

OPEN DOORS OF MINISTRY

(What Happens When Jesus Comes To Church)

Isaiah 60:1-22



WHEN GRACE OPENS THE DOOR

- ◆ We Are Enlightened
- ◆ We Are Enlarged
- ◆ We Are Encouraged
- ◆ We Are Exchanged

“Thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night” (Isaiah 60:11)

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“OPEN DOORS OF MINISTRY”

Text: Isaiah 60:1-22

Subject: “What Happens When Jesus Comes To Church”

(There Are Awesome Promises In Isaiah 60)

- (V.1) “The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee”
- (V.2) “His glory shall be seen upon you”
- (V.3) “The unsaved will come to the light”
- (V.4) “People will be nursed at your side”
- (V.5) “Your heart will be enlarged”
- (V.9) “Silver and gold will be brought to the Lord”
- (V.10) “In My favor I’ve had mercy upon you”
- (V.11) “Your gates (or doors) will be open continually”
- (V.13) “I’ll make the place of My feet glorious”
- (V.15) “I’ll make you a joy of many generations”
- (V.20) “The days of mourning shall be ended”
- (V.22) “The smallest ones shall be multiplied and made strong”

What Is Isaiah Saying?

- #1. Isaiah 60 is a glowing report of life in the church under the Messiah.
- #2. It is a report of how Jesus will convert and care for those He redeems.
- #3. It is a picture of a shining light that affects everyone within its influence.
- #4. It is a revelation of what you and I are to experience under the Lordship of Jesus.

In Plain Vanilla Isaiah describes:

- ◆ How the Lord will restore the city of Zion for Israel (and)
- ◆ How the Lord will restore the life of every believer here.

Question: What does (v.1) mean, “Arise, shine for thy light is come”?

Question: What does (v.4) mean, “That people will be nursed at your side”?

Question: What does (v.17) mean, “For brass I will bring gold”?

Question: What does (V.20) mean, “The days of your mourning shall be ended”?

(Our Emphasis Is V. 11)

“Therefore thy gates (or doors) shall be open continually’ they shall not be shut day or night”

(What Does It Mean?)

- ◆ Gates can be open or closed.
- ◆ Isaiah says, “The Lord’s gates will be open continually”
- ◆ It is a reference to two things:
 - #1. There will be so many new converts that come to Jesus, that Zion’s gates must stay open to receive them all (and)
 - #2. The gospel under the dispensation of grace will be constantly (and unceasingly) open for people to come into for ministry.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The doors of God’s church are never closed.
- ◆ No one will ever be excluded from coming in.

- ◆ There is always room for one more at God's table.
- ◆ The provision of grace and mercy will never run out.
- ◆ It speaks of **accessibility** and **access** to the amazing grace of God.

Question: Pastor, what happens to me when I walk through the door of the grace of God?

(Something Great And Glorious)

I. The Lord Will Enlighten You (Vs. 1-3)

Question: What does it mean, that the Lord will enlighten you?

Answer: It means that Jesus will fulfill (Vs. 1&2)
(V.1) "Arise" Why is Israel told to arise?

(Because Israel has been in a state of affliction and disappointment)

- ◆ 70 years of captivity in Babylon
- ◆ Jerusalem vacant of all true revival
- ◆ Worship in the temple dormant for years
- ◆ But now God sees the church arising to impart to others what she receives from God.

("The Light Is Come" Means)

- #1. For Israel – God sees the restored city of Zion (in a dark age)
- #2. For us – God sees the gospel of grace poured out (in a dark age)

Question: What does Isaiah see?

Answer: He sees something that is awesome in v.2.

"For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people but the Lord shall arise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee".

(What Does It Mean?)

- ◆ It means that Jesus will illuminate us with the gospel of light.
- ◆ It means that Jesus will be to us what the Shekinah glory light was to Israel.

Question: What was this Shekinah Glory of God?

Answer: It was a visible manifestation of God's presence to accompany Israel in their journey.

(Now, Under Grace, God Promises Light To You)

- ◆ Light to guide you in the path you are to take,
- ◆ Light to expose any darkness within us to bring internal change,
- ◆ Light to overcome any darkness that wants to hang around inside of you.

Question: How can we arise and shine?

Answer: Because the Light is come!

II. The Lord Will Enlarge You (Vs. 4-9)

Question: What will occur when we shine with God's glory of a changed life?

Answer: (V.4) "Lift up thine eyes round about, and see; all they gather themselves together, they shall come to thee: Thy sons shall come from far and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side"

(V.5) "The abundance of the sea shall be converted unto you and heathen shall come as well"

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Question: What is the function of light?

Answer: To shine and illuminate!

Question: What happens when the light of your life shines?

Answer: It attracts!

Question: Why does the Lord want to.....

#1. Remove all darkness from our lives with His light (and)

#2. Attract people from all walks of life to His church?

(The Last 4 Words Of V. 4)

“Nursed at thy side”

Fact: Israel had been scattered and despised.

Fact: There was 70 years captivity in Babylon.

Fact: But now the people are coming back to the heart of holy worship in a restored Jerusalem.

Question: Why is God bringing His people back to Himself? (to His church)

Answer: (V.4) “To be nursed at our side”

◆ The word “Nursed” means:

To bear up To sustain To support To satisfy To make firm

(In Other Words)

◆ Something is going to happen inside of people where there is a holy and healthy fear of God.

◆ People (v.9) will be drawn to the “Name of the Lord” (not sermons and songs).

(Notice V.5)

“Thine heart shall fear and be enlarged”

◆ The word “fear” doesn’t mean “to be afraid”.

◆ It means “to be in awe” and “to reverence”. (In Other Words)

◆ Where there is light from God to remove darkness from our lives,

◆ People will be drawn to that light (which is Jesus).

◆ And because we have the holy and healthy fear of God in the church,

◆ People will be drawn and converted in the place where the Holy presence of God is revealed.

...There will be no silliness,

...There will be no comedians,

...There will be no making fun of sacred things. (But Instead)

◆ A deep awestruck reverence that will result in people “nursed at our side” (or) people made firm, strong, healthy and fruitful.

III. The Lord Will Encourage You (Vs. 10-16)

(V.10) “Sons of strangers shall build up thy walls”

◆ (Or) God will bring people to help restore the ruined walls around Jerusalem.

(V11) “Your gates will stay open day and night”

◆ (Or) No one will be able to close the door and stop what God is doing.

(V.12) “Nations (people) that refuse to serve God will be wasted”

◆ (Or) No one can flourish who doesn’t serve God wholeheartedly.

(V.13) “I will make the place of My feet glorious”

◆ (Or) Where the presence of Jesus is, glorious things will take place.

- (V. 14) “Those who once despised you, will bow down at your feet”
◆ (Or) God’s power will cause people to bend their knee in humility.
(V.15) “Whereas you were forsaken and hated so that no man went through thee” (means).
◆ Israel was so abandoned that no caravans traveled through their land.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Israel had been experiencing severe trial and testing.
- ◆ Israel had been rejected, resisted and isolated .
- ◆ Israel had been forsaken, despised and put “on hold”.

(But Where Jesus Is, Things Change)

- (V.15B) “I’m going to make you a joy of many generations”
(V.20B) “Your days of mourning shall end” **(In other words)**
◆ The blues from your past life in captivity have to go.
◆ The grumpies from bad past memories have to go.
◆ The mourning from unfulfilled expectations have to go (why?)
◆ Because the presence of Jesus in your life is greater than the facts of your life!!!

IV. The Lord Will Exchange You (Vs. 17-22)

Question: How do I know that Jesus can change me pastor?

Answer: (V.17) “For brass I will bring gold” “For iron, I will bring silver”
“For wood, I will bring brass” “For stones, I will bring iron”

(What Does It Mean?)

- ◆ Isaiah sees the period of grace we now live in.
- ◆ Isaiah sees the time when Gentile unbelievers would embrace the gospel and be changed.
- ◆ Isaiah sees the influence the gospel would have in the lives of you and me.

Question: Pastor, can the gospel and the Spirit of God really change me?

(V. 17 Is The Truth From Heaven)

- ◆ God is powerful enough to change, exchange, remove and restore whatever needs changing.
- ◆ God by His Spirit will renew your strength according to Isaiah 40:31.

Conclusion

(In V. 11, why is there an open gate (or door) to go through?)

- #1. So you can be Enlightened (and see Jesus overcome everything of darkness in you).
- #2. So you can be Enlarged (or nursed at His side and be made firm, solid, strong and established in the Lord).
- #3. So you can be Encouraged (and experience deep change where change is needed).
- #4. So you can be exchanged (and experience deep change where change is needed).

Amen!

Bill Kirk, Pastor
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