

# Isaiah 60:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

## Analysis

This triumphant call to Jerusalem initiates Isaiah's glorious vision of restoration and future glory. 'Arise, shine' (qumi ori, אַוְרֵי) uses two imperatives: arise from darkness/depression, and shine with reflected glory. The causative explanation follows: 'for thy light is come' (ki va orech, קַיְמֵי אָוֶרֶךְ)—light has arrived, enabling the shining. This is God's light, not self-generated illumination. 'The glory of the LORD is risen upon thee' (kavod Yehovah alayich zarah, כָּבֹד־יְהוָה עַלְךָ זָרָח) uses the verb zarach (rise, shine), describing sunrise. God's manifest presence, His weighty glory (kavod), dawns over His people like the sun rising after long night. This has multiple fulfillments: partially in Israel's return from exile, more fully in Christ's first coming ('the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,' John 1:14), completely in the new Jerusalem where God's glory provides light (Revelation 21:23). The church reflects this glory now, shining God's light in dark world (Matthew 5:14-16).

## Historical Context

Isaiah 60-62 forms the climax of the 'Book of Comfort' (chapters 40-66), promising unprecedented blessing and restoration. Historically, this addressed exiles in Babylonian darkness, promising return and glory. Theologically, it points to messianic age when God's light would shine through Christ and His church. Early Christians saw themselves fulfilling this as light-bearers to the world. Church fathers like Augustine applied this to the church's mission. The verse has inspired missionary movements—bringing Christ's light to darkened lands. William Carey,

Hudson Taylor, and David Livingstone carried this vision to unreached peoples. Modern worship draws from this text, celebrating Christ's light dawning and calling believers to arise and shine in dark cultures.

## Related Passages

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

## **John 15:13 — Greatest form of love**

## Study Questions

1. What darkness in your life or community needs the light of God's glory to shine upon it?
2. How can you better reflect the glory that has risen upon you in Christ, being a light to those in darkness?

## Interlinear Text

נְעָלָה יְהָוָה אֶת־אָמִרָה כִּי־אָמַר־קָרְבָּן וְאָמַר־אָמַר־קָרְבָּן

**Arise      shine      H3588      is come      for thy light      and the glory      of the LORD      H5921**

H6965

זרח:

is risen

H2224

## Additional Cross-References

**Ephesians 5:14** (Resurrection): Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

**Ephesians 5:8** (Light): For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

**John 8:12** (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

**Isaiah 58:8** (Glory): Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.

**Matthew 5:16** (Light): Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

**John 12:46** (Light): I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

**Malachi 4:2** (Resurrection): But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

**Revelation 22:5** (Light): And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

**John 1:9** (Light): That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

**1 Peter 4:14** (Glory): If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.