

## The Future Glory of Israel

The OT reading for this coming Sunday (The Epiphany of Our Lord) is Isaiah 60:1-6. Isaiah's words pointed to more than the physical restoration of Jerusalem.

The words *arise, shine* in verse 1 have 2, but important meanings. Arise means to rouse or stand up. Shine means to be like the break of a day. Both of these call God's people to attention. That is really what Epiphany is all about.

The *darkness* spoken of, was a symbol of gloom, oppression and sin. That is still true today. The world all around us is polluted to the core with evil, a hatred of Christianity, and moral decay. But the Lord, with his Word, brings light and glory to his name.

At Isaiah's time Jerusalem was in tatters, with people just returning of the Babylonian captivity. There wasn't much hope for the future. There is not much hope among people of the world today.

In Isaiah's time people from all over would come and brought with them their people and wealth. God would shine through his people. Today there is great progress of the Gospel. We are to be a witness to all those around us.

Their *hearts shall thrill and exult* Isaiah says. They would be awe of all the riches neighboring nations would bring. And along with all that would come the people. This was looking forward to the influx of Gentiles into the church. Epiphany is a reminder that the Lord also came for us as Gentiles. The Redeemer of Israel will bring His penitent people out of the darkness of their sin into His everlasting light.

Prayer: O God, continually call us out of the darkness of our sin and into Your marvelous light, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (TLSB)