

Riches of the Kingdom  
Isaiah 60:13-22

March 18, 2012

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<sup>A</sup> Romans 8:16-17  
<sup>B</sup> 1 Kings 8:29ff  
<sup>C</sup> 1 Kings 5:8-9, 2 Chronicles 2:16

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<sup>D</sup> Revelation 21:12, 14, 27  
<sup>E</sup> Revelation 21:22-26  
<sup>F</sup> Psalm 27:1, John 1:5, 1 Timothy 6:16, 1 John 1:5  
<sup>G</sup> John 14:2  
<sup>H</sup> Philippians 1:6

A. Introduction

1. Children of the King

- a. In Romans 8:16-17, we read these words: 'The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.'
- b. these words are written to believers, to those in Christ by faith
  - (A) as Jesus Christ is the Son of God,
  - (B) so also believers, those who are in Him, are God's children
- c. one part of being a child of God is sharing an inheritance with Christ
- d. maybe you know this hymn, though it's not in our hymn-book
  - My Father is rich in houses and lands;
  - He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands,
  - Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
  - His coffers are full – He has riches untold.
  - I'm a child of the King, a child of the King.
  - With Jesus, my Saviour, I'm a child of the King.—{2}.
- e. yes, it's true: the Sovereign Lord God controls all this world's riches
- f. but the real riches of God's kingdom are not mere diamonds and gold
- g. the real riches are spiritual and eternal in nature

2. A Message to Jerusalem-Zion

- a. this was the city of Solomon's temple, where God had set His Name
  - (A) it was the place of God's promised Presence
  - (B) a place to which people of all nations could come to pray
  - (C) Jerusalem-Zion was to be God's representative to mankind
- b. and, as the centre of the OT worship of the one, true God, this city is the representative of the people of God, the OT church

- c. so that with the fulfilment of the OT type and prophecy by Christ, the celestial city of Jerusalem-Zion now represents the NT church
- d. Isaiah had foretold that sin would bring punishment to this city, destruction of her walls and her temple, displacement of her people
- e. his message in our text is now one of encouragement, looking past that captivity, looking forward to the riches of the kingdom
  - (A) in the same manner as that hymn, 'I'm a child of the King'
  - (B) his message uses concrete terms as diamonds and gold
  - (C) to express the precious spiritual blessings God is bringing; toward

### 3. A Time of Restoration

- a. I believe that most of can identify the Big Dipper
  - (A) here in Canada, it can be seen through the year on clear nights
  - (B) but April is when it can be seen at its best, high in the sky
  - (C) seven stars; two of them point to Polaris, the pole star
  - (D) these stars appear to be a group
    - (1) yet they are moving in different directions at different speeds
    - (2) the farthest star of them is 50% farther away than the nearest
    - (3) but to us, they all seem to move together
- b. prophecy is of much the same character
  - (A) from Isaiah's perspective the events seem to occur together
  - (B) but in reality, some of the fulfilment was in his near future
  - (C) and others are yet to be fulfilled in our own future
  - (D) Pastor Carlos has described this as there being near and far fulfilment
- c. Jean Calvin, writes on these verses that, 'The prophet does not speak of a few years or a short period, but embraces the whole course of redemption, from the end of the captivity to the preaching of the Gospel, and finally, down to the end of the reign of Christ.'
- d. and, Jerome, translator of the Hebrew Bible into Latin, said, 'These prophecies are already daily fulfilled in part in the Christian Church; but they wait for their perfect accomplishment in the end of the world,'

and in the second coming of Christ.'

- e. Edward J. Young comments, 'With the first advent of Jesus Christ these prophecies received their fulfilment, but that fulfilment will not be realized to its greatest extent until sin is removed and eternity ushered in.'
- f. so these verses take us into the consummation of our salvation, to the grand sweep of future history.

B. Riches of Restoration. . . . . 60:13-14

1. Restoration of God's Residence – v 13 – 'The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, The cypress, the pine, and the box tree together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I will make the place of My feet glorious.' (NKJV)

a. the glory of Lebanon was her forests; in 1913, Joyce Kilmer, an American Catholic, wrote these words:

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree. <sup>{3}</sup>.

b. when Solomon was engaged in the construction of the temple, he had Hiram, King of Tyre, provide the lumber of cedar and cypress trees, which were cut down in Lebanon, floated down river to the sea, made into rafts and shipped to Joppa where it was taken up to Jerusalem<sup>{4}</sup>.

c. wood's God-given beauty was fitting for this place of worship to God

d. the temple is called God's footstool, His sanctuary

- (A) whether or not this describes a physical temple is uncertain
- (B) but probably these trees are not lumber as in the first temple
- (C) God brings them to ornament the place bearing His name

2. Restoration of God's Presence – v 14 – 'Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.' (NKJV)

- a. for millennia, the Jew has wandered throughout the earth, apparently forsaken by God, despised by the nations
- b. the Church of Jesus Christ is ridiculed: 'God is dead,' say people
- c. yet, God has never forsaken His people in reality
- d. and, God will once again be shown to be present with His people
- e. then the descendants of those peoples who once despised and scorned God's people – will recognize the reality of God being with them
- f. Jerusalem-Zion – God's church – acclaimed as the City of God

C. Riches of Renewal . . . . . 60:15-16

1. Renewal of Relations – v 15 – 'Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, So that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal excellence, A joy of many generations.' (NKJV)
  - a. in the concrete, historical sense, that describes the earthly city
    - (A) desolate, an object of hissing, with its population in Babylon
    - (B) and, for centuries, since its destruction in 70AD until most recently
    - (C) forsaken; empty; hated; a place of dispute; overrun by nations
  - b. but the language of this verse steps out of time into door of eternity
    - (A) Jerusalem-Zion is to be an everlasting excellence; majestic, exalted
    - (B) a joy; an cause of exultation and praise – generation & generation – age and age – as eternity rolls on, for ever and ever
2. Renewal of Knowledge – v 16 – 'You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, And milk the breast of kings; You shall know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.' (NKJV)
  - a. this picture shows the nations giving a willing and gracious nurture to the people of God, milk being that food provided by a caring mother for a young and beloved child
  - b. this strange reference to kings is because in kings rested the control of a nation's resources; such an inapplicable use shows these verses are to be interpreted in a figurative rather than in a literal sense
  - c. why does all this take place?
    - (A) not simply that the nations should recognize God's reality

- (B) but that believers would have their faith completed by knowledge
- (C) knowledge that Yahweh, one true God of Israel
  - (1) is the one and only Saviour, and there is no other
  - (2) is the mighty Redeemer, buying back His people to Himself

D. Riches of Righteousness . . . . . 60:17-18

1. Righteous Rulers – v 17 – ‘Instead of bronze I will bring gold, Instead of iron I will bring silver, Instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. I will also make your officers peace, And your magistrates righteousness.’ (NKJV)

- a. in the first part of this verse, God tells us He is going to replace
  - (A) things that are adequate with those that are suitable
  - (B) things that are useful with those that are valuable
  - (C) things that are good with those that are better
- b. there is a spiritual truth in this, as is reflected in the book of Hebrews, which teaches that the good things provided to the OT church are now replaced to the NT church by better things in Jesus Christ
- c. the last part of the verse emphasises this spiritual aspect
  - (A) there is going to be some other replacements made
  - (B) peace will replace your police force and army
  - (C) righteousness will replace your government and tax collectors
- d. what better rule could you ask than peace and righteousness?

2. Righteous Society – v 18 – ‘Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise.’ (NKJV)

- a. *Chamas* – violence – will be gone from the Jerusalem-Zion’s land
- b. the senseless havoc and ruin that characterises our world will absent itself from God’s country – excluded by Salvation and Praise
- c. John describes the celestial city in the book of Revelation
  - (A) Rev 21:12: ‘It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.’ –

which tells us Israel has a part in this celestial city – the name on its walls

- (B) Rev 21:14: 'And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.' – which shows Israel's part is founded upon the NT church – the foundation of those walls
- (C) Rev 21:27: 'and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.' – so that the spiritual walls and gates of Salvation and Praise will exclude all wrong

E. Riches of Light . . . . . 60:19-20

1. Light of the Lord – v 19 – 'The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory.' (NKJV)
  - a. that same 21st chapter of Revelation describes the new Jerusalem-Zion and from it we learn that there will be not physical temple and why
  - b. John says, '22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it' (Revelation 21:22-26)
2. End of Darkness – v 20 – 'Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the Lord will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended.' (NKJV)
  - a. words are too weak to describe God, but Light is one descriptive term
  - b. The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?... (Ps 27:1)
  - c. when God entered the world in Jesus Christ, He is described as the Light shining in the darkness (John 1:5)
  - d. God is described as dwelling 'in unapproachable light' (1 Timothy 6:16)
  - e. and 'God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.' (1 John 1:5)
  - f. so that where God is, there is no need for the lights that He created

F. Riches of People . . . . . 60:21-22

1. Planted by God – v 21 – ‘Also your people shall all be righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.’ (NKJV)

- a. we have been looking at a prepared place, the heavenly place that Jesus Christ is preparing for His people (John 14:2)
- b. but there is also a prepared people – the emphasis in the first part of this verse is on the word ‘all’ – all of Jerusalem-Zion’s people
- c. in this world every believer suffers under a tension between two natures: the old nature we inherit from Adam, sinful and rebellious, and, the new nature created in us by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ; sometimes the second dominates our lives; often the first
- d. but those who inherit this heavenly kingdom, will all be all righteous

2. Multiplied by God – v 22 – ‘A little one shall become a thousand, And a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time.’ (NKJV)

- a. the remnant of Jews who returned from Babylon seemed such a small number compared to all those who had left the land of Palestine
- b. in this church we may look around us and feel that we are but few in number; that we are but a small and weak group of believers – though we really should count the total of those we reach through Awana and the services that Pastor Carlos has in retirement and nursing homes
- c. but God has for His people this encouragement – that the effect of the faithful few, of the persevering remnant, will yet be very great
- d. progress and growth as a church of Jesus Christ seems to us at times to be so slow – but God, in His time, in His perfect time, will bring it very quickly to pass: that to Him be the honour, praise and glory

G. Conclusion

1. God has great plans for His people

- a. step by step He brings them to pass
- b. the return of the Jews to the promised land from Babylon was one step
- c. the coming of Christ as the man Jesus of Nazareth was a key step



- d. the birth and spread of the church another series of steps; and so on
2. and one day, Christ, the Son of God, is going to return
- a. to initiate the final steps in the Father's plans
  - b. and, because God has carried all this out according to His plan
  - c. we can be assured along with Paul when he says '[For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.](#)' (Philippians 1:6)
  - d. what an encouragement to those who name the Name of Jesus Christ!

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AV	Authorized (King James) Version
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers

Some of my favourite commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

BM – Biblical Museum, Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870  
EBC – The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, Michigan  
Volume 6, Isaiah, by Geoffrey W. Grogan, Principal, Bible Training Institute, Glasgow, Scotland;  
EJY – The Book of Isaiah by Edward J. Young; © 1965; Wm. B. Eerdmans  
K&D – Commentary on the Old Testament, by Keil & Delitzsch; Volume 7, Isaiah, by Franz Delitzsch  
Kerux – The sermon & illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick at the web-site, [www.holwick.com](http://www.holwick.com).

2. *A Child of the King*, by Harriet Eugenia Buell (1834-1910)

3. *Trees*, by (Alfred) Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)

4. 1 Kings 5:8-9, 2 Chronicles 2:16