

Isaiah 60

I never thought of the importance of the moon when I was small besides the moonlight. As I grew older, I learned more about the moon effect on earth. I continue to learn about moon effect even when I was an engineer designing low earth orbit satellites where the moon albedo has to be accounted for. The importance of the sun is obvious. I had a bad pneumonia several months ago and stayed in the hospital for 14 days and recovering at home days after that. While I was recovering at home, I needed to go out and get sunlight whenever possible to help my recovery of vitamin D and serotonin. So, when will we no longer need the sun and moon? Isaiah 60 gives the answer. But first let me give you some background on the book of Isaiah.

1) Prophecies in the book of Isaiah

a. Background

Prophet Isaiah prophesied around 745 to 685 BC under the reign of four Judean kings and died under the fifth king. During that time, Israel was divided into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Isaiah was likely lived in or near Jerusalem in Judah. The early chapters of Isaiah mainly described the sinful nature of Judah and God's judgement and plan. The northern kingdom Israel had similar corrupt morals and sins where God's message through Isaiah also applied. The later chapters had a lot of prophecies on the Messiah (Jesus).

b. Prophecies and fulfillments

The prophecies in Isaiah contain two eras: Isaiah's day and a time in the distant future like Jesus and end time. The prophecies on two empires and several nations have been fulfilled. The Assyria empire (base in Iraq with control stretches from Iran to Egypt) was destroyed as prophesized in Isa. 10:12 & 33:1. The Babylon empire which was based in Iraq overpowered Assyria in 612BC. Later, the Persians and Medes (modern day Iran) overpowered Babylon in around 539BC. It was prophesized in Isa. 21:2 and Isa. 13:17 as "See, I will stir up against them (Babylon) by the Medes...."

Prophecy about the Messiah (Jesus) is on different chapters of Isaiah. The Millennial kingdom are covered at later chapters like Chapter 60.

2) The Lord's glorious light shine

Isa. 60:1-8 described God's light. His glorious light shine to people. Darkness is for sleep and gloom but light is for rise and shine. When God's light shine, we Christians should arise and shine. You can see the arise and shine applies today. But it also refers to the future like in Verse 3 talked about nations will come to His light (see Rev. 21:24), and earth kings are attracted to the brightness of Israel's rising. This will be fulfilled when Israel is lifted up among all nations in the Millennial Kingdom.

Verse 4 talked about sons and daughters (all Jewish people) from different places on earth will be back at Israel. The "doves flying to the nests" in verse 8 is likely describing the large number of converted gentiles going back to Christ as for shelter and rest. This is a wonderful scene of the future Kingdom.

3) Great things will come to Israel in the future

Isa. 60:9-14 described the wonderful things will happen to His people as God is gracious. Other nations will give treasures to God's people and serve them. Mainly they will serve the Lord and to contribute to the Millennial Temple (see Ezekiel 40 to 47). Verse 11 talked about "the gates will always open" that describes Christ is ready and willing to receive repented persons at all time (also see Rev. 21:25). However, verse 12 stated those people that don't repent will perish.

Isa. 60:14-18 described more about how Israel was treated by other nations before and how those nations will treat Israel in the future Kingdom.

Isa. 60:16 is important that it stated "... I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

4) The future Kingdom

Verses 19 to 22 concludes the description of the future Kingdom. "The 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 you God will be your glory." (Isa. 60:19) That will be the time we don't need the sun and the moon because God's everlasting light is all we need. This image was also

used to describe the New Jerusalem in Rev. 21:3 and 22:5. Further, verse 21 stated all the people will be righteous. God is righteous and all His people will be righteous then.

In conclusion, most of the prophecies in the book of Isaiah have been fulfilled. But, the major end time Kingdom will come and will be glories. God's light will be all we need. Let's us all live today with the assurance and anticipation of this wonderful Kingdom will come.