

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time
The Glory of God in Zion
Isaiah 60:1-22

Sometimes the anticipation of an event can be as exciting as the event itself. The days leading up to Christmas morning, the hour or more wait in line for the new theme park ride, and the advance work done in the office as we ready ourselves for vacation are all motivated by the end game, unwrapping presents, the thrill of the ride, and the time spent with family away from the job. We wait with anticipation for that moment we know will bring us great joy.

1. God's glory will attract the nations.

2. The nations will participate in building Zion.

3. Zion's transformation will be glorious.

God means for His suffering people to renew their hope every single day. He renews His mercy and faithfulness towards us by giving us both the promise of a future kingdom and glimpses of that kingdom now. The promise of the new heaven and earth can sometimes seem overly futuristic and irrelevant when trying to deal with the pain and suffering of this life, but Jesus preached as fact that the "Kingdom of heaven was near." Because of that, we can arise and shine and give God the glory even in the most trying of times.

Reflection

What does the presence of the strong commands, "Arise, shine" tell us about the sovereign power of God in the glory of Zion? What do these commands mean for us today with regard to the sovereign power of God as He seeks to be glorified in our lives? How are the nations in darkness now and what is the church's role in the midst of that darkness? (Hint: read Ephesians 5:8-14.) How is Isaiah's picture of Zion being made beautiful by the nations fulfilled today as the church carries out the Great Commission? What is the significance of Zion's gates being open continually in verse 11? To whom is the warning of verse 12 and what are the implications for God's people who live in such nations?