

Announcements for January 18, 2026

- **Plowshares: "Klara and the Sun"** | Jan. 25 at 12:15 p.m.
 - Free lunch – please reserve
 - Books for sale in the lobby
- **"A Binding Truth" Film Screening and Discussion** | Feb. 1 at 4-6:00 p.m.
 - Subjects of the documentary will be present for discussion
- **Youth Fundraiser** | Feb. 8 at 9:45 a.m. (breakfast, no Sunday class)
 - Need donations for silent auction
- **Marriage Retreat** | Feb. 14 (9:00 am - 3:00 pm) & Feb.15 (12:30 - 2:00 pm)
 - Childcare provided
- **Willard Lecture: "Digital Empathy and Genuine Human Connection"** | Mar. 1 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Women's Retreat** | May 1–3, Montreat Conference Center
 - Dr. Christopher Edmonston is leading
 - Registration closes Jan. 30.

PASSAGES ISAIAH:

New
Beginnings,
New Hopes,
&
Old
Challenges

THE PROPHET BY
REMBRANDT



ISAIAH: *Where Are We Going?*
 Are We There Yet?

Jan 18: “Second” & “Third” *Isaiah*

Jan 25: Messianic Themes in *Isaiah*

Feb 1: *Isaiah* in the New Testament

TODAY'S CLASS -- "'2nd" & "3rd" *ISAIAH*

1. Review: The Setting of "Second" Isaiah
2. Isaiah 40 & Small Groups
3. Setting of "Third" Isaiah
4. Isaiah 60 & 61

1. THE SETTING OF SECOND ISAIAH (Isaiah 40–55)



FIRST &
SECOND
ISAIAH

- 732 BC: Northern Kingdom (Israel) falls to ASSYRIA
→ (2 Kings 17:1-23) Isaiah 1-7

- 701 BC: ASSYRIA *almost* conquers Jerusalem
→ (2 Kings 17:1-23) Isaiah 8-39

MIND THE GAP!

- 587 BC: Southern Kingdom (Judah) falls to BABYLON→
(2 Kings 25) (*unmentioned in Isaiah!*)

- 539 BC: Judah exiles return to Jerusalem after PERSIA
conquers the Babylonians



“FIRST” to “SECOND” ISAIAH

- 587 BC: Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and Temple and cart Judah's leadership off into exile in Babylon (Psalm 139)
- 587–537 BC: Judah in exile in Babylon
- 540 BC: Persia (King Cyrus) conquers Babylonians
- 539 BC: Cyrus issues Edict of Return (Ezra 1:1–4)



- QUESTIONS?
- COMMENTS?
- CONFUSIONS?





HERE IS HOW FIRST ISAIAH ENDS...WITH A WARNING....

*"Days are coming when all that is in
your house*

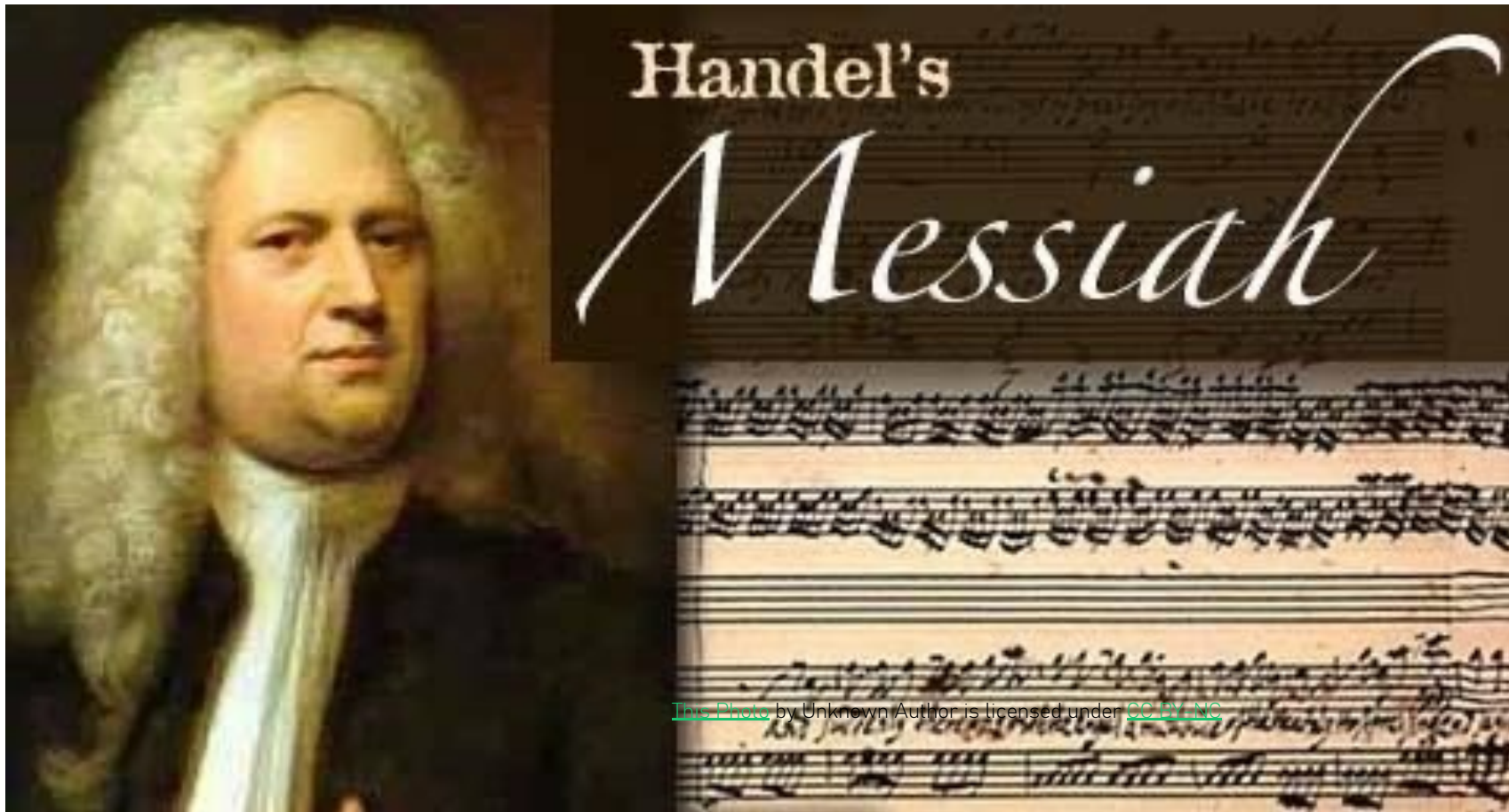
*and that which your ancestors have
stored up until this day shall be
carried to Babylon;*

nothing shall be left, says the Lord."



...SILENCE...

AND NOW: SECOND ISAIAH



2. ISAIAH 40

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.



EZRA 1: 1-4

² “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:
“The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all
the kingdoms of the earth and he has
appointed me to build a temple for him at
Jerusalem in Judah.

Any of his people among you may go up to
Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of
the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in
Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.

SECOND ISAIAH'S "GOOD NEWS"

- *Declaration*: EXILE IS OVER (punishment)
- *Exhortation*: COME HOME TO JERUSALEM
(forgiveness/restoration/salvation)
- *Promise*: A life of blessing, prosperity and salvation
in restored Jerusalem



COME
HOME!

ISAIAH 40:1-5

³ A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

N.T. Wright on Isaiah 40...

The Prophet envisions a voice calling out a message
of comfort to Zion: Your punishment is finished!

So flatten the hills and fill in the valleys
and roll out the red carpet,

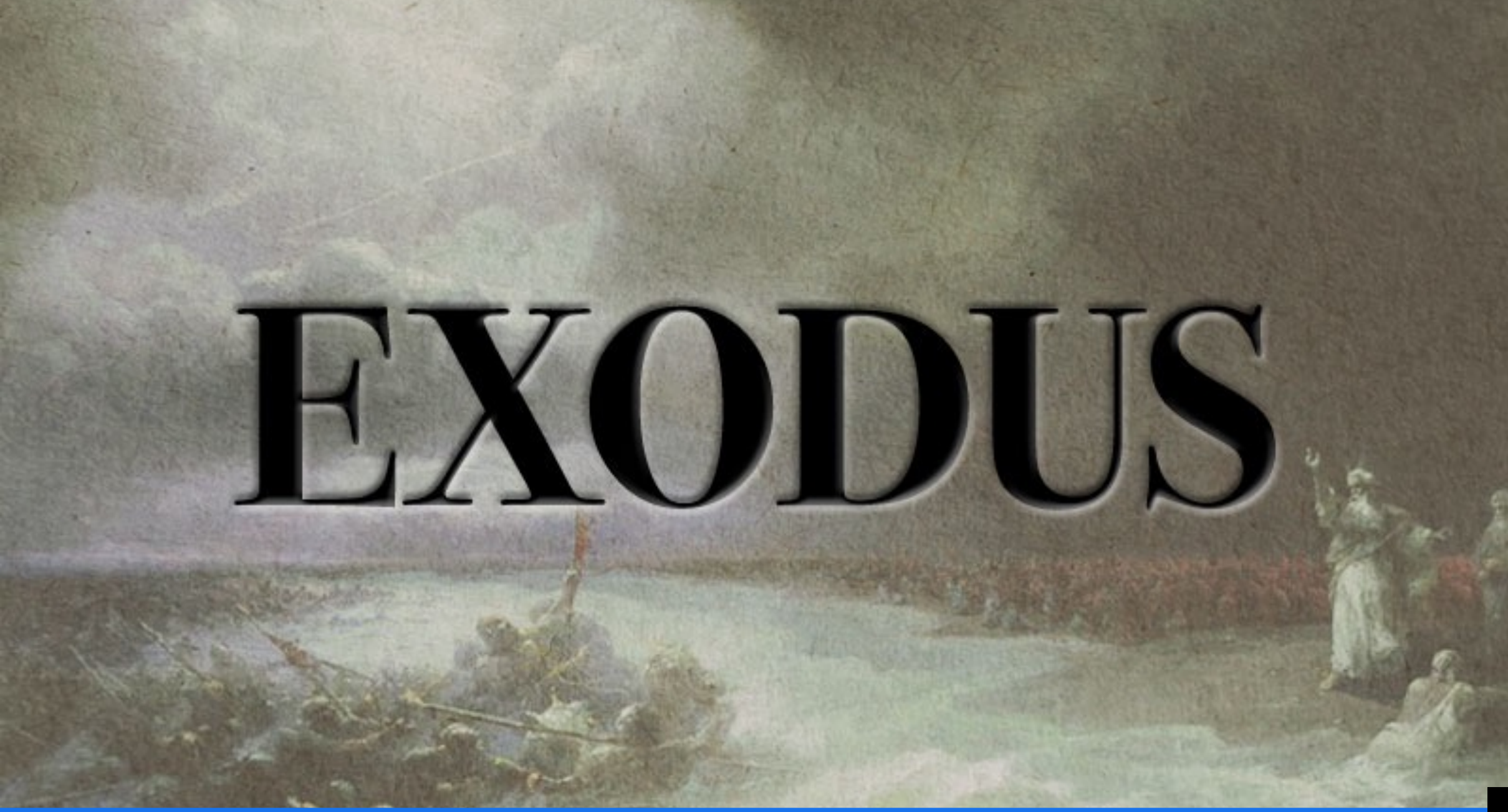
Because he's coming back at last!

A HOMELAND FULL OF PROMISE...

*...AFTER A TIME OF SERVITUDE TO
ANOTHER POWER*

WHAT OTHER MAJOR OLD TESTAMENT EVENT
DOES THIS REMIND YOU OF?

EXODUS



ISAIAH 40:6-9

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

ISAIAH 40:9-10

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him.

ISAIAH 40: 11

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs
in his arms and carry them in
his bosom

and gently lead the mother
sheep.



A PARAPHRASE...



God tends to the flock
like a shepherd,
gathering the lambs in
outstretched arms,
and carrying them close
to a heart bursting with
love.





If you
remember
nothing else
from this
class....



ISAIAH 40:12-14

¹² **Who** has measured the waters of the sea in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span...and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

¹³ **Who** has directed the spirit of the LORD or as his counselor has instructed him?

¹⁴ **Whom** did he consult for his enlightenment, and **who** taught him the path of justice? **Who** taught him knowledge and showed him the way of understanding?

ISAIAH 40:18-19; 21 -23

¹⁸ To whom, then, will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?

¹⁹ An idol? A workman casts it...!

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth....



ISAIAH 40:25-26

²⁵ To whom, then, will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ **Lift up your eyes on high and see:** Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

ISAIAH 40:27-29

Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, *“My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?*

²⁸ **Have you not known? Have you not heard?** The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ **He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.**

ISAIAH 40:30-31

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted,

but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.





- QUESTIONS?
- COMMENTS?
- CONFUSIONS?



SMALL GROUPS...

- SECOND ISAIAH – STARTING WITH ISAIAH 40 – IS GOOD NEWS TO THE ISRAELITES.
- WHAT IS GOOD NEWS TO YOU IN THIS PASSAGE?
(*VERSE/ PHRASE/ WORD*)



ISAIAH 55:1-4

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without
money and without price.

3. THE SETTING OF THIRD ISAIAH (Isaiah 56–66)

THE SETTING OF THIRD ISAIAH

- Jews return from Babylon bit by bit
- Once they have returned to Jerusalem – things are only “meh”
- “Salvation in a minor key”

THE SETTING OF THIRD ISAIAH

- Takes a while for the city walls to be rebuilt
(*Nehemiah*)
- Takes a while for the Temple to be rebuilt
(*Ezra* & *Haggai*)
- Conflicts with Jews who stayed behind during Exile

THIRD ISAIAH'S MESSAGE

- “Second” Isaiah’s promises of blessing, prosperity, restoration *will be* fulfilled
- Israel’s role as “a light to the nations” is emphasized (Gentiles come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord)



4. ISAIAH 60 & 61

ISAIAH 60:1-3

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

ISAIAH 60:4-6

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

ISAIAH 60:7-9

⁷ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house. ⁸ Who are these that fly like a cloud and like doves to their windows?

⁹ For the coastlands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you.

ISAIAH 60:10-12

¹⁰ Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you, for in my wrath I struck you down, but in my favor I have had mercy on you.

¹¹ Your gates shall always be open; day and night they shall not be shut, so that nations shall bring you their wealth, with their kings led in procession.

¹² For the nation and kingdom that will not serve you shall perish; those nations shall be utterly laid waste.

ISAIAH 60:13-14

¹³ The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the plane, and the pine, to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will glorify where my feet rest.

¹⁴ The descendants of those who oppressed you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

ISAIAH 60:15-16

¹⁵ Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age.

¹⁶ You shall suck the milk of nations; you shall suck the breasts of kings, and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

ISAIAH 60:17-18

¹⁷ Instead of bronze I will bring gold; instead of iron I will bring silver; instead of wood, bronze; instead of stones, iron. I will appoint Peace as your overseer and Righteousness as your taskmaster.

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.

ISAIAH 60:19-20

¹⁹ The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night, but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

²⁰ Your sun shall no more go down or your moon withdraw itself, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

ISAIAH 60:21-22

²¹ Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever. They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands, so that I might be glorified.

²² The least of them shall become a clan and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the LORD; in its time I will accomplish it quickly.



- QUESTIONS?
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ISAIAH 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners,

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

ISAIAH 61:3-6

They will be called oaks of righteousness, planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks; foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines, ⁶ but you shall be called priests of the LORD; you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory.

ISAIAH 61:7-8

⁷ Because their shame was double and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

⁸ For I, the LORD, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

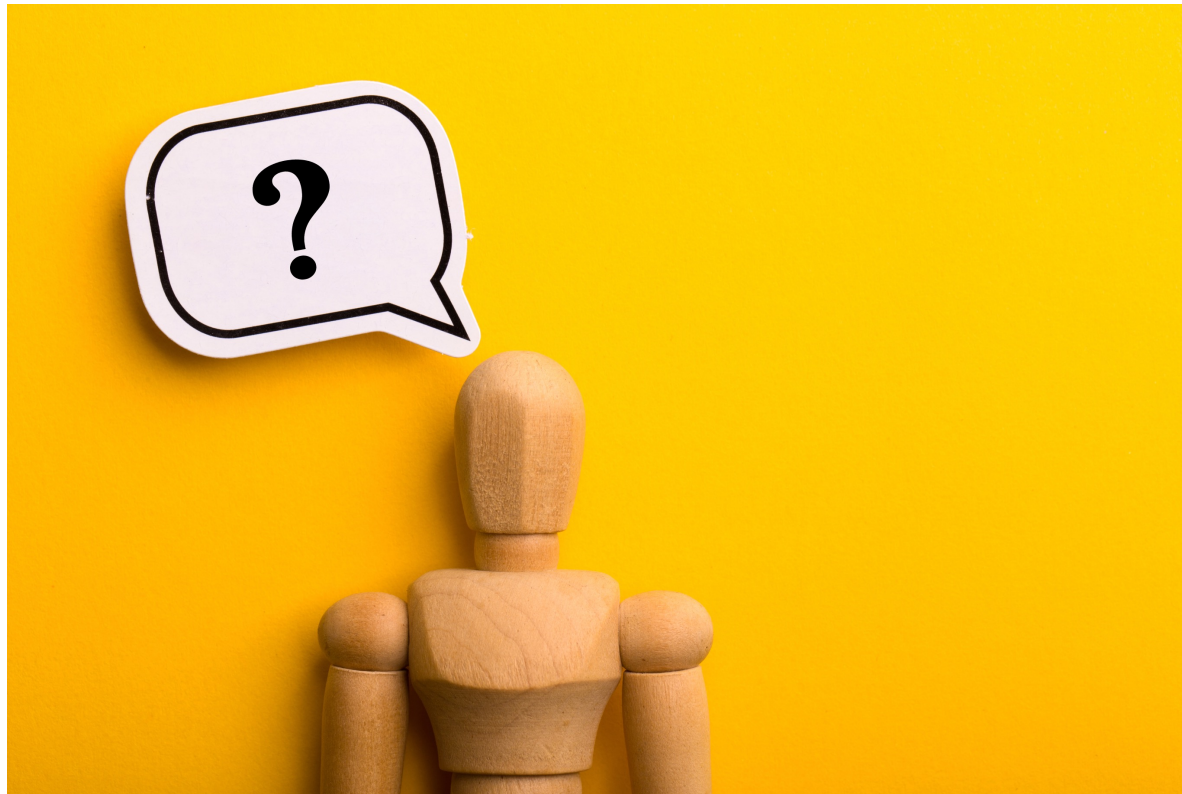
ISAIAH 61:9

⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

ISAIAH 61:10-11

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.



- QUESTIONS?
- COMMENTS?
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