

Isaiah 60:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The response to this vision is profoundly emotional: "Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged." Four verbs describe Zion's reaction. "Flow together" (nahar) literally means to shine or beam—radiant joy. "Fear" (pachad) indicates reverential awe at God's work. "Be enlarged" (rachab) means expanding to capacity—overwhelming joy. The reason follows: "because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee." The "abundance of the sea" likely refers to maritime trade wealth and island nations (coastlands). "Forces" (chayil) means wealth, resources, and might—not merely people but their treasures and capabilities dedicated to God's purposes. This prophesies the Gentiles bringing their wealth and glory into the kingdom (Revelation 21:24-26). From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates the cultural mandate redeemed—human creativity, productivity, and achievement consecrated to God's glory. Christ claims not just souls but the totality of creation, transforming culture and commerce for kingdom purposes.

Historical Context

Post-exilic Judah was economically weak, depending on Persian imperial permission and resources to rebuild. This promise looked forward to reversal—instead of being tributaries to empires, they would receive tribute from nations.

Partial fulfillment came through temple donations from Gentiles (Ezra 1:4, 6:8-9), but complete fulfillment awaits the consummated kingdom when all creation acknowledges Christ's lordship (Philippians 2:10-11) and all things are reconciled to God (Colossians 1:20).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How should the prospect of worldwide conversion produce both joy and reverent fear in believers?
2. What does the dedication of Gentile wealth and resources to God's kingdom teach about comprehensive redemption?
3. In what ways should believers consecrate their vocational skills and economic resources to kingdom purposes?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| אָ ז | תִּרְאִי | וְנָה רַתְּ | וְפָחַד | וְרָחַב |
| H227 | Then thou shalt see | and flow together | shall fear | and be enlarged |
| | H7200 | H5102 | H6342 | H7337 |
| לִבְּךָ | כִּי | יִהְיֶה | עַל יְהוָה | הֵמ וְנִ |
| and thine heart | H3588 | shall be converted | H5921 | because the abundance |
| H3824 | | H2015 | | H1995 |
| יָם | יְיָ | גוֹיִם | יָבֹאוּ | לָךְ: |
| of the sea | unto thee the forces | of the Gentiles | shall come | H0 |
| H3220 | H2428 | H1471 | H935 | |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 61:6 (Parallel theme): But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Isaiah 23:18 (Parallel theme): And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the LORD: it shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing.

Acts 11:17 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

Acts 10:45 (Parallel theme): And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

1 Samuel 2:1 (Parallel theme): And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

Isaiah 54:2 (Parallel theme): Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;

Isaiah 60:11 (Parallel theme): 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.

Acts 24:17 (Parallel theme): Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

Psalms 34:5 (Parallel theme): They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

Jeremiah 33:9 (Parallel theme): And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

