

Isaiah 60:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought.

Analysis

The promise continues: "Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night." Ancient cities closed gates at night for security, but Zion's gates remain perpetually open, signifying absolute security and continuous access. This pictures both defensive invulnerability (no enemies to fear) and missional openness (constant welcome to incoming worshipers). The purpose: "that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought." The Hebrew *chayil* (forces/wealth) emphasizes both people and resources streaming to Zion. Even kings come as willing subjects. This prophesies the church's perpetual openness to receive all who come to Christ (John 6:37) and the continuous flow of converts and resources for kingdom work. Revelation 21:25 explicitly quotes this: "the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the church's missionary calling—always open, always welcoming, always receiving those whom God brings. It also pictures final security in the consummated kingdom where threats are eternally eliminated.

Historical Context

Post-exilic Jerusalem's walls were broken down until Nehemiah's rebuilding (Nehemiah 1:3, 2:13). Even after reconstruction, the city remained vulnerable to regional threats, requiring gates closed nightly for protection. The prophecy looked beyond this to ultimate security. Partial fulfillment came as the church age

began with gospel openness to all nations (Acts 10:34-35, 15:7-11). Complete fulfillment awaits the New Jerusalem where perfect security and perpetual welcome coexist (Revelation 21:12-27).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How should the church maintain 'open gates'—welcoming accessibility while maintaining doctrinal integrity?
2. What does perpetual openness teach about God's continuous invitation to sinners to come to Christ?
3. How does the promise of ultimate security in the New Jerusalem provide comfort amid present threats?

Interlinear Text

וּפְתֹחַ וְ	שְׁעֵי יְרֻ	תָּמִיד	יוֹמָם וְ	לַיְלָה	לֹא
shall be open	Therefore thy gates	continually	day	nor night	H3808
H6605	H8179	H8548	H3119	H3915	
וְלֹא יִסָּגְרוּ	לְהָבִיא	אֵל יְרֻ	חַיִּל		
they shall not be shut	that men may bring	H413	unto thee the forces		
H5462	H935		H2428		
גוֹיִם	וּמַלְכֵיהֶם	נְהוּגִים:			
of the Gentiles	and that their kings	may be brought			
H1471	H4428	H5090			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 60:5 (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

Isaiah 60:18 (Parallel theme): Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

Isaiah 62:10 (Parallel theme): Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.

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