

Arise! Shine! For Your Light Has Come!

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Pastor E. Keith Hassell

Isaiah 60:1–7 (NKJV) “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.”

Ultimately this passage pertains to a future fulfillment for the nation of Israel. However, this passage also reveals the proper response of God’s people in a day of God’s redemptive intervention. Oh, how we need God to intervene to save us!

The context of Isaiah chapter sixty is Isaiah chapter fifty-nine. Isaiah fifty-nine describes the sin and corruption in the nation of Israel and of her inability to rescue herself. In addition, God is astonished that there is no intercessor who had arisen to stand in the gap between God and His sinful people. As a result, God declares that He Himself will come as a Redeemer to His people who will turn from transgression. He will come to raise up a standard against the tidal wave of enemy assault, He will execute judgment against His enemies, He will restore the fear of the LORD, and He will put His Spirit upon His people and put His words in their mouth. This is the kind of redemptive intervention that we need today!

Now in Isaiah sixty God gives to His people the proper response to His coming to intervene. It is a call to action. God’s first call to action is for His people to ARISE! This refers to the hour of spiritual awakening. It is time for the church to awake out of its slumber and arise! In His mercy, God has sounded the alarm in the middle of the night when the house is on fire. It is time to hear God’s alarm, to wake up, to throw off the covers of darkness, and rise up! It is time to repent of apathy regarding our backslidden spiritual condition. Have you heard God’s alarm? Have you become awakened by God’s alarm clock to the dangers of this hour? Are you rising up at God’s alarm or hitting the snooze?

God’s second call to action is for His people to SHINE! It is time to get up and reflect His Light into the darkness of the world around them. It is time to shine as lights in this world. Are you shining the Light of Jesus or are you hiding it instead?

Why are we to arise and shine? First, it is because His Light has come! God has invaded the darkness with His light! God has opened your eyes to see His light! Now that His Light has come. God has chosen you to reflect His light!

Second, we are to arise and shine because the glory of the Lord has risen upon us! The glory of the Lord is the manifestation of God’s Presence. The glory of the Lord is a revelation of His divine attributes. When the glory of the Lord comes, it transforms the lives of His people. The change in the lives of believers is a visible demonstration of God’s power to transform the lives of those still trapped in darkness.

Now is the time to arise and shine. Why? Because darkness is covering the earth and deep darkness the people. This speaks of spiritual darkness of a world without the true revelation of God. The spiritual atmosphere of this world will continue to get darker. The depths of the darkness will get deeper. God will

release His Light to overcome the darkness and to bear witness against the darkness. We cannot be a part of shining His light if we refuse to leave the darkness. Are you a part of the light or part of the darkness? Are you coming out of the darkness to the Light or are you sinking deeper into the darkness around you? Are you shining as a light in the darkness of this world?

How will this happen? The first reason is because of what God will do in His church. The Lord will arise over His people. This rising refers to a redemptive intervention of God to rescue His people from their shameful condition. This rising refers to a revival among God's people. In the day of redemptive intervention, God will call forth a people for Himself out of the darkness of this world to be holy and separate unto Him. He will gather this holy remnant to Himself who He will call His own. There are many who will not heed God's call. They do not want to be identified with this holy remnant. They would rather identify with unholy culture around them which hates the Light. Are you identified with this holy remnant or with the darkness of this world? Do you sense Him rising in our midst?

The second reason this will happen is because the glory of the Lord will be seen upon His people. Who will see this glory? It is those who do not know God. When God's glory and presence comes into His church, people living in darkness will take notice. God desires to show forth His glory through His church. We must ask ourselves, "Is His glory being seen upon us?" You must ask yourself, "Is His glory being seen upon you?"

God's third call to action is for His people to LIFT UP THEIR EYES! Unless we look up and take notice of what God is doing, it will seem to us like God is doing nothing. It is amazing that during a time of divine intervention, some Christians never seem aware that God is working. It is time to lift up our eyes all around and see! It is time to begin expecting to see the work of God taking place around us! God will use the light and glory in His people to attract others to Him. Do we expect them to come? God declares that the Gentiles (those without God) will come to your light. Do we expect that the lost will be drawn to God when God begins to move among His church? If we expect this, then what are we doing to prepare ourselves for this? Are we ready, willing, and equipped to be used by God in the harvest of souls?

We need to lift up our eyes and begin to expect people of power and influence to come into the church when God's Light and the Glory returns to the church. They will come to the brightness of your RISING. If we will ARISE in response to God's Light and Glory, the lost will come!

We need to ask God for a revelation of the lost around us. They are more ready than we imagine. We have had our head in the sand. God is saying to lift up your eyes and see the harvest! Jesus said to His disciples, *"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"³⁶ And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.³⁷ For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.'³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."¹*

The fields are white unto harvest! It is time to pray and believe for your family members to be saved! It is time to believe that your lost and wayward sons shall come from afar! It is time to believe again that your daughters will come like spiritual babes to be nursed at your side!

When God intervenes in revival, JOY will come back into the church. This joy is manifested in rejoicing because of all that God is doing: *"They you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you."²*

¹ John 4:35-38 (NKJV)

² Isaiah 60:5 (NKJV)

When God intervenes, the needs of His work will be fully supplied. God will provide for His work as we commit to the harvest: *“Because the abundance of the sea (people) shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.”*³

It is time to cry out for a redemptive intervention from God. It is time to EXPECT God’s Light and glory to return to His church! It is time to lift up our eyes and see the harvest! It is time to expect people to come! It is time to arise! It is time to shine! His light has come! His glory is rising! God will again glorify the house of His glory!

³ Isaiah 60:5 (NKJV)