

# A BETTER KING, SERVANT, CONQUEROR

*The Book of Isaiah*

Isaiah 59—60

## Verse to Remember

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*  
Isaiah 60:1

## Day 1 — Read Isaiah 59:1–13.

Throughout today's passage Isaiah shifts pronouns. In verses 2 and 3 he is accusing the people directly and so he uses "you." In verses 4–8 he reports the people's sins using "they." Finally, in verses 9–13 he switches to the pronouns "us," "we," and "our" in order to identify with the people, both in the suffering they experience as a consequence of their sins, and then in confessing their sins to the Lord.

1. The people perceive that the Lord is distant from them.
  - a. What misunderstanding do they have about this distance? (Is. 58:3a; also consider Is. 59:1)
  - b. What is the real reason for this separation? (Is. 58:4; Is. 59:2)
2. Of what iniquities does Isaiah directly accuse the people? (Is. 59:3–4)
3. Isaiah uses a number of striking images to show the people both their sin (59:5–8) and its consequences (59:9–11). Choose a few of these images and explain why you think Isaiah uses them.
4. God's people are looking "for light, but [see only] darkness" (59:9b), "for justice, but find none; for deliverance, but it is far away" (59:11). What will be a significant step toward ending their hopeless searching? (Ps. 32:5; Is. 59:12)

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5. Explain the meaning of the sins confessed in 59:13 (you may want to use a dictionary).  
Rebellion and treachery against the Lord:

Turning our backs on our God:

Fomenting oppression and revolt:

Uttering lies our hearts have conceived:

6. Read 1 John 1:5–9. Take some time to consider how your own sins affect your relationship both with God and with others. Confess your sins to the Lord.

## **Day 2 — Read Isaiah 59:14–21.**

1. What consequences have the people's sins produced in society? (Is. 59:14–15a)
2. At the end of yesterday's passage, all seemed hopeless; the people were overcome by their sin—unable to change their ways or escape the effects of their sin.
  - a. What is God's evaluation of the situation? (Is. 59:15b–16a)
  - b. What is remarkable about his response in 59:16b? (Contrast with Is. 59:2)
3. Sandwiched between God rescuing his people (59:16) and repaying his foes (59:18) is a picture of God putting on his armor (59:17).
  - a. How would this display of his character, commitment, and power<sup>1</sup> be an encouragement to Israel?
  - b. How is this display an encouragement to you?
4. How will God deal with his enemies, and what will result? (Is. 59:18–19)

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5. In contrast, what promises does the LORD make to his repentant people? (Is. 59:20–21)

The “you” to whom God makes a promise in 59:21 is the unnamed “Redeemer,” whom we know to be Jesus. How does this promise give you hope? (📖\* Acts 2:32–39)

### Day 3 — Read Isaiah 60:1–3.

In chapter 60, we are given a glimpse of the future for those whom the Lord has redeemed—a future in which peace and righteousness will reign and in which the Lord will be the everlasting light and glory of his people (60:19b). But it is not just a picture of our heavenly existence with Christ. It also has implications for today as Christ’s glory shines through his church, drawing all nations to himself.

1. How can God’s people shine (60:1) in the midst of the “darkness [that] covers the earth ... [and its] people” (60:2)? (Is. 60:1, 2b; Compare Jn. 8:12.)
2. What effect do this light and glory have on others? (Is. 60:3; 📖 Mt. 5:14–16)

### Day 4 — Read Isaiah 60:4–14.

1. What do the redeemed of the Lord see when they “lift up [their] eyes and look about” (60:4a)? (Is. 60:4–10a)


Why do you think this would cause them to “be radiant,” with hearts that “throb and swell with joy” (60:5)?


2. Why do the nations bring their wealth to Zion? (Is. 60:6–9)

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3. Why do you think it is significant that the gates of the city “always stand open” (60:11)? (Consider also Rev. 21:22–27.)
4. What will happen to foreigners who reject the Lord and his people? (Is. 60:12)
5. What will happen to Israel’s former oppressors? (Is. 60:14)

### **Day 5 — Read Isaiah 60:15–22.**

1. In this vision of the future, what transformations will God bring about? (Is. 60:15–22;  Eph. 1:3–14)
2. What purpose does God give for all these blessings? (Is. 60:16b)
3. God commands his people to “lift up [their] eyes and look about” (60:4). He doesn’t want us to miss what he is doing. Where do you see God at work around you?

\*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

<sup>1</sup>J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1993), 491.