

Isaiah 60:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

Analysis

An astonishing promise: "The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee." Natural luminaries become obsolete. Why? "But the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory." God Himself becomes the light source—or olam (everlasting light). This transcends physical illumination to describe God's glorious presence as all-sufficient. Revelation 21:23 and 22:5 explicitly quote this verse, applying it to the New Jerusalem: "the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." From a Reformed perspective, this ultimate state represents the beatific vision—seeing God face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12, 1 John 3:2, Revelation 22:4). All created glories pale before the Creator's glory. The sun and moon, magnificent as they are, are unnecessary when God's presence illuminates all. This is the chief end of man—to glorify God and enjoy Him forever—fully realized in eternal, unmediated fellowship with the divine glory.

Historical Context

The promise addresses the post-exilic community's disappointment. The rebuilt temple lacked the Shekinah glory cloud that filled Solomon's temple (1 Kings 8:10-11). God's presence seemed diminished. This prophecy looked beyond physical manifestations to the ultimate reality: God's unmediated presence with His people. Christ's incarnation brought God's glory to earth (John 1:14), but

veiled in flesh. The consummated kingdom removes all veils—God's full glory illuminates His people eternally without the mediation of sun or moon (Revelation 21:22-25).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Christ function as our light in the present age before the sun and moon become obsolete?
2. What does it mean that God Himself is our glory, not merely the source of glory?
3. How should anticipation of the beatific vision—seeing God face to face—shape our present priorities?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא גַּהֲןָ יְהֹוָה מִן־יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה
H3808 H1961 H0 H5750 The sun give light by day neither for brightness
H8121 H216 H3119 H5051

לֹא יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה
shall the moon light unto thee but the LORD
H3394 H3808 H215 H1961 H0 H3068

לֹא וְרֹאֶה יְהֹוָה יְהֹוָה
give light shall be unto thee an everlasting and thy God thy glory
H216 H5769 H430 H8597

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:23 (Glory): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

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.

Zechariah 2:5 (Glory): For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

Psalms 36:9 (Light): For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Psalms 3:3 (Glory): But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Psalms 62:7 (Glory): In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Luke 2:32 (Glory): A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.