

Isaiah 1-5 Introduction How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	Isaiah 6-39 New Creation God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	Isaiah 40-55 New relationship God will restore his people from exile to a permanent relationship	Isaiah 56-66 Who God will choose the humble and reject the proud
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Isaiah 60:1-61:11 (NIVUK)

Sunday 19 April 2026

60 'Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.
³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ 'Lift up your eyes and look about you:
all assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.
⁷ All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you,
the rams of Nebaioth will serve you;
they will be accepted as offerings on my altar,
and I will adorn my glorious temple.
⁸ 'Who are these that fly along like clouds,
like doves to their nests?
⁹ Surely the islands look to me;
in the lead are the ships of Tarshish,^a
bringing your children from afar,
with their silver and gold,
to the honour of the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendour.
¹⁰ 'Foreigners will rebuild your walls,
and their kings will serve you.
Though in anger I struck you,
in favour I will show you compassion.

1a. Superstars (60:1-4)

Glory, glory
In the Old Testament, 'glory' has two possible meanings:

- Praise e.g. Psalm 29:1-2
Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name
- Physical presence e.g. Exodus 40:34-35
Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

1b. Super-rich (60:5-9)

cf. Ezekiel 27

1c. Served rather than serving (60:10-17a)



**Andover
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^a Or the trading ships

Isaiah 56-66	<u>56:1-8</u> Any humble 'outsider'	<u>56:9-57:21</u> The lowly and contrite, even if extremely wicked	<u>58:1-14</u> The selfless, not the selfish	<u>59:1-21</u> Jews who acknowledge their many sins	<u>60:1-22</u> In wealth, comfort and luxury	<u>61:1-11</u> With no more sadness	<u>62:1-12</u> In a secure relationship with God
Who gets in?							
Where do they end up?							

¹¹ Your gates will always stand open,
they will never be shut, day or night,
so that people may bring you the wealth of the nations –
their kings led in triumphal procession.

¹² For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish;
it will be utterly ruined.

¹³ 'The glory of Lebanon will come to you,
the juniper, the fir and the cypress together,
to adorn my sanctuary;
and I will glorify the place for my feet.

¹⁴ The children of your oppressors will come bowing before you;
all who despise you will bow down at your feet
and will call you the City of the LORD,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁵ 'Although you have been forsaken and hated,
with no one travelling through,
I will make you the everlasting pride
and the joy of all generations.

¹⁶ You will drink the milk of nations
and be nursed at royal breasts.
Then you will know that I, the LORD, am your Saviour,
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

¹⁷ Instead of bronze I will bring you gold,
and silver in place of iron.
Instead of wood I will bring you bronze,
and iron in place of stones.
I will make peace your governor
and well-being your ruler.

¹⁸ No longer will violence be heard in your land,
nor ruin or destruction within your borders,
but you will call your walls Salvation
and your gates Praise.

¹⁹ The sun will no more be your light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,
for the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

²⁰ Your sun will never set again,
and your moon will wane no more;

1d. Safe forever! (60:17b-22)

<u>63:1-6</u> On YHWH's side, after he executes his enemies	<u>63:7-64:12</u> Those who pray like Isaiah's model humble prayer	<u>65:1-16</u> The humble, not the proud	<u>65:17-25</u> In a wonderful New Creation (compilation!)	<u>66:1-6</u> Those with humility, not external religion	<u>66:7-14</u> In YHWH's peace and flourishing	<u>66:15-24</u> On the right side of YHWH's judgement day
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the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your days of sorrow will end.

²¹ Then all your people will be righteous
and they will possess the land for ever.

They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands,
for the display of my splendour.

²² The least of you will become a thousand,
the smallest a mighty nation.

I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly.?

Prosperity gospel
What is your initial reaction to this
level of prosperity and comfort?

61 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,^b

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour
and the day of vengeance of our God,

to comfort all who mourn,

³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.

⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

⁵ Strangers will shepherd your flocks;
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

⁶ And you will be called priests of the LORD,
you will be named ministers of our God.

You will feed on the wealth of nations,
and in their riches you will boast.

⁷ Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion,
and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance.

2. No more tears (61:1-11)

a. 'you will be happy!'

b. 'here's why!'

^b Hebrew; Septuagint *the blind*

And so you will inherit a double portion in your land,
and everlasting joy will be yours.

⁸ ‘For I, the LORD, love justice;

I hate robbery and wrongdoing.

In my faithfulness I will reward my people

and make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples.

All who see them will acknowledge

that they are a people the LORD has blessed.’

a. ‘you will be happy!’

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD;

my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation

and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,

as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the soil makes the young plant come up

and a garden causes seeds to grow,

so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

Happy days

How do we feel about the sheer extent
of joy promised in eternal life?

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

²¹ He began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’

For reflection on Isaiah 60-61

- 60:1-22
1. What picture language did you find compelling? Why?
 2. Some of the picture language might require you to do some mental jumps/leaps – discuss what might help make those easier.
 3. Imagine 5 major current-world upgrades to your current life. How do they compare to the scale of what God promises in Isaiah 60?
 4. What difference would it make to your daily life if you were more actively aware of these promises?
- 61:1-11
5. To what extent do you find this passage appealing or unappealing? Why?
 6. What particular imagery resonates with you personally? Why?
 7. Suppose a church friend doesn’t like this passage because they find it cheesy and twee. How would you counsel them towards enjoying this passage?

- Prayer
8. Where do you need to repent or pray?
 9. How might your church family help you?

Next Sunday (26 April)

- Isaiah 62:1-63:6
- Stadium match day (car parking vouchers available)