

Isaiah 60:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

Analysis

The permanence is emphasized: "Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself." Natural luminaries set and wane, but God's light is perpetual. "For the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." Or olam (everlasting light) repeats from verse 19, while shalaum yeme eblech (completed the days of your mourning) promises permanent end to sorrow. This echoes Revelation 21:4: "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." From a Reformed perspective, this describes the eternal state where glorified believers experience perfect, uninterrupted joy in God's presence. No more cycles of light and darkness, joy and sorrow—only perpetual light and gladness. This doesn't mean emotional monotony but the consummation of all that brings true joy. The perpetual light symbolizes comprehensive knowledge (no more darkness of ignorance or confusion), holiness (no more darkness of sin), and joy (no more darkness of sorrow).

Historical Context

The post-exilic community experienced ongoing struggles despite return from exile—economic hardship, foreign domination, spiritual coldness. Their mourning hadn't ended. The prophecy looked beyond temporal circumstances to eternal reality. Jesus inaugurated the kingdom, bringing light to darkness (John 8:12, 12:46), but full consummation awaits His return. The church experiences

foretastes of perpetual joy (John 16:22, 1 Peter 1:8) but awaits complete fulfillment when all mourning ceases forever (Revelation 21:4).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of ended mourning provide comfort amid present sorrows?
2. What does perpetual light without sunset teach about the unchanging nature of eternal joy?
3. How should we balance present suffering with future glory (Romans 8:18)?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| לֹא H3808 | יָבֹא H935 | עוֹד H5750 | שֶׁמֶשׁ יְ H8121 | וְיָרֵחַ יְ H3391 | לֹא H3808 |
| | shall no more go down | | Thy sun | neither shall thy moon | |
| יִצְטָרֵף H622 | כִּי H3588 | יְהוָה H3068 | יְהוָה H1961 | לְךָ H0 | לֹא H216 |
| withdraw | | itself for the LORD | | light | |
| עוֹלָם H5769 | וְשִׁלְמוֹ H7999 | וְיָמֵי H3117 | אֲבֵלָתְךָ H60 | | |
| shall be thine everlasting | shall be ended | and the days | of thy mourning | | |

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:4 (Parallel theme): And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Psalms 84:11 (References Lord): For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Isaiah 35:10 (Eternal Life): And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 25:8 (References Lord): He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

Psalms 27:1 (Light): The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Malachi 4:2 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 30:19 (Parallel theme): For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

Isaiah 30:26 (Light): 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 65:19 (Parallel theme): And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

Amos 8:9 (References Lord): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

