arise. Be seated, Jerusalem. Loose the bonds from your neck, captive daughter of Zion.
  - (2) Yahweh will rise like the sun upon Zion. He will come.
    - (a) **Dt 33:2** 2 ...Yahweh came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us. He shone forth from Mount Paran. He came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand.
    - (b) **Is 40:3** 3 ...In the wilderness prepare the way of Yahweh. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
    - (c) **Is 40:10** 10 Behold, Lord Yahweh comes with might....
    - (d) **Is 52:8** 8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice. Together they sing for joy, for eye to eye they see the return of Yahweh to Zion.
    - (e) **Is 59:20** 20 And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, declares Yahweh.
      - 1) The gloom of Is 59 gives way to the brilliant light of Is 60. This is the light at the end of a long, dark tunnel.<sup>8</sup>
    - (f) **Zec 14:7** 7 And there shall be a unique day, which is known to Yahweh, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.
    - (g) **Mal 4:2** 2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.
  - (3) Like the moon reflecting the sun, Zion will reflect the brilliance of Yahweh.

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<sup>8</sup> Barry G. Webb, *The Message of Isaiah*, 231.

- (a) “Just as Moses’ face reflected the glory of God after he spent forty days on Mount Sinai in the very presence of God (Exod 34:29–35), so the people of Zion will shine by reflecting his glory to all who see them.”<sup>9</sup>
- (b) We are to reflect God’s brilliance today.
  - 1) **Mt 5:16** 16 ...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- c. Spiritual darkness covers the nations, but Yahweh will rise upon Zion in glory (v. 2).
  - (1) Because darkness covers the nations, there is a great need in this world for light.<sup>10</sup>
    - (a) **Is 8:22** 22 And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.
    - (b) **Is 25:7** 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain [Zion] the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.
    - (c) **Is 59:9** 9 We hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.
    - (d) It’s like the first day of creation. A new world will emerge.
      - 1) **Ge 1:2-3** 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.
    - (e) Isaiah must have seen the sun rise over the mount of Olives hundreds of times.<sup>11</sup>
  - (2) Zion (and the remnant of Israel) will be glorious.
    - (a) **Is 4:2-5** 2 In that day the branch of Yahweh shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. 3 And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem.... 5 Then Yahweh will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night, for over all the glory there will be a canopy.
    - (b) **Is 35:2** 2 ...[The desert] shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The *glory* of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the *glory* of Yahweh, the majesty of our God.
    - (c) **Is 49:3** 3 And he said to me, You are my Servant, Israel, in whom I will be *glorified*.
    - (d) **Is 46:13** 13 I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my *glory*.
    - (e) **Is 58:8** 8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily. Your righteousness shall go before you. The glory of Yahweh shall be your rear guard.
    - (f) There will be a stark contrast between Zion’s light and the nation’s darkness.
      - 1) **Ex 10:23** 23 They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived.

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<sup>9</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 613.

<sup>10</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 614.

<sup>11</sup> Barry G. Webb, *The Message of Isaiah*, 231.

- (3) Though unmentioned here, it is Jesus' presence that will make Zion glorious.
- (a) **Jn 1:14** 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
  - (b) **Lk 1:78-79** ...78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
  - (c) **Lk 2:32** 32 ...A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.
- d. Nations and kings will come to Zion because of the brightness of her light (v. 3).
- (1) A centripetal force will *magnetically* draw the nations to God in Zion.
    - (a) **Is 2:2-3** 2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.
    - (b) **Is 11:10** 10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be *glorious*.
    - (c) **Is 40:5** 5 And the glory of Yahweh shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together....
    - (d) **Is 62:2** 2 The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory....
    - (e) **Is 66:18-19** 18 ...The time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, 19 and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.
    - (f) Israel's mission is centripetal. The church's mission is centrifugal.
    - (g) The nations will finally recognise Zion's supremacy.
      - 1) **Da 2:35** 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors. And the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
  - (2) So the light is not for Israel alone but for all nations.
    - (a) **Is 19:21-25** 21 And Yahweh will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know Yahweh in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to Yahweh and perform them. 22 And Yahweh will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to Yahweh, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them. 23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. 24 In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a

blessing in the midst of the earth, 25 whom Yahweh of hosts has blessed saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance.

- (b) **Is 55:1** 1 Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. And he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
- (c) “[T]he world is saved in the salvation of Zion.”<sup>12</sup>
- (3) Jesus is the light of this world.
  - (a) **Is 9:2** 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
  - (b) **Is 42:6** 6 I will give you [my Servant] as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations....
  - (c) **Is 49:6** 6 ...It is too light a thing that you should be my Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel. I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.
  - (d) **Jn 8:12** 12 Again Jesus spoke to them saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
- (4) The wise men, the ideal Gentiles, were looking for this light.
  - (a) **Mt 2:1–2** 1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem 2 saying, Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.
- (5) The existence of the church has partially fulfilled this prophecy, but there is certainly more to come.
  - (a) “This prediction has certainly come true a thousandfold in the 2,700 years since Isaiah wrote. The nations have flowed to the light that has shined out of Jerusalem, and they will continue to do so until the Servant-Messiah comes again.”<sup>13</sup>

### 3. Wealth of the Nations (Is 60:4-7).

- a. **Is 60:4-7** 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 carried on the hip. 5 Then you shall see and be radiant. Your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations (גוֹיִם) shall come to you. 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah. All those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news (בִּשְׂרָר), the praises of Yahweh. 7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you. The rams/rulers of Nebaioth shall minister (שָׂרָת) to you. They shall come up with acceptance on my altar, and I will beautify my beautiful house.
- b. Zion is to lift up her eyes and see her sons and daughters come from afar (v. 4).
  - (1) Zion is as a bereaved mother who suddenly sees her children coming home.

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<sup>12</sup> J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 494.

<sup>13</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 539.

- (a) **Is 49:12** 12 Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.
- (b) **Is 49:18** 18 Lift up your eyes around and see. They all gather, they come to you.
- (2) The remnant of Israel will return to the land of Israel for the millennium.
  - (a) **Is 11:11-12** 11 In that day Yahweh will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. 12 He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.
- c. Zion will exult as the wealth of western nations comes to her (v. 5).
  - (1) The remnant will be so excited they will be unable to contain themselves.<sup>14</sup>
  - (2) The wealth comes from *the sea*, probably a reference to Phoenician trading centers that brought incredible wealth across the Mediterranean from the west.<sup>15</sup>
  - (3) Millennial Zion will be an extremely prosperous place.
    - (a) **Is 18:7** 7 At that time tribute will be brought to Yahweh of hosts from a people tall and smooth, from a people feared near and far, a nation mighty and conquering, whose land the rivers divide, to Mount Zion, the place of the name of Yahweh of hosts.
    - (b) **Jer 33:9** 9 And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them. They shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it.
- d. Southern nations will bring gold, frankincense, and good news (v. 6).
  - (1) The trade of India and East Africa converged on *Sheba* (modern Yemen) and the Red Sea, to be transported in caravans to the rest of the Middle East and, by way of Phoenicia, to the west.<sup>16</sup>
  - (2) In the ancient world, both gold and incense were extremely valuable.<sup>17</sup>
  - (3) Presumably, the gold will be used to beautify the Zion temple, and the incense will be offered on the altar of incense.<sup>18</sup>
  - (4) Unlike the wise men, the southern nations won't bring myrrh. Because Jesus has defeated death, myrrh is no longer needed!
    - (a) **Mt 2:11** 11 Then, opening their treasures, [the wise men] offered him gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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<sup>14</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 616.

<sup>15</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40-66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 540.

<sup>16</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40-66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 541.

<sup>17</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40-66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 541.

<sup>18</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 617.



- (b) **Ro 6:9** 9 We know that Messiah, being raised from the dead, will never die again. Death no longer has dominion over him.
- e. Sheep and goats from the eastern nations will be accepted on Yahweh's altar (v. 7a).
- f. Yahweh will beautify his temple (v. 7b).
  - (1) Zion will be characterised by beauty.
    - (a) **Is 4:2** 2 In that day the branch of Yahweh shall be *beautiful* and glorious....
    - (b) **Is 28:5** 5 In that day Yahweh of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of *beauty*, to the remnant of his people....
  - (2) Although the church is God's living "temple," Isaiah here is talking about a literal temple in the Messianic kingdom.
    - (a) **Eph 2:20-21** 20 ...Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy *temple* in the Lord.

#### 4. Your Children from Afar (Is 60:8-9).

- a. **Is 60:8-9** 8 Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows? 9 For the coastlands shall wait in hope (קוה) for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of Yahweh your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you [Zion] beautiful.
- b. Western nations will bring the remnant from afar, with silver and gold (vv. 8-9a).
  - (1) "It may be that the billowing sails of ships looked like clouds in the distance and that the movement of these boats back and forth in the wind reminded the observer of doves darting around at an opening into a nesting area."<sup>19</sup>
  - (2) The nations will bring the remnant.
    - (a) **Is 49:22** 22 ...Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples, and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.
  - (3) The nations will also deliver silver and gold. This is a common biblical theme.
    - (a) **Ex 3:21-22** 21 And I [Yahweh] will give this people [Israel] grace in the sight of the Egyptians. And when you go, you shall not go empty. 22 But each woman shall ask of her neighbour, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewellery, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.
    - (b) **Ps 72:10** 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute. May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- c. The nations do this because Yahweh has beautified Zion (v. 9b).
  - (1) **Is 24:14-16** 14 They lift up their voices, they sing for joy. Over the majesty of Yahweh they shout from the west. 15 Therefore in the east give glory to Yahweh. In the coastlands of the sea, give glory to the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. 16 From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise, of glory to the Righteous One.

#### 5. The City of Yahweh (Is 60:10-14).

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<sup>19</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 617.

- a. **Is 60:10-14** 10 The sons of foreigners (בְּנֵי-נֹכַר) shall build up your walls, and their kings (מְלָכֵי) shall serve (שָׂרַת) you. For in my wrath I struck you, but in my grace (רַצוֹן) I have had mercy (רַחֵם) on you. 11 Your gates shall be open continually. Day and night they shall not be shut, that people may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession. 12 For the nation and kingdom that will not serve (עֲבַד) you shall perish. Those nations shall be utterly laid waste. 13 The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious. 14 The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet. They shall call you the City of Yahweh (עִיר יְהוָה), Zion of the Holy One of Israel (צִיּוֹן קְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל).
- b. The nations will build up Zion's walls and serve the remnant of Israel (v. 10a).
- (1) There will be various responses by the nations to Israel.
- (a) Positive and voluntary.
- 1) **Is 56:3** 3 Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to Yahweh say, Yahweh will surely separate me from his people. And let not the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree.
- 2) **Is 56:6** 6 And the foreigners who join themselves to Yahweh, to minister to him, to love the name of Yahweh, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant....
- (b) Negative and involuntary.
- 1) **Is 14:1-2** 1 ...And sojourners will join [Israel] and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob. 2 And the peoples will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them in Yahweh's land as male and female slaves. They will take captive those who were their captors, and rule over those who oppressed them.
- 2) **Is 49:23** 23 With their faces to the ground [kings and queens] shall bow down to you [the remnant], and lick the dust of your feet.
- (c) Neutral.
- 1) **Is 61:5** 5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks. Foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers.
- (2) Zion (and surrounding cities) will be rebuilt.
- (a) **Is 44:26** 26 ...Who says of Jerusalem, She shall be inhabited, and of the cities of Judah, They shall be built, and I will raise up their ruins....
- (b) **Is 58:12** 12 And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt. You shall raise up the foundations of many generations. You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.
- (c) **Is 61:4** 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins. They shall raise up the former devastations. They shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.
- (d) Millennial Zion will be built by human hands. Eternal Zion will be built by God himself.
- (3) There will be a great reversal in the relationship between Israel and the nations.
- (a) In the past nations came with their armies to destroy Jerusalem and take its gold, but in the future they will build the city and temple with cypress wood

and gold. This new era contrasts with Israel's past time of divine wrath and foreign oppression.<sup>20</sup>

- c. Yahweh struck Israel in wrath but will have mercy on her in grace (v. 10b).
  - (1) The nations were the instruments of God's discipline. Now they will be instruments of his grace.<sup>21</sup>
- d. Zion's gates will never be shut in order for the nations to bring in their wealth (v. 11).
  - (1) This compares to the marching of the nations into an Olympic stadium, except this marching will go on all day and night.<sup>22</sup>
- e. Nations that do not serve Israel will be destroyed (v. 12).
  - (1) This seem to correspond to the sheep and goats judgment of Mt 25.
    - (a) **Mt 25:31-33** 31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the *nations*, and he will separate them (αὐτός, 3rd pl.) one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.
    - (2) Perhaps there are three categories of responses to Israel: positive, neutral, and negative. The positive will be rewarded with favourable service. The neutral will continue to exist but be demoted to menial jobs. The negative will be destroyed.
      - (a) **Mal 3:18** 18 ... You shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.
      - (b) "Humans have only two choices regarding God: we will serve him either voluntarily or involuntarily. The nations that recognize his lordship are invited into the fullest participation in his covenant. Those who do not recognize his lordship invite on themselves captivity and destruction. Thus here if some kings minister voluntarily (v. 10), others will do so involuntarily. ... [W]e must serve God through Zion one way or another, either voluntarily or involuntarily.... Thus service to God by the nations through Zion will occur, gladly on the part of some, forcedly on the part of others."<sup>23</sup>
      - (c) No nation will be able to oppose God's establishment of his final glorious kingdom. All people in all nations must bow and worship God or else "they will lie in utter ruins."<sup>24</sup>
- f. With wood beams from Lebanon, Yahweh will beautify his temple (v. 13).
  - (1) From Lebanon came the best building materials of the ancient Near East.
    - (a) **1 Ki 5:10** 10 So Hiram supplied Solomon with all the timber of cedar and cypress that he desired....

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<sup>20</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 618-19.

<sup>21</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40-66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 546.

<sup>22</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 620.

<sup>23</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40-66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 547-548.

<sup>24</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 620-621.

- (b) **Is 29:17** 17 Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?
- (c) **Is 35:2** 2 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of Yahweh, the majesty of our God.
- (2) Ezekiel discusses the Millennial temple at length in Eze 40-48.
- (3) Zion is the place of Yahweh's feet.
  - (a) **Ps 132:7** 7 Let us go to his dwelling place. Let us worship at his footstool!
  - (b) **Is 66:1** 1 ...Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool....
  - (c) **La 2:1** 1 How Yahweh in his anger has set the daughter of Zion under a cloud! He has cast down from heaven to earth the splendor of Israel. He has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.
- g. Having been humbled, Israel's enemies will call Zion "the City of Yahweh" (v. 14).
  - (1) This is a just reversal of the past.
    - (a) **Is 39:7** 7 And some of your own sons, who will come from you [Hezekiah], whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.
    - (b) For people of the ancient world, who were much more familiar with abuse, brutality, and cruelty than we are, this promise was and is appropriate.<sup>25</sup>
  - (2) Zion is the city of the Holy One.
    - (a) **Ps 46:5** 5 God is in the midst of [Zion]. She shall not be moved. God will help her when morning dawns.
    - (b) **Ps 48:2** 2 ...Beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.
    - (c) **Is 48:2** 2 For they call themselves after the holy city and stay themselves on the God of Israel....
    - (d) **Is 52:1** 1 Awake, awake, put on your strength, Zion. Put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, the holy city, for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.

## 6. Majestic Forever (Is 60:15-16).

- a. **Is 60:15-16** 15 Whereas you have been abandoned and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age. 16 You shall suck the milk of nations. You shall nurse at the breast of kings. And you shall know (יָדַעַתְּ) that I, Yahweh, am your Saviour and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.
- b. Zion has been hated, but Yahweh will make her majestic forever (v. 15).
  - (1) Israel and Jerusalem were attacked by Egyptians, Philistines, Edomites, Syrians, Ammonites, Moabites, Assyrians, and Babylonians.<sup>26</sup>
  - (2) Hatred will turn to majesty and joy
    - (a) **Ps 30:5** 5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
    - (b) **Is 26:19** 19 You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!

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<sup>25</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40-66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 548.

<sup>26</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 622.

- (c) **Is 27:2** 2 In that day, A pleasant vineyard, sing of it!
- c. Zion will “suck the milk of nations” and realise Yahweh is her Saviour (v. 16).
- (1) This is a far cry from the anti-semitism Israeli has experienced throughout history. Israel will be cared for and supported by the great nations of the earth.<sup>27</sup>
- (2) **Is 49:23** 23 Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am Yahweh. Those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.

## 7. Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Iron (Is 60:17-18).

- a. **Is 60:17-18** 17 Instead of bronze I will bring gold, and instead of iron I will bring silver, instead of wood, bronze, instead of stones, iron. I will make your sentries (פְּקֻדָּה) shalom (שְׁלוֹמִים) and your ruling body (נִגְשׁ) righteousness (צְדָקָה). 18 Violence (חַמָּס) shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders. You shall call your walls Salvation (יְשׁוּעָה), and your gates Praise (תְּהִלָּה).
- b. Yahweh will upgrade all metals in Zion with gold, silver, bronze, and iron (v. 17a).
- (1) Zion will be made entirely of metal, suggesting permanency and security.<sup>28</sup>
- (2) Yahweh himself will transform Zion “with superior materials, superior spiritual leaders, a superior state of peace without war, superior spiritual names, the superior light of God’s presence, and superior spiritual people who are righteous.”<sup>29</sup>
- (3) Solomon’s Jerusalem typified millennial Jerusalem and the new Jerusalem.
- (a) **1 Ki 6:20-22** 20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high, and he overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid an altar of cedar. 21 And Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold, and he drew chains of gold across, in front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold. 22 And he overlaid the whole house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold.
- (b) **1 Ki 10:21** 21 All King Solomon’s drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. None were of silver; silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon.
- (c) **1 Ki 10:27** 27 And the king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone, and he made cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephelah.
- (d) **Re 21:18-21** 18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. ...21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.
- (4) Yes, this is to be taken literally. Why couldn’t the Creator of our universe do this?

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<sup>27</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 553.

<sup>28</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 555.

<sup>29</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 623-624.

- (a) “Usually, the literal and the spiritual are interrelated and work together; thus, it would make little sense to speak about a spiritually superior setting that was dark, drab, and common. The reality of a new spiritual era would naturally include the transformation of the material setting because the two are so naturally interconnected in biblical theology.”<sup>30</sup>
- c. Zion will be guarded by peace and ruled by righteousness (v. 17b).
  - (1) Peace and righteousness are to become “the basis and operative principle of government in God’s city.”<sup>31</sup>
    - (a) **Is 58:8** 8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily. Your righteousness shall go before you. The glory of Yahweh shall be your rear guard.
    - (b) **Is 59:9** 9 ...Justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us.
- d. Zion will never again experience violence and destruction (v. 18a).
  - (1) **Is 65:19-25** 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people. No more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ...25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together. The lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, says Yahweh.
  - (2) “[T]elevision reports and world news will no longer be filled with stories about murders, rapes, muggings, home invasions, stabbings, wars, or any other violent crimes.”<sup>32</sup>
- e. Her walls will be called “Salvation” and her gates “Praise” (v. 18b).
  - (1) **Is 26:1** 1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city. He sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.
  - (2) **Zec 2:4** 4 ...Run, say to that young man, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it.

## 8. Your Everlasting Light (Is 60:19-22).

- a. **Is 60:19-22** 19 The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light, but Yahweh will be your everlasting light (אֶזְרַח עוֹלָם), and your God will be your glory/splendour/beauty (תִּפְאָרַת). 20 Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself, for Yahweh will be your everlasting light (אֶזְרַח עוֹלָם), and your days of mourning shall be ended. 21 Your people shall all be righteous (צַדִּיקִים). They shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified. 22 The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation. I am Yahweh. In its time I will hasten (חֲרִישׁ) it.
- b. Yahweh will be Zion’s light, so the sun and moon won’t be needed (vv. 19-20a).

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<sup>30</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 624.

<sup>31</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 556.

<sup>32</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 625.

- (1) The sun and moon won't necessarily be removed, they will just be redundant.<sup>33</sup>
  - (a) **Is 24:23** 23 Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for Yahweh of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders.
  - (b) **Is 30:26** 26 Moreover, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day when Yahweh binds up the brokenness of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.
- (2) God is light.
  - (a) **1 Jn 1:5** 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
- (3) Jesus is the light of this world.
  - (a) **Jn 1:9** 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
  - (b) **Jn 3:19** 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world....
  - (c) **Jn 8:12** 12 Again Jesus spoke to them saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
  - (d) **Jn 12:35-36** 35 So Jesus said to them, The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.
- (4) God's glory will shine in Messiah's kingdom and in the new heavens and earth.
  - (a) **Re 21:23** 23 And the city [new Jerusalem] has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
  - (b) **Re 22:5** 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light....
- c. Zion's days of mourning will be ended (v. 20b).
  - (1) **Is 9:1-2** 1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. ...2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
  - (2) **Is 25:8** 8 He will swallow up death forever. And Lord Yahweh will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for Yahweh has spoken.
  - (3) **Is 30:19** 19 For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem. You shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you.
  - (4) **Is 35:10** 10 And the ransomed of Yahweh shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
  - (5) **Is 61:2-3** 2 ...To comfort all who mourn, 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit....
- d. The remnant of Israel will all be righteous and possess the land forever (v. 21).

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<sup>33</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 626

- (1) The remnant will be positionally righteous.
  - (a) **Is 4:3-4** 3 And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, 4 when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning.
  - (b) **Is 59:16** 16 He saw that there was no man and wondered that there was no one to intercede. Then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him.
- (2) As promised to Abraham, the remnant of Israel will possess the land, literally. This is obviously not a promise to the church.
  - (a) **Ge 15:18-21** 18 On that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram saying, To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.
  - (b) **Ge 17:8** 8 And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.
  - (c) **Is 57:13** 13 But he who takes refuge [through faith] in me shall possess the land and shall inherit my holy mountain [Zion].
  - (d) **Is 61:7** 7 Therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion. They shall have everlasting joy.
  - (e) **Is 65:9** 9 I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, and from Judah possessors of my mountains. My chosen shall possess it, and my servants shall dwell there.
- e. The remnant will be a “branch” of God’s planting (v. 21).
  - (1) God will nurture the remnant like a tender cutting in a vineyard. He will plant them, weed around them, and prune them carefully.<sup>34</sup>
  - (2) Israel has been an unfruitful vineyard, but this will change.
    - (a) **Is 5:1-7** 1 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard./ My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines. He built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it. And he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. . . .5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured. I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will make it a waste. It shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up. I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of Yahweh of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting. And he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed, for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!
    - (b) **Is 27:2-6** 2 In that day, A pleasant vineyard, sing of it! 3 I, Yahweh, am its keeper. every moment I water it. Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day.

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<sup>34</sup> John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 40–66*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 560.



4 I have no wrath. Would that I had thorns and briers to battle! I would march against them, I would burn them up together. 5 Or let them lay hold of my protection, let them make peace with me, let them make peace with me. 6 In days to come Jacob shall take root. Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.

- (c) **Is 61:3** 3 ... That they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of Yahweh, that he may be glorified.
- (3) Jesus is the primary branch (רִצְּוֹן). The remnant are secondary branches (רִצְּוֹן).
  - (a) **Is 11:1** 1 There shall come forth a shoot (רִצְּוֹן) from the stump of Jesse, and a branch (רִצְּוֹן) from his roots shall produce fruit.
  - (b) **Jn 15:5** 5 I am the vine. You [disciples] are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that produces much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- (4) The garden is entirely God's work.
- f. The remnant of Israel will be blessed with many children and grandchildren (v. 22a).
  - (1) This indicates procreation in the millennium.
    - (a) **Is 65:20** 20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.
    - (b) **Is 65:23** 23 They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them.
    - (c) Believers who survive the tribulation will procreate. Resurrected believers will not.
  - (2) This echoes God's original covenant promise to Abraham.
    - (a) **Ge 13:16** 16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.
    - (b) **Ge 15:5** 5 And [Yahweh] brought [Abram] outside and said, Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. Then he said to him, So shall your offspring be.
    - (c) **Ge 22:17** 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.
- g. At the right time, Yahweh himself will do all these things (v. 22b).
  - (1) God's sense of timing is impeccable.
    - (a) **Ga 4:4** 4 But when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth his Son....

## 9. Reflections.

- a. Millennial Zion is going to be incredible. Wait for it. It's coming! This is not just hyperbole.
  - (1) "The transforming power of God's salvation will impact every aspect of human existence."<sup>35</sup>
- b. History is not purposeless or random. It has a goal: God's rule on earth.
  - (1) **Mt 6:10** 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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<sup>35</sup> Gary Smith, *Isaiah 40-66*, vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 626.

- c. Our view of history is to be Zion-centric. Although we should love our own nation, we should love Zion even more. Christian Zionism, in its basic sense, is good.
  - (1) “[T]he longings of the nations can find fulfilment only in the God of Israel.”<sup>36</sup>
  - (2) “Zion really is the key to international destiny, the final form of the Abrahamic system.”<sup>37</sup> It’s not American unilateralism, an *ummah* under Islam, a multilateral detente between the East and West, or globalism under the United Nations.
- d. We all must make a decision about Messiah Jesus, Zion, and the God of Israel. There are consequences for the choice we make.
- e. Don’t allegorise these promises and essentially steal them from the remnant of Israel. Stick with a literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic, and you won’t go wrong in interpreting Scripture.
- f. Don’t be a Christian Platonist. Don’t throw away the physical for the spiritual. Real Christianity holds the physical and spiritual together. This includes what the Bible says about physical, ethnic Israel.
- g. As Zion magnetises the nations to Jesus in the Millennium, so the church is to magnetise unbelievers to Jesus in the Church age.

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<sup>36</sup> J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 495.

<sup>37</sup> J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 496.