One of Israel. Mixing the antichrist religion with the Christian faith will not provide a hiding place.

In verse 15 the prophet refers to the long time this land was unoccupied by the kingdom people, and the fear and dread of the ocean and the new land the early immigrants must have had. Loved ones left behind must have hated to see their loved ones depart, never to see them again. Little did these pioneers realize that this Zion nation would become "a joy of many generations."

Verse 17 in Isaiah 60 again refers to the great wealth that would come to this Zion nation: "I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness." This clearly indicates that this Zion nation will be a peaceful nation, seeking to maintain peace throughout the earth, and that our form of government would be more righteous than the monarchies and feudal systems of the old world.

In verse 18 the prophet saw that there would be violence and destruction in our land, but after our cleansing "violence shall no more be heard in thy land." Instead, there would be salvation and praise. The words "sun" and "moon" in verses 19 and 20 symbolize civil rulers. In verse 20 we read: "Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall the moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." Every land does not have a separate sun and moon. Verses 19, 20 and 21 bring us into the kingdom age. We also read that "the days of thy mourning shall be ended" indicating there would be mourning in this Zion nation in this end time.

Verse 21 in Isaiah 60 continues to describe the kingdom age when all people will live according to God's righteous kingdom laws and inherit the land forever. (That land is not heaven.) The words "the branch of my planting" are interesting and revealing. In Genesis 49:22 we read: "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall." Note the word "fruitful" appears twice. In II Samuel 7:10 God stated: "Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime." This was not the little plot the Edomites have taken possession of in Palestine. It refers to the great North American wilderness. And here God will be glorified.

The last verse in chapter 60 of Isaiah has been and will continue to be fulfilled, a "small one" has become a "strong nation." And the Lord is now hastening world events to their concummation.

There were no chapter divisions in the original Scriptures, so we will continue in chapter 61 in Isaiah's prophecy. Verse 1 is a tremendous and glorious prophecy on what the preaching of the gospel of grace has done for millions, generation after generation, during the church age. In verses 2 and 3 the prophet apparently saw what this Zion nation now is passing through. He wrote: ". . . the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn." In verse 3 he refers to the mourning, ashes and heaviness in Zion which would be turned to joy and praise. This is true in our nation today; this is "the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

In verses 4 and 5 the prophet saw the great industries that would arise, and He also saw the tremendous building program that has come to this Zion nation. And he apparently had a vision of the building program which would come to all nations after Zion receives a kingdom economic system, He said, "and they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations."

Again in verse 5 the prophet refers to the aliens or immigrants that would be "your plowmen and your vinedressers," hardworking and industrious. In verse 6 the prophet saw that the kingdom people would administer God's kingdom laws among the heathen. In verse 7 the prophet saw that this Zion nation would pass through a time of shame and confusion but "everlasting joy shall be unto them." We need not comment on the shame and confusion that the one world planners are heaping upon our nation today.

Verse 8 reads: "For I the Lord love judgment," righteous civil administration; and the Lord hates robbery. No comment necessary. In spite of this we read, "And I will direct their work in truth (the Word of God), and I will make an everlasting covenant with them." Verse 9 states that which the whole earth already knows. Namely, "that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed." Verse 10 in symbolic language states the rejoicing, the joy and the righteousness which has characterized this Zion nation since its planting. This will be greatly increased after our cleansing. Verse 11 in Isaiah 61 tells us how this Zion nation would come forth and be made manifest "before all the nations." It would have a small beginning, as seeds sown in a garden. And it will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations.

As we continue in our study on the Zion nation in chapter 62 in Isaiah, we find that the first verse gives the same teaching we considered in the last verse in chapter 61 in Isaiah's prophecy, namely, that this Zion nation was to have a small beginning, a gradual growth, and become "as brightness" and as a "lamp that burneth." This Zion nation has been that to all nations and countless individuals, and the end is not yet. Verse 2 needs no comment; we hear it constantly in the news. Verse 3 is equally self evident, stating that God would use this Zion nation as a "crown of glory" and a "royal diadem" – a nation of great power and authority.

Verse 4 in Isaiah 62 indicates that this Zion nation would be established in a land considered "Forsaken" and "Desolate," but it would become a land of delight. Verse 5 sets forth the teaching that Israel is the Lord's wife. This is taught throughout the Scriptures. See Isaiah 54:4 and 5, and Revelation 19:7.

Verses 6 and 7 require that this Zion nation be a nation of Christendom, for both verses exhort the people to pray and preach the Word – be watchmen. "Watchmen" could also indicate that this Zion nation has enemies, which we surely do. And in these verses we have the word "Jerusalem." Some people seem to think that every time the word Jerusalem is used it refers to the old Jerusalem in Palestine, but such is not the case. Bible prophecy speaks of a "new Jerusalem" and a "daughter," and it calls this Zion nation both the "new Jerusalem" and the "daughter of Jerusalem," and simply "Jerusalem." It is this "new Jerusalem" that will become a praise "in the earth." And in a measure it already has.

In verses 8 and 9 of Isaiah 62 the prophet saw something we are very familiar with today, namely, that our enemies are eating our "corn." "The stranger shall not drink thy wine, for which thou hast laboured" could refer to other things besides literal wine. This is so indicated in verse 9. Verse 10 is a command to this Zion nation: "Prepare ye the way of the people . . . lift up a standard for the people." This, in a great measure, is what this great Zion nation has already done, and the greatest is yet to come.

In verse 11 we read: "Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him." In this scripture God promises this Zion nation "salvation" and "his reward." Salvation here means deliverance "from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us." (Luke 1:71) The last verse in Isaiah 62 states: "And they shall call thee The Holy People, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, a city not forsaken." "Holy People" means a people God has blessed and used. See Exodus 19:6 and Deuteronomy 7:6.

Those who limit the word "redeemed" to personal salvation blind themselves and others to one of the most tremendous and glorious doctrines in God's Word. They reject one of the greatest provisions Christ purchased by His death and resurrection. In Luke 24:21 we read: "But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done." Redemption was for Israel. The men who made the above statement based their expectation on the Old Scriptures and Christ's kingdom parables, and rightly so. But their timing was premature.

We have now come to the time of Israel's redemption. Therefore Christ said: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28) In Luke 1:67 through 75 we are told what redemption purchased for the Israel people. In verse 74 we read "that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear." This is the ushering in of the kingdom age on earth.

The apostle Paul wrote the following: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Galatians 4:4–5) Here we are given both the gospel of the kingdom – redemption for Israel – and the gospel of personal salvation that we individually might become the sons of God. We must understand that the Israel people, now the nations of Christendom, were the only people who were given God's law. Therefore redemption is for them. In Romans 2:14 we read: "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves."

See Psalm 147, verses 19 and 20. Throughout the Old Scripture, when God delivered the Israel people from their earthly enemies, it states that Israel was redeemed. See Exodus 12:13, Deuteronomy 7:8, Psalm 106:10 and Isaiah 1:27 and 28. Redeemed has the same use and meaning in the New Scripture as it has in the Old Scripture. And redemption provides that the transgressors and the sinners in Zion "and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed."

From The Editor

As many of you have probably heard I recently fell and broke my hip. Within a month I was back at my desk doing the thing I enjoy most, writing for the Monthly. I am now feeling well and wish to thank you for your prayers and well wishes.