

## Isaiah Lesson 17 Articles

**Isa 60:11** The gates of walled cities were shut at sundown, or shortly thereafter, but always before dark. Travelers nearing cities would hurry as they saw the shadows lengthening so that they would reach the city before the gates closed. If they did not make it in time they were exposed to whatever came along, robbers or storms. Isaiah speaks of the coming Church of Christ as always having her gates open. This was in marked contrast to the custom that the people of his time were used to. Surely they must have wondered what city the prophet was writing about.

A similar illustration is given by the apostle John in his beautiful description of New Jerusalem: “On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there” (Revelation 21:25). Endless day, endless shelter, endless entrance into the never-ending city of God<sup>1</sup>

**Isa 61:1** — “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor ....”

Jesus began His public ministry by returning to his boyhood synagogue in Nazareth and delivering a short sermon based on this passage (Luke 4:16–21). He told the astonished crowd that He fulfilled this Scripture.<sup>2</sup>

**Isa 62:6–7** Isaiah used a figure of speech calling on the city’s watchmen to remind the Lord of His promise to restore Jerusalem. It was a poet’s colorful way of communicating the assurance that God would never forget to do what He had promised. Jesus used similar literary devices. Although He taught that the Father knows our needs before we ask Him (Mt 6:8), He still told a parable comparing God to a judge who grants a widow’s pleading because of her persistence (Lk 18:1–8). Such comparisons in the Bible are not intended to answer questions about the nature of God, apart from His relationship with His people; they are given for the purpose of encouraging faith in God as it operates at the human level.<sup>3</sup>

**Isaiah 62:10** is another reference to “the highway” (11:16; 40:3–5), and there is an urgency about these words. The Lord is about to arrive, and the people must get the road ready! When the work is completed, they must lift a banner to signal they are ready.

“See, your Savior comes!” (62:11) This is a proclamation that goes to the ends of the earth! And when He comes, He shares more new names: Israel is called “the Holy People” and “the Redeemed of the Lord”; and Jerusalem is called “Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted” (v. 12).

God will have no rest till He accomplishes His purposes for His people, and the world will have no peace till He succeeds. He asks us to “give Him no rest” (v. 7) but to intercede for Israel and Jerusalem, for the prayers of His people are an important part of the program of God.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Freeman, J. M., & Chadwick, H. J. (1998). *Manners & customs of the Bible* (pp. 365–366). North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Is 61:1). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.

<sup>3</sup> Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J. P., & Powell, D. (2007). *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (p. 1077). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

<sup>4</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Comforted* (pp. 158–159). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.