

Scripture References: The Gospel Age and The Eternal State

The Gospel Age

Isaiah 60

Matthew Poole's comment provides helpful introduction:

And here under a type, or hieroglyphical description of Jerusalem's restoration, is displayed the flourishing state of the Gentile church under the Messiah, and that in the greatness, for quality, and also the number of her proselytes; in the description whereof the evangelical prophet, whatever he doth in other parts of his prophecy, doth here most briskly sparkle forth in Divine eloquence.

1 *Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.*

2 *For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.*

3 *The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.*

4 *"Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side.*

5 *Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.*

6 *The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.*

7 *All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory.*

8 *"Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts?"*

9 Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the name of the LORD your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, Because He has glorified you.

10 “The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you.

11 Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession.

12 For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, And those nations shall be utterly ruined.

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.

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.

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.

16 You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, And milk the breast of kings; You shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

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.

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.

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.*

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.*

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.*

22 *A little one shall become a thousand, And a small one a strong nation. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time.”*

Isaiah 65:17; 66:22

Isa 65:17 *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.*

Isa 66:22 *“For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the LORD, “So shall your descendants and your name remain.*

Habakkuk 2:14

For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

Revelation 21:2

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Adam Clarke’s comment:

This doubtless means the Christian Church in a state of great prosperity and purity; but some think eternal blessedness is intended.

The Eternal State

Isaiah 25:8

He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

Romans 8:21

...because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

1 Cor. 15:26

The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

1 John 3:2b

...we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Revelation 21:4

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Rev. 21:4 has been of indescribable comfort to the Church. There is coming a time when there will be no more tears, death, mourning or pain. This will happen only when the mission of the Church has been fully completed and the idealized picture of the new heaven and new earth becomes an eternal reality after the resurrection.

... In the millennium peace, righteousness and the reign of the saints are instituted. In the eternal state peace righteousness and the reign of the saints are consummated forever.

[excerpted from Ralph Bass' "Back to the Future" commentary on Revelation (Logos Edition)]

Pre-Fall Man	Post-Fall Man	Reborn Man	Glorified Man
able to sin	able to sin	able to sin	able to not sin
able to not sin	unable to not sin	able to not sin	unable to sin