

- 15 Instead of your being forsaken and hated during the exile, with no one passing through, as you were a small, desolate area in which no one took interest; I will now designate you for eternal glory, a continual source of gladness for generations.
- 16 You will nurse the milk of the nations, wealth and gifts from the entire world. And moreover, from the breast of kings will you nurse,⁸⁹³ as you will receive the spoils and possessions of kings; and then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, and your Redeemer is the Mighty One of Jacob, who is exalted and rules over Jacob (see 1:24).
- 17 Instead of bronze, of which you currently have plenty, I will bring gold.⁸⁹⁴ Both gold and bronze have a yellowish tinge. Although their color is roughly equivalent, gold is far more valuable than bronze and therefore this metal symbolizes the great wealth of the Messianic times. And instead of iron I will bring silver. These grayish-white metals are also similar, but once again the value of silver is much greater than that of iron. And instead of wood, the cheapest material, I will bring bronze; and instead of stones, iron; I will appoint your officials for peace. The authorities will not behave cruelly, in the haughty manner of inspectors and collectors, but will act honestly and peacefully. And I will likewise designate your tax collectors, your rulers who place burdens upon the people, for righteousness.⁸⁹⁵ Others explain that righteousness and peace will replace your officers and tyrants.
- 18 The prophet addresses the moral and spiritual aspects of life at that time: No longer will villainy, the improper appropriation of money, be heard of in your land, robbery and ruin will likewise not appear within your borders; you will call your walls salvation, and your gates, praise. The sturdy walls of Jerusalem will be called the walls of salvation and victory, and the gates of the city will be known as the gates of praise.⁸⁹⁶ Since

there will be no more desolation and destruction, the walls will lose their primary purpose, and will serve only as a memorial to God's salvation of His people.⁸⁹⁷ Others explain that salvation will be your stronghold, and praising God will be the necessary means of entry to the city. Alternatively, calls of salvation and praise will be heard from within the walls of Jerusalem.

- 19 Moreover, in those times the sun will no longer be for light for you by day, as you will not require the sun to supply daylight.⁸⁹⁸ Alternatively, you will not be subject to the forces of nature, but will instead be directly under the supervision of God. And similarly, the glow of the moon will not illuminate for you at night. These celestial bodies will be secondary to the great light: The Lord will be for you an eternal light and your God will be your splendor.
- 20 Your, Zion, sun, will no longer set and your moon will not be gathered in, by setting and disappearing. The continuous presence of these two luminaries together in the sky represents the miraculous light of the redemption that will not wax and wane,⁸⁹⁹ as the Lord will be for you an eternal light, providing you with all that you lack, and the days of your mourning will be completed.
- 21 And your people, they are all righteous at that time, they will inherit the Land of Israel forever.⁹⁰⁰ The renewed growth of the nation of Israel from an existing base will be like the scion of My planting, a small branch that grows from the roots of a tree, ultimately becoming a large tree in its own right. These branches, which symbolize the increasing power of the nation, are My handiwork, to be adorned in splendor, they will develop into a glorious product.⁹⁰¹
- 22 The smallest of the people will become a thousand, a large number, and the youngest, or the least in quantity, will develop into a mighty nation; I am the Lord, who promises that at its appropriate time, I will hasten it,⁹⁰² the arrival and the process of the redemption.