

Study 106: Isaiah, Part 62

Isaiah 60

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ “Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

[cp. Rev 21:

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.⁴ “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be **no more death**”^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, **for the old order of things has passed away.**”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “**I am making everything new!**” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” [2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15]

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you **the bride, the wife of the Lamb.**” [2 Cor 11:2] ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me **the Holy City, Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. ¹⁶ The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia^[c] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷ The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits^[d] thick.^[e] ¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.^[f] ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. [Cp. 2 Cor 6:16b-18] ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and **the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.** ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Footnotes:

- a. [Revelation 21:1](#) Isaiah 65:17
- b. [Revelation 21:4](#) Isaiah 25:8
- c. [Revelation 21:16](#) That is, about 1,400 miles or about 2,200 kilometers [**Note:** To literalize these numbers is to obscure and totally miss their meaning. 12,000 = 12 (tribes/apostles) x 1,000 (denoting the whole number of something, e.g.: Ps. 50:10, where God says, “for **every** animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on **a thousand** hills.” i.e., He owns the **whole number** of them). The city is pictured as a giant cube, which should call to mind the **Holy of holies** in the tabernacle or temple (10 cubits x 10 cubits x 10 cubits = 1,000). Therefore, the whole city is “holy to the Lord,” a Holy of holies, where God dwells.
- d. [Revelation 21:17](#) That is, about 200 feet or about 65 meters [**See note above.** 144 = 12 x 12, recalling the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles, as well as the new creation: 6 days x 24 hours = 144.]
- e. [Revelation 21:17](#) Or *high*
- f. [Revelation 21:20](#) The precise identification of some of these precious stones is uncertain.]

⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.
⁷ All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you,
the rams of Nebaioth will serve you;
they will be accepted as offerings on my altar,
and I will adorn my glorious temple.
⁸ “Who are these that fly along like clouds,
like doves to their nests?
⁹ Surely the islands look to me;
in the lead are the ships of Tarshish,^[a]
bringing your children from afar,
with their silver and gold,
to the honor of the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.
¹⁰ “Foreigners will rebuild your walls,
and **their kings will serve you.**
Though in anger I struck you,
in favor I will show you compassion.
¹¹ Your gates will always stand open,
they will never be shut, day or night,
so that **people may bring you the wealth of the nations**—
their kings led in triumphal procession.
¹² For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish;
it will be utterly ruined.
¹³ “The glory of Lebanon will come to you,
the juniper, the fir and the cypress together,
to adorn my sanctuary;
and I will glorify the place for my feet.
¹⁴ The children of your oppressors will come bowing before you;
all who despise you will bow down at your feet

and will call you the City of the Lord,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
¹⁵“Although you have been forsaken and hated,
with no one traveling through,
I will make you the everlasting pride
and the joy of all generations.
¹⁶You will drink the milk of nations
and be nursed at royal breasts.
Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior,
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.
¹⁷Instead of bronze I will bring you gold,
and silver in place of iron.
Instead of wood I will bring you bronze,
and iron in place of stones.
I will make peace your governor
and well-being your ruler.
¹⁸No longer will violence be heard in your land,
nor ruin or destruction within your borders,
but you will call your walls **Salvation**
and your gates Praise.
¹⁹The sun will no more be your light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.
²⁰Your sun will never set again,
and your moon will wane no more;
the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your days of sorrow will end.
²¹Then all your people will be **righteous**
and they will possess the land forever.
They are the shoot I have planted,
the work of my hands,
for the display of my splendor.
²²The least of you will become a thousand,
the smallest a mighty nation.
I am the Lord;
in its time I will do this swiftly.”

Footnotes:

- a. [Isaiah 60:9](#) *Or the trading ships*