



Life Guide applying God's Word to life

Epiphany Will Light Up Your World January 5, 2020

(Isaiah 60:1-6)

¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you, and his glory appears over you.

³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you, the riches of the nations will come. ⁶Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.”

1. What kinds of things in your life have made you “look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy” (v.5)?
2. Read Isaiah 59:1-15a. What is the darkness that is over the people?
3. List some ways the darkness of our world in the 21st century similar to the darkness Isaiah described in ancient Israel.
4. Read Isaiah 59:15b-21. What is God’s solution to darkness?
5. Re-read Isaiah 60:1-2. If you were directing or animating a movie with this as the opening scene, how would you portray the scene? What spiritual realities is this visual description representing?

6. The Glory of the Lord is a technical term in the Old Testament. Next to each of the following references, write what you learn about the Glory of the Lord:
 - a. Exodus 40:34-38
 - b. 1 Kings 8:11
 - c. Luke 2:8-11
 - d. John 1:5, 9-14
7. In v. 3, it is YOU who is shining. It is God who scatters darkness. Describe what happens when *God’s* action makes *you* a light.
8. The wise men and Jesus fulfil this prophecy. Can you find three references to the Epiphany story in these verses?
9. Foreign nations were generally hostile toward Israel. If you were an Israelite, how would you feel about foreign nations carrying your daughters? (Deuteronomy 28:15, 32-34) If you were an Israelite, what would the camels of Midian call to mind? (Judges 6:1-6)
10. Yet what happens when Israel sees the foreigners coming in Isaiah 60? (See v. 5) Why do they react that way?
11. Who in you do you view like the Israelites viewed foreign nations and Midianites? What might change their action toward you? What might change your attitude toward them?
12. How does the Epiphany of our Lord shed light on your world?