



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

“Nations Will Come to Your Light” January 2-4, 2021

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

2 *See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.*

3 *Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

4 *“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.*

5 *Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.*

6 *Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.*

1. Between what two events do “The Twelve Days of Christmas” fall? (You can sing the song if you prefer.)

The 12 DoC run from Christmas (Dec. 25) to Epiphany (Jan. 6).

2. In Isaiah 60:1, who is talking and who is he talking to/about? God is speaking to his people Israel, both the physical descendants of Jacob and those who believed in the promise of a Messiah. In

the latter sense, God is speaking to the Old Testament church, which finds its parallel in the New Testament Christian church.

3. What event is Isaiah referring to in v. 1?

The birth of the promised Messiah.

4. In what way does darkness cover the earth?

By nature, every human being is born spiritually blind, unable to properly identify the True God, and unable to completely trust in God’s mercy. This leads people to run headlong into a myriad of different sins, hurting themselves and others.

5. Agree/disagree: Jesus came as a Jew, for the Jews.

Yes, when the Son of God took on a human nature, he became a descendent of David, thus he was a Jew by blood. And yes, he came at the Messiah promised to the Jews. He came to rescue the Jews from the consequences of their sins. There were, and still are, many people who were Jewish by blood who became Christians. However, Jesus came for more than just the Jews. He came for sinners, i.e. all mankind.

6. How has Isaiah 60:3 been fulfilled throughout history?

People of all kinds of different nationalities have been led by the Spirit to trust in Jesus (Christianity is not merely a “Western” religion.) True believers have included members of royalty down through the centuries (Google: Rulers who converted to Christianity)

7. Why do you think the Magi came looking for the King of the Jews? Why is this remarkable/not remarkable?

Although they may have been simply curious ancient investigators, more likely they were believers in the promises God had made in OT, shared by Israelites. Remarkable because they were long-distance Gentiles; Not remarkable because the gospel still meets a universal need.

8. “To you the riches of the nations will come” (v. 5) In what way is this true today? Think of the billions of dollars that believers have brought to support the Lord’s people and work, all out of worship and thankfulness to God.

9. Agree/disagree: These days, it would be better to celebrate Epiphany than celebrate Christmas. Although Epiphany is certainly less commercialized by the world, and therefore likely has a clearer focus for Christians, the celebration of Christmas is certainly still in place.

10. Why do you think God included Isaiah 60:1-6 in the Bible?

To give God's people something to look forward to long-term, especially since their prospects look a bit bleak short term (e.g. Babylonian Captivity). Also to help us see that the OT and NT are tied together. One fulfills the other.