“ARISE, SHINE; FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME”:
A BASIC THEME OF THE ISAIANIC TRADITION

Ronald E. Clements

Rise up, shine forth
for your light has come;
and the glory of Yahweh has dawned for you.
For look, darkness covers the land
and thick gloom enshrouds peoples;
but on you Yahweh dawns
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will journey towards your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Raise your eyes and look around.
All of them are gathered;
it is to you they come.
Your sons are coming from afar
and your daughters are at their side.
You see it and are radiant with joy;
your heart trembles with delight.
Seaborne riches are brought to you;
the wealth of nations will be yours.
Camels in droves cover you,
young camels from Midian and Ephah,
all journeying from Sheba,
Laden with gold and frankincense,
they proclaim Yahweh’s praise.
Kedar’s flocks will be gathered for you,
rams of Nebaioth shall serve your needs.
They raise acceptable offerings on my altar;
I shall enhance the beauty of my house.
Who are these who hasten like clouds,
that fly like doves to their dovecotes?
Surely the coastlands attend upon me,
and vessels of Tarshish are in the lead;
they bring your children from far away,
their silver and gold is with them
for the name of Yahweh your God,
and for the Holy One of Israel,
for he has made you glorious.
Foreigners will rebuild your walls
and their kings will become your servants.
Though I struck you down in my anger,
now in my favour I have compassion on you.
Your gates will be open continually;
day and night they will not be shut
so that the wealth of nations may be brought to you
and their kings be led in.
For the nation and the kingdom
which will not serve you will perish.
Those nations will be utterly destroyed.
The riches of Lebanon will come to you,
pine, fir and boxwood all together,
to adorn my sanctuary.
My dwelling-place I will make splendid.
The offspring of those who oppressed you will bow down,
they will pay homage at your feet;
those who were contemptuous of you will bow
down before you.
They will call you Yahweh's city,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Instead of being abandoned and hated,
with no one visiting you,
I will make you an object of lasting praise
and of perpetual rejoicing.
You will suck the milk of nations
and suckle at royal breasts.
You will know then that I am Yahweh your deliverer,
the Mighty One of Jacob is your rescuer.
Instead of bronze, I shall bring you gold,
and for iron I shall bring silver,
bronze for timber and iron instead of stones.
I shall appoint peace to govern you,
and righteousness shall rule over you.
The sound of violence will no longer be heard in your land
nor havoc and destruction within your walls.
You will name your walls Deliverance
and your gates Praise.
The sun will no longer be your light by day,
nor the moon shine for you at night.
Yahweh will be a perpetual light for you;
your God will be your splendour.
Your sun will not set before you
nor your moon withhold her light
for Yahweh will be an everlasting light for you