

**Introduction:** On the first day of the week, in a year when it was five days before the full moon in the first month of the Jewish calendar, Jesus rode a colt on the way down the Mount of Olives towards Jerusalem. His followers began to spread their cloaks on the road before Him. Finally the whole multitude of His disciples began to rejoice and praise God for all the mighty works they had seen: ‘Blessed is The King who comes in The Name of The Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest’. \*\*\* Some Pharisees said, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples’. He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.’ (Luke 19:28-40) \*\*\* The two key themes about The Messiah-Savior in this account of Palm Sunday – peace and especially God’s Salvation Glory (or Beauty) run throughout our chapter of a prophecy given through Isaiah. \*\*\* Not only did The Covenant God speak of His coming Glory, there are also three foreshadowings of The Cross in this chapter. So this morning we will also look forward five days to Good Friday when the fully righteous Son of God took all our sins on Himself on The Cross so we may be forgiven and reconciled to God. \*\*\* Let’s open our hearts to The Glory of God as He works to bring people from every nation out of darkness into His glorious light. (1 Peter 2:9)

**I. Out of worldwide darkness Zion is to rise and shine; then, people of every nation will bring gifts to Yahweh.**  
(Verses 1-9)

A. Zion is commanded to rise and shine because The Glory of Yahweh is already shining on them, even as all the world is in darkness. (Verses 1-3)

1. You must arise! You must shine! Because your light has come and The Glory (heaviness) of Yahweh upon you has come up. (Verse 1)

**Commands:** These are two commands directed to Mt. Zion the home of the Temple.

**Reason:** Zion is to rise and shine for the light of the Temple and Yahweh’s glory (heaviness).

2. For behold! Darkness will cover the earth and a thick dark cloud all nations. (Verse 2a)  
**Double darkness:** First, regular darkness and then thick universal darkness is experienced by all the peoples of the earth. Both point to Jesus’ final three hours on The Cross when darkness covered the whole earth. (Luke 23:44)
3. And Yahweh will come up on you and His Glory (heaviness) will be seen on you. (Verse 2b)  
**Glory seen:** The Messiah-Savior showed God’s Glory to all people in His life and in His death.  
**Luke’s account:** We heard the people proclaim Glory in the highest when Jesus entered Jerusalem.
4. And nations have walked to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawning. (Verse 3)  
**Nations come to God:** The prophets state The Messiah will come to bring Yahweh’s light to every nation. Earlier Isaiah said a great light dawned on those living in the shadow of death. (Isaiah 9:2)

**Yahweh promises to bring light to His people in deep darkness**

B. People have gathered from every nation to Yahweh and His altar and will bring gifts. (Verses 4-9)

1. You must lift up your eyes round about and you must see: they have all been gathered together – your sons have all come from afar and your daughters will be made faithful upon your side. (Verse 4)

**Restored to God’s land:** Yahweh tells Mt. Zion He has already provided for the restoration of the exiles in Babylon to be restored to worship Him, so she must keep looking everywhere to see it!

2. Then you will see and you have shined, and your heart has trembled and been enlarged because the abundance of the sea will be turned back to you, the might of the nations will come to you. (Verse 5)

**Might of nations:** The might of nations will benefit Zion; the abundance of the Sea will also bless her.

**Shine:** Again there is a great post-exilic promise of light to Zion even in the darkness of exile!

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3. You will be protected with the cover of camels from Midian and Ephah, and from Sheba they will come and bring gold and frankincense and they will bear good news of praise of Yahweh. (Verse 6)

**Three nations:** Midian (‘strife’) and Ephah (‘gloomy’) supply protection of camels (nature’s Jeeps). And Sheba (‘seven’) brings gold and frankincense.

**Good news:** Both practically and in material extravagance, Sheba is bearing the means of praise for The Covenant God to Mt. Zion!

4. Flocks of Kedar (‘dark’) will be gathered to her and rams of Nebaioth (‘heights’) will minister to her, and they will go with favor on My altar, and I will beautify My beautiful house; who are these who fly as a cloud and like doves to their windows? (Verses 7-8)

**Two nations:** Nations will bring sacrificial animals to Yahweh’s altar and find favor and grace.

**Glorious beauty:** Note the poetic metaphor of clouds, doves and windows. Yahweh is bringing glorious beauty to His gloriously beautiful house.

5. The coastlands will hope in Me, ships of Tarshish will be first to bring your sons from afar, silver and gold to The Name of Yahweh your God, The Holy One of Israel, because He beautified you. (Verse 9)

**Ancient ‘new age’:** Tarshish means yellow amber. In ‘new age’ these crystals give ‘magical’ healing.

These created minerals have been used to seek healing without The Covenant Creator God since people were expelled from Eden. ‘New age’ is nothing more than the same old paganism recycled!

**Holy Covenant God:** In spite of pagan practices, The Holy Covenant God desires all people to hope in Him and His works to beautify them. This is what Jesus did on earth two thousand years ago.

## II. The sons of oppressors of Zion will serve Yahweh's people in His sanctuary as He makes Zion an exalted joy, no longer hated but blessed. (Verses 10-22)

A. In a great reversal, sons of those who had afflicted Zion will serve Yahweh's people in His sanctuary. (Verses 10-14)

1. Strangers have built your walls, their kings will minister to you; for in My wrath I smote you and in My favor I had mercy on you. (Verse 10)

**Built up:** Again, non-Jews build up the walls to protect the city.

**Messiah on Cross:** The wrath and mercy to God's Temple is what happened to Jesus. (John 2:18-22)  
He was smitten on The Cross to bring God's mercy to both Jews and all people of earth.

2. Your gates have been opened continually to bring to you the might of the nations, their kings being led; because the nation (that) will not serve you shall perish – those nations totally wasted. (Verses 11-12)  
**Zion and the nations:** Zion is continually blessed by other nations and leaders under threat of death.
3. The glory of Lebanon will come to you: the cypress, the elm and the evergreen together to beautify the place of My sanctuary, and the place of My feet I will make glorious (heavy). (Verse 13)

**Lebanon:** Lebanon ('whiteness') was known for the many trees on its mountains.

**Sanctuary:** Yahweh is speaking directly and He says His sanctuary is beautiful and glorious (heavy).

4. They have come to you to bow low, the sons of those oppressing you, and they have bowed down at the soles your feet – all who despised you; they have called you the city of Yahweh, Zion ('parched place') of The Holy One of Israel. (Verse 14)

**Parched place respected:** The Temple mount and Jerusalem had been totally consumed by fire, but the generations when the Temple is restored will respect Zion and Yahweh's glorious Temple.

B. Yahweh will make His city an exalted joy, no longer forsaken and hated, but blessed with peace, righteousness and light. (Verses 15-22)

1. Instead of you (being) forsaken and hated, and none passing through, I have made you an eternal exaltation, joy from generation to generation. (Verse 15)

**Forsaken by all:** Zion had been forsaken and hated by all (as Jesus was on The Cross).

**God lifts up:** But it is always Yahweh who lifts up and exalts places and people!

2. You have sucked the milk of nations and shall suck the breast of kings, and you have known that I Yahweh (am) your Savior and your Redeemer, the mighty one of Jacob. (Verse 16)

**Nourished by powerful:** First Zion was brought the might of nations and kings. Now she is being nourished by them.

**Then know Redeemer:** The result is to know The Savior and Redeemer. When The Covenant God takes out of oppression, people come to know Him as the one who saves and redeems them.

3. Yahweh then gives four 'greater' promises: instead of bronze I will bring gold; instead of iron, silver; instead of wood, bronze; instead of stones, iron; and I have put peace your overseer and righteousness your taskmaster. (Verse 17)

**Blessings beyond ordinary:** Bronze and iron are strong metals, but gold and silver are precious metals. Wood and stones are basic building materials, but bronze and iron are substantial. So, in every way Yahweh is promising to give beyond what is merely necessary and ordinary.

**Peace and righteousness:** The greatest blessings are the peace of God and His righteousness. God brings about peace and righteousness through fatherly discipline. (Hebrews 12:7-11)

*Yahweh will make peace and righteousness His richest blessings*

4. Violence, destruction and ruin are replaced by salvation and praise; and rather than sun and moon, Yahweh will be the everlasting light, and God will be beauty. (Verses 18-19)

**Yahweh the light:** John heard these same words at the end of the vision he was given eight hundred years later. (Revelation 21:23-25; 22:5)

5. Yahweh will be your everlasting light and your days of mourning have ended. (Verse 20)

**Light for mourning:** Mourning over the darkness of sin and its consequences will be overcome by the everlasting light of Yahweh. Again, John was given a similar message. (Revelation 21:4)

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6. God's people in Zion: all righteous and possessing the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands to be made beautiful. (Verse 21)

**Righteousness:** Righteousness leads to land, growth in Yahweh and His beautification.

7. One will become a thousand, the smallest (become) vast, I Yahweh will make it come fast. (Verse 22)

**Thousand-fold strength:** Reverses what enemies do to God's idolatrous people. (Deuteronomy 32:30)

**Conclusion:** Out of worldwide darkness Zion is to rise and shine. Then the sons of Zion's oppressors will serve Yahweh's people in His sanctuary. And He has made His formerly forsaken and hated city an exalted joy – blessed with peace, righteousness and light.

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