

Treasure Hunt

- What was the relation of Jew and Gentile in the first return, under Ezra?
- How is the relation of Jew and Gentile different in the restoration described in Isa 60?
- The Jews follow the Gentiles back to Zion. What principle for outreach does this teach us?
- The Gentiles are attracted by “the name of the Lord.” What principle for outreach does this teach us?

The Speakers in Isaiah 60

Isaiah

The Lord

1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of **the LORD** is risen upon thee. 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but **the LORD** shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. ... 6 ... they shall shew forth the praises of **the LORD**.

7 All the flocks of Kedar ... the rams of Nebaioth ... they shall come up with acceptance on **mine** altar, and **I** will glorify the house of **my** glory. ... 9 Surely the isles shall wait for **me**, ... 13 **my** feet ... 16 **I** the Lord ... 18

19 ... **the LORD** shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and **thy God** thy glory. 20 ... **the LORD** shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

21 Thy people also *shall be* all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of **my** planting, the work of **my** hands, that **I** may be glorified. 22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: **I the LORD** will hasten it in his time.

The Three Post-Exilic Returns

Leader	Date	Description
Zerubbabel Ezra 1-6	536 BC	Ezr 1:2-3 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which <i>is</i> in Judah. 3 Who <i>is there</i> among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which <i>is</i> in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel , (he <i>is</i> the God,) which <i>is</i> in Jerusalem.
Ezra Ezra 7-10	458 BC	Ezr 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. 12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, 14 ... thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand;
Nehemiah	445 BC	Neh 1:2 Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and <i>certain</i> men of Judah; ... 3 And they said unto me, ... the wall of Jerusalem also <i>is</i> broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. ... 2:4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? ... 5 And I said unto the king, ... that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it. 6 ... So it pleased the king to send me;

7-18, The Lord's Alternation

Sanctuary	7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar , and I will glorify the house of my glory.	13 The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary ; and I will make the place of my feet glorious.
Gentiles & Jews	8 Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? 9 Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel , because he hath glorified thee.	14 The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
City	10 And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls , and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee , but in my favour have I had mercy on thee [54:7-8]. 11 Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that <i>men</i> may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles , and <i>that</i> their kings may be brought. 12 For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, <i>those</i> nations shall be utterly wasted.	15 Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated , so that no man went through <i>thee</i> , I will make thee an eternal excellency , a joy of many generations. 16 Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles , and shalt suck the breast of kings : and thou shalt know that I the LORD <i>am</i> thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob. 17 For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. 18 Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.

Ezra's Mission

His Preparation

Ezr 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to **seek** the law of the LORD, and to **do it**, and to **teach** in Israel statutes and judgments.

His Discovery

Ezr 9:1 the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, *doing* according to their abominations, *even* of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. 2 For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of *those* lands:

His confession

Ezr 9:10 And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments, ... 12 "Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons,"

The Motive:

Deu 7:3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. 4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods:

A Shift in the Role of Gentiles

Ezra 9-10	Isaiah 60:8-9, 14
Gentiles rejected	Gentiles welcome
Danger: “they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods ” (Deut 7:4)	Blessing: they will “ bring thy sons from far ... unto the name of the LORD thy God ”

Places in Isaiah 60

Tarshish

Isles (coastlands)

Lebanon

Babylon

Kedar,
Nebaioth

Midian,
Ephah

Seba

Sheba

v. 9 “to bring thy sons from far”

Isa 49:22 Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and **they shall bring thy sons** in *their* arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon *their* shoulders.

Deu 32:21 They have moved me to jealousy with *that which is* not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and **I will move them to jealousy** with *those which are* not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

Rom 11:11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall **salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.** 12 Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? 13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation *them which are* my flesh, and might save some of them. ... 25 blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 **And so** all Israel shall be saved:

The name of the Lord (v. 9)

Not just a label.

Says something about the person. Divine (re)namings:
Abram → Abraham, Sarai → Sarah, Jacob → Israel,
Jedidah, Immanuel, Jesus, Simon → Cephas

Cf. Exo 34:5-7 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and **proclaimed the name** of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

unto the name **לשם** of the Lord thy God (v9)

Most common use of **לשם יהוה** in the OT, 26 out of 48 instances, is to describe the temple. Compare:

Ex 25:8 Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them

Jerusalem in the Millennium:

Eze 48:35 the name of the city from *that day shall be*, The LORD *is* there.

What attracts the Gentiles?

Jos 9:9 And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come **because of the name לשם** of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt,

1Ki 10:1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon **concerning the name לשם of the LORD**, she came to prove him with hard questions.

Pronominal Anomaly in v. 9

Isa 60:9 Surely the isles shall wait for **me**, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because **he** hath glorified thee.

Another example: (God is speaking)

Isa 55:5 Behold, thou shalt call a nation *that* thou knowest not, and nations *that* knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for **he** hath glorified thee.

Recall again the Gibeonites and the Queen of Sheba:

Jos 9:9 And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and **all that he did** in Egypt,

1Ki 10:9 Blessed be the LORD thy God, **which delighted [3ms]** in thee

→ The expression is on the lips of those who return: The isles ... bring thy sons ... unto the name of the LORD ... “because he hath glorified thee”

Two Lessons for Outreach

Activity	Basis in vv. 8-9	Detail
Testimony	Gentiles bringing Israel Provoking to jealousy	Showing others how the Lord has blessed us, so that they desire the same blessing
Preaching	Coming “unto the name of the Lord”	Revealing “the name of the Lord” (his character as terrifying judge and loving redeemer)