

Isaiah 60:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Analysis

Following the command for Zion to arise and shine (v.1-2), this verse describes the worldwide response: "And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." The Hebrew *goyim* (Gentiles/nations) indicates universal scope—not just Israel but all peoples. "Kings" represents the highest earthly authorities bowing to God's glory. This prophesies the ingathering of the nations, a consistent biblical theme from Abraham's blessing extending to all families of the earth (Genesis 12:3) through the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) to the consummated kingdom (Revelation 21:24). The attraction is the "light" and "brightness"—God's glory manifested in His people. From a Reformed perspective, this describes the elect from all nations drawn irresistibly to Christ, the light of the world (John 8:12). The church becomes a light-bearing community (Matthew 5:14-16), reflecting Christ's glory and drawing the nations to saving faith. This is not universalism but the comprehensive scope of redemption—elect from every tribe and tongue (Revelation 5:9, 7:9).

Historical Context

This prophecy addressed the post-exilic community struggling with diminished circumstances and limited influence. God promised that despite present weakness, Zion would become a beacon attracting nations and kings. Partial fulfillment came as proselytes joined Israel (Esther 8:17, Acts 2:10), but ultimate fulfillment is in the church age as the gospel spreads to all nations (Acts 1:8, 13:47, Colossians

1:6, 23) and will be consummated when the nations bring glory into the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:24-26).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the church function as light-bearers drawing nations to Christ's glory?
2. What does the inclusion of Gentiles and kings reveal about the comprehensive scope of redemption?
3. How should this vision of worldwide ingathering shape our mission and evangelistic efforts?

Interlinear Text

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| וְהָלַךְ וְ | גוֹיִם | לְאוֹרְךָ | וּמַלְכֵי יָם | לְנֹגַהּ | זִרְחֶךָ: |
| shall come | And the Gentiles | to thy light | and kings | to the brightness | of thy rising |
| H1980 | H1471 | H216 | H4428 | H5051 | H2225 |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:23 (Kingdom): And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Acts 13:47 (Light): For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Revelation 21:24 (Kingdom): And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

Isaiah 45:14 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God.

John 12:32 (Parallel theme): And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Isaiah 11:10 (Parallel theme): And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Isaiah 49:12 (Sin): Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.

Acts 15:17 (Parallel theme): That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

Psalms 138:4 (Kingdom): All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth.

Psalms 68:29 (Kingdom): Because of thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto thee.