

Part II, Lesson 38

# Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

God's  
People  
Shine

Isaiah  
60:1-14

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex  
Curriculum*

## Isaiah Part II, Lesson 38

### God's People Shine

#### Isaiah 60:1-14

The theme of this poem will be found in verse one, “...the glory of the Lord rises upon you.” This is God’s promise to the people who have been in slavery for a long time. They doubted that God even remembered them.

The first two words, “Arise, Shine,” are strong direct words. This is a command. It is like the loud alarm clock in the morning. “your light has come” is like, look outside, the Sun is shining brightly. But this light is a gift from God. It is specifically for His people, Israel. There had been darkness, now there is the brightest light you can imagine. It is God shining into the hopeless situation of slavery in Babylon.

“The glory of the Lord” reveals His power and holiness. See Psalm 19:1; John 1:14. They were seeing the power of God in His deliverance from the powerful Babylonians. They were to experience the glory of the Lord as He put them back in the land from which they had come...the land He had promised their “father” Abraham.

Again, we see the world pictured through the eyes of an artist. Darkness is everywhere. People are living in darkness. It is thick darkness. Ever heard the expression, “You couldn’t see your hand in front of your face?” Well, it was that kind of darkness. Then God shone His great light. He created the Sun, as you know, however, this is light brighter than the Sun. It is His light. It is the kind of light that the disciples saw on the Mount of Transfiguration. The Bible says of Jesus, “His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.” Matthew 17:2b.

Out of the darkness of the world, Judah is an island, shining brighter than the sun. It is like a spotlight picks out this island and with blackness all around, Judah becomes the light of that black world. The glory of the Lord was right over them. The world takes notice and the nations, the people of the world, are drawn to this light...even kings come.

And not only kings and other nations, but the scattered people of God come. They had been scattered by threats, destruction and military aggression. They had no homeland, and God was calling them home.

God said that where they had lived in fear for years before they were taken captive to Babylon, where they had lived as a captive nation for many years in Babylon, now they were going to shine. They were going to be free. They were going to be envied by the world.

“Lift up your eyes,” He said. “Look and be radiant,” He said. “Your heart will throb and swell with joy,” He said. Fantastic! Glorious! Amazing!

Not only will the kings and people from all over the world come to them, but they will bring their wealth,

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## God's People Shine

their riches, their herds of camels, their gold and their incense. Those were the signs of wealth and happiness in those days. Also, all of the flocks of Kedar and the rams of Nebaioth would belong to Judah for special sacrifice in the Temple at Jerusalem. Kedar and Nebaioth are tribes from northern Arabia, well known for their beautiful, healthy herds. God said that He would “adorn my glorious Temple.” This probably means that when the Temple in Jerusalem had been rebuilt, He would be present in His glory.

One thing could be overlooked if we are not careful. In verse six, God said that these kings and peoples would proclaim “the praise of the Lord.” This means that they would recognize God as the originator of all Judah’s greatness...the shining of this little nation. Judah would become the witness to the world that God had intended for them to be since He called Abraham.

This poet artist sees another vision: “Who are these that fly among the clouds, like doves to their nests?” The answer is that these white sails on the horizon are the “ships of Tarshish.” These ships are bringing the children of Israel back home with their treasures. They are coming to honor God, who is the Lord of Israel.

A final promise is about Zion, or Jerusalem, being restored. God’s compassion turns Him from punishment to favor. God’s people will have all the help they need to rebuild. Their gates will remain open twenty-four/seven. They must remain open to receive all the wealth and good will of the kings of the earth. The kingdom that doesn’t honor Judah will perish.

The Temple will be rebuilt with the finest of materials, including pine, fir and cypress, precious wood brought down from Lebanon. Again, God promises that He will be present in the Temple.

They should expect the children of those who mistreated them as a nation to come and bow before them in submission and service.

God concludes His promise with the name for Jerusalem. It will be called, by everyone, “the City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One.” Many associate this, and the promises above, with the Holy City which will come down from God, as mentioned in the Revelation 21:23-27.

The idea of shining is as old as Moses. When Moses came down from the mountain, after meeting with God for a while, his face was shining. He had been with the Lord. May it always be our prayer that people can see the glory of God in us.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

Isaiah 60:1

**Lesson Goal:** To show students God’s promises to His people. To demonstrate to them God’s willingness to bless even the one who has denied Him.

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## God's People Shine—Isaiah 60:1-14

### Student Worksheet

**Listen during the lesson for this information:**

1. What is the theme of this poem?
2. They were seeing the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in His \_\_\_\_\_ from the powerful Babylonians.
3. How do we illustrate the kind of light God talks about in blessing Israel?
4. What were all the gifts which would be brought to Judah by kings and peoples of the world?
5. What is the “thing that could be overlooked?”
4. To what was he referring when he said, “Who are these that fly among the clouds, like doves to their nests?”
5. May it always be our \_\_\_\_\_ that people can see the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Page Four

**Scripture Memory:** “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

Isaiah 60:1

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.