# **Chapter 60 continues the blessing pronounced upon Jerusalem at the end of chapter 59. Yahweh has put on his armor to come to the righteous remnant’s rescue. He will deliver them from their enemies and oppressors, he will also regather them from all of the places to which they have been scattered, and return them to Zion/Jerusalem. He will restore Jerusalem to even greater splendor than she had known before. Because Isaiah was a member of the royal family according to Jewish tradition, the fate of Jerusalem was always in the forefront of his mind.**

# **Vv.1-3 Isaiah anticipates and speaks into the future as the glory or Shekinah of Yahweh returns to Zion/Jerusalem…and he calls the righteous remnant to reflect God’s glory much as we see in the ministry of Jesus as He claims to be “The Light of the World” in Jn 8:12 and Mt 5:14. Israel’s mission from the beginning in Gen 12 was to be a ‘light to the Gentiles or nations’ Is 42:6; 49:6 and now 60:3. Israel had not fulfilled her mission but the promise was that one day she would…as an emblem of the greater and final Exodus or Rescue through which God would rescue Israel and the Nations, and restore his lost creation.**

## Vv.1,2 The prophet commands… “Arise” “Shine” what made Israel unique among the nations was that Yahweh dwelt or made his home with them…visibly in the presence of his ‘Glory’ or Shekinah. The visible presence of God departed see Eze 10-11…but the promise that God would return in Glory is reflected here. God would restore the blessing of his visible presence in their midst. Because of the sinfulness of men in general and Israel’s sins in particular the world has grown dark BUT God will return in glory and give Israel eyes…at least the righteous remnant…eyes to see it. Further, God’s glory would be made visible as a reflection on them and from them.

## V.3 Further, this ministry of reflecting God’s glory to the nations would be fruitful and Israel would at last fulfill her mission and her witness would be effective even with kings.

# **Vv.4-9 Converted Gentiles will worship Yahweh with them.**

## Again, the prophet commands his readers to “Look!” The Gentiles will not only come to worship Israel’s God but will joyfully bring Israel’s sons and daughters back to Zion…at their expense!

## Vv.5-7 The “Nations or Gentiles” will joyfully give of their wealth to bless Israel and their God…it is this, seen in its early fulfillment, that Matthew reflects upon in the Visit of the Magi, Mt 2:11 and a final fulfillment in Rev 21:24-26. Further, Yahweh will restore the fractured family of Abraham as Midian and Ephah and Sheba are mentioned descendants of Abraham, see Gen 25:1-4,13. Also Kedar (Syria) and Nebaioth (Edom) are associated with Ishmael and Midian. Isaiah anticipates a day when they will joyfully and willingly worship together, as one family, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God will receive their worship just as Yahweh would receive Israel’s worship.

## Vv.8-9 Isaiah figuratively ‘sees’ the Gentile converts and the sons and daughters of Israel and Judah returning from the west across the Mediterranean Sea and from the east on the camels supplied by their estranged family members to restore God’s Temple, with God enthroned on their ‘praises’ and seated in Heaven with his feet squarely on Mt. Zion. They are doves returning to their nests in the Temple. Tarshish is likely the Baleric Islands of Sardinia and Corsica. Notice that these Gentiles do not come to worship Israel’s God emptyhanded. Giving joyfully is a reflection of their joyful hearts. They gratefully give and feel blessed to participate in what God is doing in the world and has brought to them…so that it is their joy and privilege to give…as they have received.

# **Vv.10-14 The Period of the Amnesty and Reign of Yahweh in Jerusalem.**

## V.10 Foreigners will restore Jerusalem at their own expense…God then explains his discipline of his people. He afflicted them…but not to destroy them but to purify and refine them. Now as in the first Exodus, their abuse and mistreatment is addressed, justice is done, their oppressors will now bless them…as Israel had been taken advantage of…now their fortunes are restored…while they had labored as slaves without pay…now they will be paid…and then some.

## Vv11-12 God will divide the peoples of the earth between those who serve the Lord and his Kingdom and those who will not. People will behave their way into their futures. That the wealth of Gentiles will supply Israel is an evidence that the Rescue has begun and is in progress…this is how the Apostle Paul understood the collection he took up among the Gentile churches he founded for the support and benefit of believers in Jerusalem, see 2 Cor 8,9 and Rom 15:15ff. But in this interim period when amnesty is offered but refused…those who persist in rebellion and unbelief will perish.

## Vv.13,14 As in Solomon’s Temple, so in this final Temple the glory of Lebanon, a reference to her famous trees will beautify God’s Temple…but now it will be the people of Lebanon who will adorn God’s Temple…the ‘place where his feet rest’..See Is 66:1; Mt 5:35; Acts 7:49. The great reversal is coming…Israel’s suffering will not be forever, Zion will not lie in ruins forever…the Gentiles will come in humility to you and bow themselves before Yahweh and join you…this final Temple will be greater than anything Israel has experienced before.

# **Vv.15-21 Prosperity and Shalom will characterize the coming Kingdom of the Redeemer**

## V. 15 The exile has seen God’s people despised and appearing forsaken recalling Jesus’ language in Jn 15:18ff. Jesus was hated and despised and promises His followers we will be too. The land had been forgotten and abandoned…especially Jerusalem. No one goes there but that will not be forever. Jerusalem will be inhabited again…both by God and his people.

## V16. God will provide for his people in general and Jerusalem in particular at the expense of their former oppressors…so that Israel will know that Yahweh has done it…For Them.

## V.17 The contrast between bronze and gold is both better and best but also has Temple implications of nearness to the presence of God in the Tabernacle/Temple see Ex 25 the outer courts have bronze and the inner courts of the Holy Place and Holy of Holies have gold fixtures and furniture.

## V.18 What has characterized Israel in the past as in 5:7 where outwardly they looked like followers of God inwardly they were corrupt and unjust they will be transformed inwardly so that violence will not be in their city any more but the society God’s return will create will be one of salvation (Isaiah’s name means Salvation is of Yahweh) and shalom.

## Vv.19, 20 The Apostle John reflects on this verse as he ‘sees’ the future in Rev 21:23; 22:5. Yahweh’s glory will give Zion light.

## V.21 This rescue will be forever…like Martin Luther declares in ‘A Mighty Fortress’ “His Kingdom is forever!” The vine Isaiah reflects upon in Is 5 and Jesus reflects up on in Jn 15 saying “I AM the Vine” is one that will live and last forever and fill the earth.