

“Rise and Shine”

Greetings in the Lord, dear Brethren.

I bring the love of Sr. Kathy and each of your Antioch Brethren.

Since our theme text was spoken by the Prophet Isaiah, it will be helpful if we begin by providing a brief summary of his life and times. Then, when we discuss our theme text in detail, we'll see it through the lens of his life experiences and it will be even more meaningful to us.

Isaiah was a wonderful Ancient Worthy - one of our Heroes of Faith. We can read a testimony of his faithful life and look forward to his prospective reward as we read Hebrews 11:39 and 40:

“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”

Isaiah was contemporary with the prophets Hosea, Amos, and Jonah. He lived in Jerusalem with his wife and two sons. He named his eldest son, “She'-ar-yash'-ub”, meaning **"a remnant will return,"** implying a return to the God of Israel, from whom his people were estranged. I find that very interesting and you might also, as we explore our theme text in detail.

Isaiah prophesied during the span of about 40 years during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. He was a favorite of King Hezekiah and it's even supposed that he was Hezekiah's tutor. He was related to the royal family of Judah, but he suffered martyrdom early in the reign of King Manasseh.

Isaiah is quoted in the New Testament more than any other prophet. He wrote some of the clearest prophecies of our Lord and of his kingdom. The Book of Isaiah is a beautiful, prophetic treasure.

John 12:41, speaks of Isaiah's wonderful prophetic pictures of Jesus:

"These things said Isaiah when he saw his glory, and spoke of him."

Reprint 3451

"Isaiah was one of the grandest of the Lord's prophets. Not only is his message couched in kindly, sympathetic terms, but it is most comprehensive, including, with the rebukes and exhortations appropriate to his own day and nation, sublime glimpses of the glorious future which the Lord in his own due time will bring to pass for the blessing not only of Israel, but of all the families of the earth." Unquote.

So, along with our beautiful theme text, we'll be sharing some more of Isaiah's "sublime glimpses of the glorious future" with you today.

Isaiah was the prophet of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, at the time the Northern Kingdom, Israel, was destroyed by the Assyrians. In fact, Isaiah's whole life was spent under the shadow of threatening Assyrian power, and he himself witnessed the ruin of his entire nation at their hands, excepting Jerusalem.

Let's remember that the Assyrians were at this time the mightiest power on earth. They were a particularly savage people and had been rapidly expanding their empire throughout the Middle East. None of the nations had been able to slow their steady advance.

One after another of the nations had been crushed by this warlike people.

Assyria carried away all of Northern Israel. Then Samaria fell, and the rest of the ten-tribe kingdom was carried away.

A few years later, the Assyrians came into Judah, destroyed 46 walled cities, and carried away 200,000 captives. Then, the Assyrians stood before the walls of **Jerusalem** and it was Isaiah that delivered the prophecy that God would fight for Jerusalem as recorded in Isaiah Chapters 36 and 37.

Israel's King Hezekiah appealed to Jehovah and miraculously, the Assyrian King Sennacherib's terrifying army of 185,000 men was completely destroyed by the angel of the Lord and that threat to Israel was eliminated.

This and many other overruling Providences for Israel that Isaiah had witnessed gave him complete confidence in our God's supreme power. He had learned as had the other Ancient Worthies that "with God, all things are possible".

He had learned that God makes the *impossible* - possible.

As a result of his experiences with the Lord, Isaiah could speak the promises of our theme text in Isaiah 60:1 - 3, with complete confidence in their fulfillment:

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of Jehovah is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but Jehovah shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."

Our theme text applies in different ways and at different times to both natural Israel and spiritual Israel. It's a fairly complicated undertaking to keep all of the fulfillments of these scriptures in proper order. So, to keep our thoughts orderly, we're going to consider the fulfillment of this prophecy in three phases.

And we want to link these three phases to the concept of the term "**remnant**", which Br. Russell explains to us in the Third Volume, pages 253, 278, 293, and also Reprint 3452.

I've reasoned from these references, that at the beginning of each of these phases, there's a **remnant** that the Lord has mercifully prepared; ready to receive the blessings the Lord has in store for the incoming age.

The masses of the people in each phase are **not** ready, but the **remnant** rises and shines for the time of **their** light having come, they lead the way for others to follow.

They become the leaders and counselors of God's people to help guide and extend the blessings to those that will become ready to receive the expanding light of Truth.

The first phase of the rising and shining of the remnant began at the First Advent of our Lord.

The second phase began with the remnant at the Second Advent of our Lord.

The third phase will begin at the establishment of the New Covenant with Israel when the two previous remnants will come together as part of the glorified remnant church, the Little Flock, to bless the remnant of mankind (that) will be initially ready for the new laws and conditions of the Millennial age.

Each one of these phases builds upon the previous one, until we will have the complete fulfilment beginning with the New Covenant Kingdom which will progress in its blessings upon mankind all the way to the full light and glory of the Kingdom.

Let's set the stage for our theme prophecy at Phase 1 - the First Advent.

Did darkness cover the earth and gross darkness the people?

Yes.

Was it time for the Lord's people in Israel to rise and shine because the glory of Jehovah was going to shine upon Israel?

Yes.

Who has always been the glory of Jehovah?

It has always been our Lord Jesus.

He was the glory of Jehovah when he was the only-begotten Son of God in his pre-human existence.

Proverbs 8:3

"Then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him, and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him."

He was the glory of Jehovah when he was made flesh.

John 1:14

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his **glory**, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.”

At the First Advent, it was time for the Lord’s people of natural Israel to wake up and recognize our Lord when he appeared amongst his people.

Our Heavenly Father sent John the Baptist to Israel at the First Advent to do a preparatory work, to prepare the remnant of Israel to receive Jesus and to begin the Gospel work. He even told this to Israel in advance in the last book of the Old Testament:

Malachi 3:1 - 3

“Behold, I will send my **messenger**, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the **messenger of the covenant**, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

But who may abide the day of his presence? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.”

Was our Lord at his First Advent able to penetrate the darkness?

Only for the **remnant** of that nation.

Jesus began his ministry by seeking Israel's remnant, **Israelites indeed**. Really, Jesus and the remnant found each other. This is powerfully described in John 1:32 and 34 - 48, which provides the historical record of the remnant **rising and shining** by finding Jesus, the glory of Jehovah.

It begins with John the Baptist faithfully identifying Jesus and recommending him to his disciples, who quickly recognized who Jesus was.

“And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Again, the next day, John stood, and two of his disciples;
And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Master, where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him,
We have found the **Messiah**...

The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an **Israelite indeed**, in whom is no guile!

Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Master, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.”

The light of our Lord’s character and his preaching of the Gospel light arose upon Israel and the faithful of that nation were found at the First Advent. These became the Apostles and the other faithful trailblazers of Spiritual Israel in the new dispensation.

The fully consecrated ones who were looking for him found him. He drew them to himself with the wonderful words of life that proceeded out of his mouth

They became the core that preached the Gospel to their countrymen and brought thousands to the Lord during their lifetimes.

The effect of Jesus’ ministry is stated in Isaiah 9:2 when Jesus, as the light of the world, began to preach:

“The people that walked in darkness have seen **a great light**: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”

But, as John 1:10 – 12 tells us, only the faithful watchers received him.

“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. **But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name.”

In the “rising and shining” at the First Advent, there were manifestations of the descending of the baptismal light of God’s holy spirit **shining** upon the consecrated to make them sons.

The consecrated Jewish disciples waiting in the upper room were spirit-begotten at Pentecost and this divine power was manifested by flames of light, cloven tongues of fire **shining** upon them.

But, in Matthew 3:11, just before John the Baptist immersed Jesus in the Jordan, he had prophesied to the masses of the Jews that they would have a decision to make. Would they repent and receive Jesus, and receive the holy spirit, or would they reject him and be baptized instead with the fire of destruction?

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the holy spirit, and with fire.”

For two thousand years, the Jews had been waiting for the fulfilment of the great Abrahamic Promise that God would multiply Abraham’s seed as the stars of heaven and as the sands of the seashore; that in his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

Based on these promises, the Jews at the first advent were in expectation that the time had come for their long-awaited Messiah to appear and become their great Prophet, Priest, and King.

But, when Jesus **did** come, he was rejected by the scribes and Pharisees and the masses of the people continued in their darkness.

Late in his ministry, in 33 A. D., Jesus had presented himself to the Jews as prophet, priest, and king. It had become clear that most of them would not choose him and he proclaimed the trouble and desolation that would come upon the Jewish house, nominal natural Israel.

Luke 19:41 – 44

“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou had known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knew not the time of thy visitation.”

The worldly host followed their worldly leaders and so chose the fire of destruction which came upon Israel at the hands of the Romans in 70 A.D, in exact fulfilment of this prophecy. (B 215)

Isaiah 1:9

“Except Jehovah of hosts had left unto us a very small **remnant**, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.”

Romans 11: 4 & 5

“I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of Baal*. Even so then at this present time also there is a **remnant** according to the election of grace.”

The spiritual remnant always follows the Lord of grace and glory to glory.

But at the First Advent, not enough were found in Israel to complete the spiritual seed of the Abrahamic Promise.

So, the time came for the light and glory of Jehovah to shine upon Gentile believers, although it wasn't intended that our Lord and his followers at the First Advent would be able to scatter the darkness for the masses of mankind. The Gospel light was advancing, but darkness still covered the earth and gross darkness the people.

So, we have in our theme text, Isaiah 60, verse three, the promise that, “the **Gentiles** (or, the “nations”) shall come to thy light, and **kings** (earth's principal ones) to the brightness of thy rising”.

Did the Gentiles begin to come to the Gospel light in the days of the Apostles?

Yes.

It began with Jesus' words to Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus as Saint Paul related them to **King** Agrippa:

Acts 26:13 and 15 – 18:

“At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, **shining** round about me and them which journeyed with me.

And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

But **rise, and stand** upon thy feet (**rise and shine!**): for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee.

Delivering thee from the people, and from the **Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee**, to open **their** eyes, and to turn them from **darkness to light**, and from the power of Satan unto God, that **they** may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

At the time of Saul's conversion, the great work of the Apostle Paul to the Gentiles began. It took a little time for Paul to get going – he needed a special preparation of heart and mind, but, he eventually journeyed and preached the Gospel through much of the Gentile world.

In the tenth chapter of Acts, we're told how a devout Gentile, Cornelius, was directed to Peter and Peter was given a special vision showing him that the Gentiles were not to be considered unclean anymore. Cornelius and his family and others came together with Peter as he preached a sermon to them all.

It was time for the Gentiles to **rise and shine**.

Acts 10:44 – 48

“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word.

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 Spirit.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter:

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.”

The rising and shining of our theme text becomes more widespread with each succeeding phase of its fulfillment.

So, let's move on to phase two of the fulfillment of our theme prophecy at the Second Advent of our Lord.

Did darkness cover the earth and gross darkness the people in 1874?

Yes.

Was it time for the Lord's people **everywhere** to rise and shine because the glory of Jehovah was going to shine upon his people?

Yes.

Who was the glory of Jehovah at the Second Advent?

Of course, Our Lord Jesus continues to be the glory of Jehovah.

Has our Returned Lord been able to penetrate the darkness?

He did for the **remnant** of spiritual Israel. The remnant was found and led the way out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

We're the beneficiaries of our Lord's work through the remnant of that time, and we're doing the best we can to extend the legacy of Present Truth to others that are ready to receive it.

Our Heavenly Father through Isaiah sent a beautiful message to the Second Advent saints in Isaiah 52:1, 2 and 7. A message similar to our theme text:

"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments...

Shake thyself from the dust; **arise**, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the **feet of him** that bringeth good tidings of good, that publishes salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

It was time for the feet members of Christ to wake up and recognize our Lord during his invisible presence among his people at his Second Advent.

It was time for the Lord's spiritual Israel to rise and shine and to proclaim the reign of Christ begun!

And they did!

And we of today do, as well!

But, how did the Lord do this? How did he find His true remnant and people at his Second Advent?

Well, a good many of us believe that he prepared a special Seventh Messenger to broadcast the Truth to his people that would be living at the beginning and throughout the time of his Parousia. We believe that Brother Russell was that person. He was clearly one of the remnant.

And in 1894, Brother Russell wrote a history of those early times which was republished in Reprint 3820 and entitled, "Harvest Gatherings and Siftings".

It's a wonderful history of the many overrulings and Providences that led to the unfolding of the complete picture of the Divine Plan of the Ages that we enjoy it today.

I just want to quote from a part of one of the paragraphs in that article, as a way to emphasize the importance of the light of Truth that our Returned Lord caused to shine upon his people at that time. Notice the time in which Brother Russell was given to understand more clearly the great truths of Ransom and Restitution - two years **before** the Times of Restitution began.

Under the paragraph heading: "**Light out of Darkness**", he wrote:

“But when, in 1872, I came to examine the subject of **restitution** from the standpoint of the **ransom price** given by our Lord Jesus for Adam, and consequently for all lost in Adam, it settled the matter of **restitution** completely, and gave me the fullest assurance that **ALL must come forth** from their graves and be brought to a clear knowledge of the truth and to a full opportunity to gain everlasting life in Christ.” Unquote

Without our understanding of Ransom and Restitution, where would we be? We’d be in as much darkness as is the Churchianity of our day.

Now, I also want to convey the testimony of others of the **remnant** at the Second Advent.

Many times, I’ve been inspired by the letters our brethren who wrote to Brother Russell expressing their profound appreciation for the light that had risen and shined upon their hearts and minds at that time. I want to share with you just a small representative sample - two of the letters - with the hope that they will inspire you, as well.

These letters, both from Christian ministers, are from Reprint 1630 and 1631, under the heading “Out of Darkness into his Marvelous Light.”

The first one speaks directly to the light received regarding Ransom and Restitution, the second one refers to these great truths more indirectly. I’ve edited the letters for brevity. The first one wrote:

“Two great truths which you bring out are--in the way you handle them--entirely new to me; viz., First, **Restitution** in the Millennial age.

I have clearly seen that "old School" teachings limited the **ransom** of Jesus Christ, but never until now have I seen **restitution** presented in what seemed to me a Scriptural and logical manner. I am filled with great joy, as I now contemplate this precious truth.

..... The second great truth greatly surprises me: that Christ has come, is a most astonishing statement. I cannot yet fully take it in. For years I have fully believed, taught and preached his coming in person; but I have always thought it would be in the flesh; although I have believed that only the Bride would know.

But now **I admit the truth you advance**: that his coming must be as a Spirit being. Is not that included in the divine order--first the natural, then the spiritual? My earnest cry has been, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!"

I believed the time had come for that cry. Is it possible that, instead of that, I am to cry, "**Behold the Bridegroom?**"

I am seeking **light** on this one point; for surely, if that be true, there is no time for God's messengers to tarry in the harvest work."

The second letter:

MY DEAR SIR:--I have read with pleasure and delight the first volume of MILLENNIAL DAWN, and would say, **it just suits me**. These sublime truths are in perfect accord with my conception of the Word of the Lord, **and thrill my whole being**.

It fills my soul, puts wings on my feet and energizes every power of my being, as I contemplate the coming **glory** of the Millennial morning!

Your **Plan of the Ages** has solved one dark problem: **the heathen world**. Your teaching on this subject seems in perfect accord with the Scriptures, and I share with you the joy of such a revelation of the divine Word. These lines, my brother, are not hastily written, for I have read your **Plan of the Ages** three times during the last four months.

I can see the hand of God in the work in which you are engaged.

Ever praying for your success in proclaiming the coming Kingdom of our ascended Lord, I remain, Yours in "the faith once delivered to the saints." Unquote.

Our Lord was able to enlighten many more at his Second Advent than he was at his First Advent. The Present Truth was broadcast world-wide and many thousands came out of Babylon into the ecclesia arrangement.

So, we see that the individual members of the remnant were found, one here and one there, but we also know that the masses of nominal spiritual Israel rejected the Truths of our Lord's Second Presence and so the destruction of that house began at the parallel date of 1914.

Isaiah 8:14:

"...he shall be ... a stone of stumbling and ... a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel."

And now, what of our day?

Does darkness still cover the earth and gross darkness the people?

As far as the people of the world understanding God's Plan, well, they're still in gross darkness.

2 Corinthians 4:4

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should **shine** unto them."

When the light of Truth came fully upon each one of us, it was our time to **rise and shine!**

In our year 2022, we're the ones that have risen now because the light of Truth has shown upon our hearts and minds. By God's grace, we can count ourselves among the enlightened **remnant** who are now a part of the fulfillment of this wonderful theme text of Isaiah. This is in harmony with the more general usage of the word "**remnant**" as used in the Third Volume, page 253.

It makes me think of Colossians 3: 1 – 4

"If ye then be **risen** with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

That's something to really appreciate and to give glory to God for all of the light of Truth that has come upon us at this time while the world continues to be in gross darkness.

This appreciation grows when we have a witness experience with someone in the world. We sometimes find an opportunity to tell them the glad tidings but usually we're not able to penetrate the darkness. That should only make us more grateful for what we've been given.

We can try to gladden their hearts, but can only help them according to their capacity of faith. Our job is to tell them of the light of Truth to the best of our ability, and then, it's their responsibility to do something with it.

Those of us that have been blessed with the light of Present Truth are a miniscule minority of the world's population. **Very much a small remnant.** How thankful we should be for the blessings we've received!

Colossians 1:12 & 13

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in **light**:

Who hath delivered us from the **power of darkness**, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

As each of us finishes our course and we pass beyond the veil, the world becomes just that much darker.

Now, let's move on to phase three of the fulfilment of our theme prophecy which will be at the establishment of the New Covenant with Israel. We're not yet to the next phase of our theme text, but it seems we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

At the beginning of the New Covenant Kingdom, the people of the world will still be in gross darkness regarding God's Plan.

But the time will have come for our Returned Lord to take full possession of the world of mankind.

Psalm 2:8

“Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.”

When the New Covenant is established, will it be time for the masses of the Jews and the masses of the Gentiles to come to the light of Truth because the glory of the Lord will shine upon **all** the people?

Yes.

Who will be the glory of Jehovah then?

The Glorified Christ will be the glory of Jehovah.

Death will swallow us up in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:54, 55, & 57

“So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

...thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The resurrected classes are all identified in Psalm 45:12 – 17.

The world of mankind, the glorified Christ, the Great Company, and the Ancient Worthies. Eventually, they will all rise and shine!

“And the daughter of Tyre (mankind (C 193) shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favor.

The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.

Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth.

I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.”

The glory light of Jehovah, the glorified Christ, will shine upon mankind through the resurrected Ancient Worthies and it will be time for the masses of the people to rise and shine!

Amos 9:11-15

“In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

That they may possess the **remnant** of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the Lord that doeth this.”

Third Volume, page 293:

"Salvation is of the Jews," or covenant-keeping Israelites, in the sense that (1) our Lord Jesus, the Savior, came in this line; (2) in that a **remnant** of these Jews (the Apostles and most of the early Church), called a **remnant** of Israel ([Rom. 9:27](#); [11:1](#),^{5,7}), became ministers of reconciliation to bear the message to the Gentiles; and (3) in that the Lord's provision is that, in the restitution work of the future, fleshly Israel, recovered from blindness, shall be used as a medium through whom the streams of salvation, issuing from the glorified, spiritual Israel, shall flow to all the families of the earth; as it is written:

"Out of Zion [the Gospel Church, or spiritual Israel glorified] shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem [the re-established fleshly Israel]." [Isa. 2:3](#)

So, if any would want to delve more deeply into this, I recommend a careful study of the Apostle Paul's discourse in Romans chapters 9 through 11, regarding Israel's recovery from darkness, their rising and shining, and their role in helping to bring the Abrahamic Promise to all of mankind.

I'll just quote Romans 11:12 and 11:15 as summary thoughts promising the blessings of the Abrahamic Promise to the Jews and to the Gentiles. The "them", being natural Israel:

"Now if the fall of **them** be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of **them** the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

For if the casting away of **them** be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of **them** be, but life from the dead?"

This return of favor to natural Israel began in 1878, but will not have full momentum until the Ancient Worthies rise and shine, as we're told in Isaiah 1:26:

“And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning...”

The rising and shining of the New Covenant upon Israel will begin in fulfillment of Isaiah 32:1:

“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.”

Isaiah 2:2 & 3

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain (Kingdom) of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion [the Gospel Church, or spiritual Israel glorified] shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem [re-established natural Israel].”

The Glorified Christ and the Ancient Worthies will gradually be recognized as the rightful leaders of Israel and then of the world of mankind.

We're moving ever nearer to the time when the Church will be completed. When the Great Time of Trouble with its destructive and instructive forces of permitted selfishness and evil will complete its work of preparing mankind for the blessings of the Kingdom.

Isaiah 9:7

“Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this.”

Then the **Sun of Righteousness** will **fully rise and shine** and bless the people of the world, beginning with Israel, with the wonderful light of the Kingdom.

After over six thousand years of darkness and profound loss, this deeply needed and longed for restitution for the world of mankind is beautifully and powerfully described in Joel 2:25 – 28 and 32. When we think of all that mankind has lost since Eden's Fall, this is a beautiful prophecy of restitution:

“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt **wondrously** with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God...

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon **all flesh**; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the **remnant** whom the Lord shall call.”

It will be with the establishment of the New Covenant Kingdom that our theme text will reach the **beginning** of its **complete** fulfilment.

The Glorified Christ as the Sun of Righteousness, the Ancient Worthies, and Israel restored to favor will rise and shine and begin to apply to mankind the **full** Restitution blessings of the New Covenant, made possible by the Ransom.

As mankind begins to rise, to make consecrations and walk up the Highway of Holiness, they will experience the glory of Jehovah, and it will begin to shine in their faces and in their characters.

This glory will have an inspiring effect upon the ones that will be awakened from the sleep of death, which will cause **them** to rise and shine – to make consecrations and to experience the glory of feeling in themselves the gradual perfecting of their characters and their bodies.

Truly, as we sing in our hymn:

“God will unveil the fulness of his mercy,

Gladness will come to stay.”

Isaiah 13:12 tells us the New Covenant results in a beautiful way:

“I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.”

We're all patiently waiting for the full rising and shining of the Sun of Righteousness. For the gladness that will be ever-present in our hearts and begin to be so in the hearts of mankind. We don't want to hurry it along; we want it to come in the Lord's due time. The Lord's time is always the best time.

Until the Lord's due time, let's do all we can to “make our calling and election sure”. To “build one another up in the most holy faith” - “the faith once delivered unto the saints”.

Our theme text, the beginning of Isaiah, chapter sixty, gives us the promise of the Kingdom and the last five verses of that same chapter gives us the clear vision of the result of the rising and shining of the light of Ransom and Restitution; the glory of the Lord upon all mankind.

“Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

The sun shall no more be thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but Jehovah shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for Jehovah shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

Thy people also *shall be* all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. (KJV)

I, the Lord, will bring it all to pass when it is time.” (TLB)

I'll close with Isaiah 12: 1 – 3:

“And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Therefore, with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.”

May the Lord add **His** blessing.

Opening hymn # 315 – Closing hymn # 46