

Isaiah 60:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness.

Analysis

God promises comprehensive upgrade: "For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for brass bronze, and for stones iron." Each element is replaced with something superior. This escalation emphasizes dramatic improvement—what was adequate (brass, iron) becomes excellent (gold, silver). The pattern continues: "I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness." Leaders (peqidut—officers/overseers) will embody shalom (peace/wholeness). Tax collectors (noges—exactors/oppressors) will exemplify tsedaqah (righteousness/justice). This transformation of corrupt systems into just ones reflects kingdom reality. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates sanctification—God replacing our base materials with precious ones, transforming our character progressively. It also pictures the consummated kingdom where all leadership perfectly reflects God's character (Revelation 21:18-21 describes the New Jerusalem's precious materials). The emphasis on peace and righteousness echoes messianic prophecies (Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-5)—Christ the Prince of Peace who rules in righteousness, transforming His people to reflect His character.

Historical Context

Solomon's temple used fine materials, but subsequent periods saw degradation and impoverishment. The second temple was inferior architecturally (Ezra 3:12). More significantly, Judah's leadership was often corrupt—officers oppressive, tax collectors exploitative (Isaiah 1:23, 3:14-15, Jeremiah 22:13-17). The prophecy

promised not just better materials but transformed leadership characterized by peace and righteousness. This began fulfillment in Christ's inauguration of the kingdom and continues as the gospel transforms leaders to serve rather than exploit (Matthew 20:25-28, 1 Peter 5:2-3).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's progressive sanctification replace the 'brass' in our lives with 'gold'?
2. What does leadership characterized by peace and righteousness look like in the church?
3. How do the precious materials of the New Jerusalem reflect the completed transformation of God's people?

Interlinear Text

א ביא ברא ל ות חת זב ב נח שת ת חת	H8478 For brass I will bring gold H8478 and for iron I will bring	H5178 H935 H2091 H1270 H935
ברא ל נא בון ים נא עצים ות חת נח שת כ סף	and for stones and for iron	H8478 and for wood For brass H8478
silver H3701	H6086 H5178 H68 H1270	H8478

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:40 (Parallel theme): God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Isaiah 30:26 (Parallel theme): Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

Isaiah 1:26 (Righteousness): And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

Zechariah 12:8 (Parallel theme): In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.

2 Peter 3:13 (Righteousness): Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.