

November 18th, 2018
"He Has Made You Beautiful"
Isaiah 60

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Nov 11 John 16-18	Nov 15 Acts 7-8
Nov 12 John 19-21	Nov 16 Acts 9-10
Nov 13 Acts 1-3	Nov 17 Acts 11-13
Nov 14 Acts 4-6	Nov 18 Acts 14-15

Lesson Introduction: *As we have made our way through Isaiah, there have been many passages concerning judgment. We have continually seen where the people of God were called to repentance, and yet continued to rebel. Even as many passages have seemed bleak, the hope and promise of Israel's restoration has always been present. Isaiah 60 once again beams with this hope! Specifically, we will see this week how the Lord promises both present and future glory to His people. This passage paints a beautiful picture of how the Lord's glory shines through His people presently, in order to draw the nations to Himself, and how we have the hope of one day living in the physical presence of His glory forever!*

Key Memory Verses: Isaiah 60:1

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **The LORD's displays His glory through His people, in order to bring the nations to salvation (V. 1-9)**
- **The LORD has promised eternal life in the presence of His glory for His people (V. 17-22).**

Isaiah 60:1-9, 17-22 (ESV)

1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
3 And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
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 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, the praises of the Lord.

7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you;
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;
they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,
and I will beautify my beautiful house.

8 Who are these that fly like a cloud,
and like doves to their windows?

9 For the coastlands shall hope for me,
the ships of Tarshish first,
to bring your children from afar,
their silver and gold with them,
for the name of the Lord your God,
and for the Holy One of Israel,
because he has made you beautiful...

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 overseers peace
and your taskmasters righteousness.

18 Violence shall no more be heard in your land,
devastation or destruction within your borders;
you shall call your walls Salvation,
and your gates Praise.

19 The sun shall be no more
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give you light;

but the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

20 Your sun shall no more go down,
nor your moon withdraw itself;
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

21 Your people shall all be righteous;
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 the Lord;
in its time I will hasten it.

Discussion Section 1: Present Glory (V. 1-9)

- What do **verses 1-2** tell us about the nature of being a child of God?
- How does the glory of God shining through His children affect those who are in darkness?
- What do these verses reveal about the makeup of God's kingdom, and what His plan is to build it?
- How should **verse 7** shape the way we interact with people of other cultures and religions?

Note: *This passage culminates with a beautiful depiction of the glory that awaits the children of God in eternity. However, it begins by showing us the LORD's purpose in leaving us here right now, and reminding us that His glory is at work in and through us! Sometimes we can become so focused on the glory that is to be revealed that we lose sight of the glory that Has already been revealed, and in doing so, we fail to be about the mission to which we have been assigned by Christ (**Matthew 28:19-20**).*

Verses 1-9 show us that being a part of the family of God means that the glory of the LORD is upon us, and that in turn, we are to shine as radiant lights, that others might be drawn to Him. We have been given the incredible privilege of shining as lights to a dark and dying world (**Matthew 5:16, Philippians 2:14-16**). Our purpose while we wait for the unfathomable glory that is to come is to reveal the glory of God to those around us. We see in these verses how people from many nations will flock to the LORD as a result of the beautiful witness of His people (**V. 9**). Specifically, the descendants of Kedar and Nebaioth are mentioned as ones who will make acceptable sacrifices to the LORD, adding beauty to His house. These are sons of Ishmael, the first son of Abraham, whose descendants today make up much of the Muslim population. This passage speaks to God's plan to save people from all different parts of the world. What a privilege it is that the LORD is bringing people of different races and religions to Collin County, that we might be used by God to shine "**the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**" into their lives (**2 Corinthians 4:4-6**). The kingdom of God is made more beautiful by the addition of family members from every nation, tribe and tongue, and it is a glorious mission that we get to be a part of.

Discussion Section 2: Future Glory (V.17-22)

- What does **verse 17** tell us about the beauty of new Jerusalem?
- What do these verses tell us about the eternal glory that awaits us?
- What is it about eternity that you look forward to the most?

Note: (See Revelation Ch. 21-22 for additional reading) *While our passage begins by considering the glory of God shining through us to bring many to Him, it ends by focusing on the future promise of being in the presence of His glory forever! We see in **verse 17** the transformation that is to come when new Jerusalem is revealed. What is bronze will be gold, what is iron will be silver, what is wood will be bronze, and what is stone will be iron. This is Isaiah's attempt in human terms to explain the overwhelming beauty of the eternal home that awaits. He goes on in **verse 18** to speak of the fact that there will be no more violence, or devastation. But it is in **verses 19 and 20** where the real prize and glory of eternity is described.*

Consider the grandeur of God that is put on display in **verses 19-20**. We see that there will be no need for any sun or moon, for the LORD will be the "**everlasting light**." Right now, in our finite state, we cannot even glance at the sun without fear of damaging our eyes, but there is coming a day when we will be in the glorious presence of the One who infinitely outshines the sun! And we learn that in His presence, all "**mourning shall be ended**." He is the real prize that we look forward to. As we consider the hope of the future glory that we will share with Him, may we be about the glorious work He has called us to this day.

Application Questions:

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What are some ways we can be about the mission to which we have been assigned?
- In what ways has the LORD made you beautiful (or how does your life display the glory of God) to the nations?
- How does looking forward to the true Treasure of Heaven affect your life today?