

The Friends of Israel

Isaiah 60:1-22; Selected OT Prophecies

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Israel's "friends" today in the United Nations
- Antisemitism is not a new phenomenon
 - Began with Cain killing Abel
 - 1 John 3:12-- *"Cain was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil, but his brother's righteous."*
 - Satan has always had a special hatred for Israel and the Jewish people
 - Traced through the Old Testament
 - Experienced in modern times during the Holocaust
 - Will experience intense persecution during the Tribulation
- God has a 490-year plan to prepare Israel and the Jews for their Messiah
- God's plan also included the "Times of the Gentiles" during which Israel will be dominated by four Gentile world powers: Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
- During the dispensation of Grace, God turns His attention away from the Jews, and primarily to the Gentiles.
 - Jesus Christ today is building His church made up of believing Jews and Gentiles.
 - But God has not forgotten the Jewish people, but the blindness is partial and temporary.
 - Romans 11:25b-27 -- *"blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in, and so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."*
- The Second Coming of Christ ushers in the new dispensation, the Kingdom Age in which Israel and the Jews will take center stage!
 - The "times of the Gentiles" will be finished as the "Fifth Kingdom" of the Son of Man will smash the four Gentile world powers and will establish a kingdom that will never end.
 - Jesus Christ will enter into a New Covenant relationship with the house of Israel and Judah.
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34-- *"not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, "Know the LORD," for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*
 - Jesus Christ will regather the scattered Jews into the promised land in fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham.
 - Jesus Christ will reign over a restored Davidic Kingdom in fulfillment of prophecies made to David and to Mary.
 - 2 Samuel 7:12, 16 -- *"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ... And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' ' "*
 - Luke 1:31-33 -- *"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*
- The "tables" are now turned with Israel and the Jews in control.
- What about the Gentile nations during the Messianic Age? What will their relationship be to the Jews and Israel?

The Friends of Israel

A. Their Friendly Responses

1. The Gentiles will honor the Jews as God's chosen, blessed people.

- Zephaniah 3:20-- *"At that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; For I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes," says the LORD.*"
- a. The Jews will no longer experience shame and reproach but fame, praise and honor.
- b. The Jews will experience "double honor" with the result that the Gentiles will acknowledge that the Jews are God's chosen.
 - Isaiah 61:7-- *"Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs."*
 - Isaiah 61:9 -- *"Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the LORD has blessed."*
- c. The Gentiles, on the other hand, will be ashamed, speechless, and fearful of the Lord.
 - Micah 7:14-17-- *"As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders. The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; They shall put their hand over their mouth; Their ears shall be deaf. They shall lick the dust like a serpent; They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of You."*

2. The Gentile nations will become the servants of the Jews.

- a. **The reversal of roles.** Israel, once the slave will become the master. And the Gentiles who once dominated Israel will become their servants.
 - Isaiah 14:1-2-- *"For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob. Then people will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them for servants and maids in the land of the LORD; they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors."*
- b. **This includes both the common man and royalty**
 - Isaiah 49:22-23 -- *"Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples; They shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders; Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers; They shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD, for they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.'"*
- c. As servants of Israel, **the Gentiles will help rebuild Jerusalem and other cities** ruined during the tribulation.
 - Isaiah 60:10 -- *"The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you. For in My wrath I struck you, but in My favor I have had mercy on you."*
 - Isaiah 61:4-5 -- *"And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers."*
- d. **Rebuilt Jerusalem will be beautiful** resulting in the nations that once despised Israel bowing down in recognition that **Jerusalem is indeed God's chosen city.**
 - Isaiah 60:13-- *"The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the pine, and the box tree together, to beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I will make the place of My feet glorious."*

- Isaiah 60:14 -- *“the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you the City of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.”*
- e. **The Gentile nations that refuse to serve Israel will be destroyed.**
- Isaiah 60:12 -- *“For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, and those nations shall be utterly ruined.”*
3. **The Gentile nations’ wealth will flow to Israel and the Jews.**
- Isaiah 60:11-- *“Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, and their kings in procession.”*
- a. During the tribulation period, the center for world commerce and trade will be in Babylon and one will need the mark of the beast to participate.
- b. During the Messianic Kingdom, the center for world commerce and trade will be Jerusalem, and the gates will be continually open for business.
- c. **Examples of the kind of wealth and the Gentile nations who will be bringing it.**
- Isaiah 60:4-9 -- *“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 nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, and I will glorify the house of My glory. “Who are these who fly like a cloud, and like doves to their roosts? Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, to bring your sons from afar, their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the LORD your God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because He has glorified you.”*

B. Their Friendly Motivation: Why be friends of Israel?

1. **Israel as “LIGHT” will attract the Gentiles.**
- Isaiah 60:1-3 -- *“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”*
- a. The whole earth is covered with darkness, that is, spiritual darkness. What the world needs is LIGHT!
- b. Jesus Christ, at His second coming, defeats the powers of darkness. The Jewish remnant’s eyes will be open, the light will shine in, and they will be gloriously saved.
- Isaiah 59:19-20 -- *“So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. ‘The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,’ says the LORD.”*
- c. As a result of the Jews being enlightened, they are to **“Arise, shine, for your light has come!”**
- d. Israel’s calling has always been to be a **“light to the Gentiles”**

- Isaiah 42:6-- *"I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles."*

e. **But Israel failed to let their light shine.**

f. **God however will give them another opportunity during the Kingdom age**

- Isaiah 49:6 -- , *'It is too small a thing that you should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'* "

2. **God's Presence in Israel will attract them**

- Zechariah 8:23-- *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: "In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.' "*
- a. Gentiles will join the Jews in the worship of God in Jerusalem because they heard that *"God is with you."*
- b. Gentiles will be drawn to Jerusalem for that is where the Messiah, Jesus Christ, will be living.--
- Isaiah 2:3-- *"Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."*

C. Our Reaction and Response?

1. It always pays to be a friend of Israel!

2. **We today are called to be the LIGHT in this world!**

a. **We who have experience salvation are to be the "light in this world"**

- Acts 26:18-- *"turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God...forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."*
- Colossians 1:13-- *"delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love"*
- 1 Peter 2:9-- *"proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*

b. **We shine as lights by our works and our words.**

- Philippians 2:14-16 -- *"Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain."*
- Ephesians 5:8-10-- *"You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."*

c. **While many today love their darkness and refuse to come to the light, we must still let our light shine before men.**

- John 3:19-20-- *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."*
- Matthew 5:16-- *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*