



“Arise and Shine”

Isaiah 60:1- 3 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. 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. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Opening Prayer -

Precious Father, it is my prayer that you will be merciful to us, bless us, and cause your face to shine on us, in Jesus' name, Amen!

Recapitulation

Isaiah foresees the final glory of God's people, uniting all humanity in knowing the true God. The Speaker here is the Holy Spirit; the person spoken to is Israel. The words, “Arise, shine,” refer not necessarily to Israel’s light, for she has no light; rather she reflects the streams of Light that pour from the Person of Jehovah (God) Whose name is Christ. This scripture refers back to *Psalms 67:1 - God be merciful to us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us.*

The “darkness” mentioned here speaks of the Great Tribulation, when the Church will have been raptured away, thereby leaving the world without “Light”,

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

That is the reason for you and me to “rise and shine.”

Observation

The reasons for living in an unsettled world full of evil, injustice discrimination and different types and kind of criminality, where corruption has become our new culture, then you should

know that the nation is living in the dark. That society doesn't know the true God who is the Light of World, our Lord Jesus Christ.

- A nation that lives in God's light is always prospered and safe
- A government that lives in God's light is, however, secured and trustworthy.
- A nation that lives in God's light is always advanced and dependable.

1 Peter 2:9 - *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

What is happening in the world is the sign of not knowing God, or we knew Him and decided to reject His way.

Jerusalem was distinguished by its elevation; it was the centre from which the divine message would go out to all the world. Now the prophet depicts the future glory of Zion, **a glory that is but the reflection of the glory of the Lord God himself.**

- We must know that not all that shines draws its brightness from God
- **Not all the light that shines depicts its glory from God**

For you to shine through God's glory, you must rise first, which means you must come out among the wrongdoers and be separated unto the Lord.

The prodigal son was living in the dark as by the time he decided to leave his father's home. By the time when Isaiah 60:1 knocked him, he rose, and the light of the person of the Holy Spirit guided him back to his father.

- **Believers must shine their light on the dark world**

Application

3 Things that will prevent you from rising and shine

1. People who love themselves

2 Timothy 3: 1-5 *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*

2. People who have a judgmental mind

Matthew 7:3-5 *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

Judgmental Spirit has become a defense mechanism. A defense mechanism is a type of conscious or unconscious technique that is used to protect the ego. The ego is our false self, the "I" that we identify with.

It is always apparent to see and find fault in people's lives and play as holy and innocent.

John 8:7-12 *When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." 12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**"*

3. People who have refused to heed to God's call - In other words, they have refused to respond to God's invitation or to follow the truth

Ephesians 5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*

Someone said that it's easy to see the shine of a new diamond ring from across the room. But over time, that shine can dull as dust collects on it.

In the same way, sin can dull (shadowy) our shine as lights for Jesus Christ. Our lives, which once sparkled with the joy of Christ, can become clouded with love for things of this world.

Recommendation

1. **Shine your light intentionally** (**Matthew 5:14-16 NLT**) *"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. [15] No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. [16] In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

2. **Shine your light practically - 1 John 1:5-7 NLT** - *This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. [6] So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. [7] But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.*

- **1 John 2:9-11 NLT** - *If anyone claims, "I am living in the light," but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. [10] Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. [11] But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.*

3. **God's light shines through broken lives - Psalms 34:18** - *The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.*

God's light shines through broken lives -

- in other words, unless we are entirely broken, God's light cannot pass through us to shine in the lives of those going astray.
- We must be all spiritually broken, and that's how the light goes in our hearts to save the lost.

Ernest Hemingway said once that " we are all broken, that's how the light gets in.

Remember that "To shine is to give off - or to reflect light in people's lives"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, in this time of evil manifestations, arise upon me and let your glory be seen upon my life.