

Isaiah 60:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD.

Analysis

The prophecy becomes specific: "The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah." These Arabian tribes would bring trade goods on camel caravans—a vivid picture of wealth flowing to Zion. "All they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense." Sheba (southwestern Arabia, modern Yemen) was famous for wealth and spices. Gold and incense are royal and priestly gifts—what the magi brought to Christ (Matthew 2:11), connecting this prophecy to Messiah's worship. "And they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD." The climax isn't material wealth but worship—Gentiles proclaiming Yahweh's greatness. The Hebrew *yebasser* (show forth/proclaim) means announcing good news. From a Reformed perspective, this prophesies the missionary expansion of the church. The elect from all nations, including former enemies, will bring their best offerings and join in worshiping the true God. The material gifts symbolize the dedication of whole lives and cultures to Christ's glory. This fulfills the Abrahamic promise that all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3, 22:18, Galatians 3:8).

Historical Context

Midian, Ephah, and Sheba were descendants of Abraham through Keturah and others (Genesis 25:1-4), but they became distinct peoples often hostile to Israel.

Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon (1 Kings 10:1-13) prefigured this prophecy. The magi from the East bringing gifts to infant Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12) provided symbolic fulfillment. Complete fulfillment comes as the gospel reaches Arabia and all nations, transforming former enemies into worshipers.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the transformation of former enemies (like Midian) into worshipers demonstrate the gospel's power?
2. What does the bringing of gold and incense by Gentiles teach about appropriate worship of Christ?
3. How should material prosperity be connected to proclaiming God's praises rather than self-indulgence?

Interlinear Text

שְׂפָעַת	גִּמְלֵי יָם	תִּכְסֶּה	בְּכֶרֶךְ י	מִדְיָן	וְעֵיפָה
The multitude	of camels	shall cover	thee the dromedaries	of Midian	and Ephah
H8229	H1581	H3680	H1070	H4080	H5891
כָּלֵם	מִשְׁבָּה א	יָבֹאוּ	זָהָב	וּלְבוֹנָה	יִשְׂאוּ
H3605	all they from Sheba	shall come	gold	and incense	they shall bring
	H7614	H935	H2091	H3828	H5375
וְתִהְיֶה	יְהוָה	וְיִשְׁאוּ			
the praises	of the LORD	and they shall shew forth			
H8416	H3068	H1319			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 72:10 (Parallel theme): The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

Matthew 2:11 (Worship): And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Psalms 72:15 (Resurrection): And he shall live, and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba: prayer also shall be made for him continually; and daily shall he be praised.

1 Peter 2:9 (Resurrection): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Judges 6:5 (Parallel theme): For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

Genesis 10:7 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtecha: and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan.

1 Peter 2:5 (Parallel theme): Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Isaiah 61:6 (References Lord): 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 30:6 (Parallel theme): The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence come the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them.

