

# Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



## That's Not the "Vengeance" You Were Expecting

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### Devotion and Discussion Questions

**Key Texts (TLV):** Isa 60:8-14; 56:3, 6; 57:19; 42:4; 35:1-2; Gen 8:10-11; 12:3; Matt 6:33; Rom 5:8

Isaiah 60 begins with the call, *"Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of ADONAI has risen on you"* (Is. 60:1). But that light does not rise in a vacuum. Isaiah has already shown us a people stumbling in darkness, groping along the wall like the blind, longing for justice and righteousness but unable to reach it. Then ADONAI sees that there is no one to intercede, so His own arm brings salvation. A Redeemer comes to Zion, and His covenant promise is that His Ruach and His words will not depart from His people.

So when Isaiah 60 shows the nations streaming toward Zion, it is not because Zion finally learned how to make herself impressive. It is because ADONAI has beautified her. His mercy has restored what rebellion had ruined. His favor has done what human strength could never do. And now the nations come—not merely with wealth, silver, gold, camels, ships, and offerings—but with longing hearts drawn to the Holy One of Israel.

#### 1. THE NATIONS (GOYIM) COME HOME TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL

Isaiah asks, *"Who are these who fly like a cloud, like doves to their windows?"* (Is. 60:8). The picture is beautiful. From the west, from the farthest reaches of the known world, the ships come quickly, like clouds flying across the sky and like doves returning home. It is hard not to hear the echo of Noah's dove returning with the olive leaf after judgment had passed: *"The dove came to him at evening, and surprisingly—a freshly plucked olive leaf was in its mouth. So Noah knew that the waters had receded from the land"* (Gen. 8:11). This is a picture of peace, the end of judgment, and the beginning of restoration.

The islands have been waiting, hoping, longing for the Lord—even if they did not fully know what their hearts were longing for. The nations do not come to contribute their own gods or offer their own version of truth. They come because of the Name of ADONAI and because of the Holy One of Israel. They see His character revealed in His saving work and in the transformed character of His people. When God's people abandon empty religion and walk in His ways, His light shines through them, and the nations begin to see the God of the Bible as He truly is.

#### 2. THE FORMER OUTSIDERS BECOME BUILDERS

Isaiah says, *"Foreigners (בְּנֵי־נֹכַר, b'nei nakar, sons of foreigners) will build up your walls, and their kings will minister to you. For in My fury I struck you, but in My favor I will show you mercy"* (Is. 60:10). These are the "sons of foreigners," the very language Isaiah used earlier when he said, *"Do not let a son of a foreigner who has joined himself to ADONAI say, 'ADONAI will surely exclude me from His people'"* (Is. 56:3). The outsiders who feared

exclusion are now welcomed into service. They join themselves to ADONAI, love His Name, minister to Him, and participate in the rebuilding of what had been broken.

This is shalom—nothing missing, nothing incomplete, nothing out of balance. The descendants of those who tore down the walls now rebuild them. Kings who once would have paraded through broken gates in arrogance now come as willing *servants*. This is not humiliation or revenge upon the nations; it is transformation for the sake of restoration. God’s anger was real, and His discipline was real, but His compassion is deeper still. *“Shalom, shalom to him who is far and to him who is near,” says ADONAI, ‘and I will heal him’* (Is. 57:19).

### **3. GOD’S VENGEANCE LOOKS LIKE ENEMIES TRANSFORMED**

Isaiah says the gates will remain open day and night so the wealth, strength, and valor of the nations may continually stream in. Yet verse 12 gives the dark pivot: *“For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish—those nations will be utterly ruined”* (Is. 60:12). There are ultimately only two ways to respond to the Lord: willingly or unwillingly. To resist His rule is like denying gravity. You may deny it, but you cannot escape its reality. To enter into His covenant purposes is blessing; to stand against Him is ruin.

But the surprising beauty of this passage is that God’s vengeance is not merely the crushing of enemies. It is the *transformation* of enemies. *“The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you... They will call you the city of ADONAI, Zion of the Holy One of Israel”* (Is. 60:14). The ones who mocked now speak honor. The ones who afflicted now come humbled. And the honor they bring is not ultimately about Zion herself. They call her the Lord’s city. They see His glory in His people, and they are drawn to Him.

### **CONCLUSION**

It’s not the “vengeance” we often expect. When we are hurt, oppressed, mocked, or mistreated, something in us wants to cry out, “Get them, God!” But the vengeance of God’s grace is often more beautiful than the vengeance we imagined. He transforms enemies into worshipers. He turns destroyers into builders. He changes persecutors into champions of the very people they once opposed. And that should humble us, because we were once enemies too. While we were still sinners, Messiah died for us. He loved us when we were still far off.

Maybe there is someone who hurt you that you have only wanted God to crush, when God’s heart may be to transform them. Maybe there is a place in your heart where anger has felt more natural than mercy, where vengeance has sounded sweeter than redemption. Bring that honestly before the Lord. He knows the wound, He knows the injustice, and He knows how to make things whole. Today, abandon your way and walk in His ways. Ask Him to make you a vessel of His light, His justice, His mercy, and His shalom. Let Him free you from the need to seek your own honor, and let His glory be

what others see in you. The most beautiful vengeance of God is grace that transforms enemies into lovers of God.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What stands out to you about the nations coming “like doves” to Zion?
2. Why is it important that the nations come to the God of Israel, not merely with their own religious ideas?
3. How does Isaiah 60:10 show restoration rather than mere revenge?
4. Where do you find it difficult to desire transformation for enemies instead of destruction?
5. What would it look like for God’s glory in you to point others to Him rather than to yourself?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

*Avinu Malkhenu, Our Father, Our King, thank You for Your mercy, Your compassion, and Your power to restore what has been broken. Thank You that You do not leave us in the destruction caused by our own rebellion, but You call us back, heal us, and beautify Your people with Your glory. Teach us to abandon our ways and walk in Yours. Make us people of justice, mercy, humility, and shalom. Let Your light shine through us so that those who are far off may see You clearly and come home to the Holy One of Israel.*

*B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.*