


Why Christmas lights?

A scenic view of a city, likely Jerusalem, with a large, bright sun in the sky. The city is built on a hillside, and the sun is positioned in the upper right corner of the frame. The sky is a mix of pink and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The city's architecture is visible, including a prominent tower with a red roof. The foreground is filled with dark green trees.

Arise, Shine!

Your Light Has Come!

Isaiah 60:1-3

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Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness will cover the earth
And deep darkness the peoples;
But the LORD will rise upon you
And His glory will appear upon you.
Nations will come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising.

The Christmas Message

The Light has come and has clearly communicated the glory of the Lord to you, so arise and shine in this darkened world.

Arise, Shine! Your Light Has Come.

What was the world's situation?





What was the situation?

Darkness

Isaiah 60:1-3

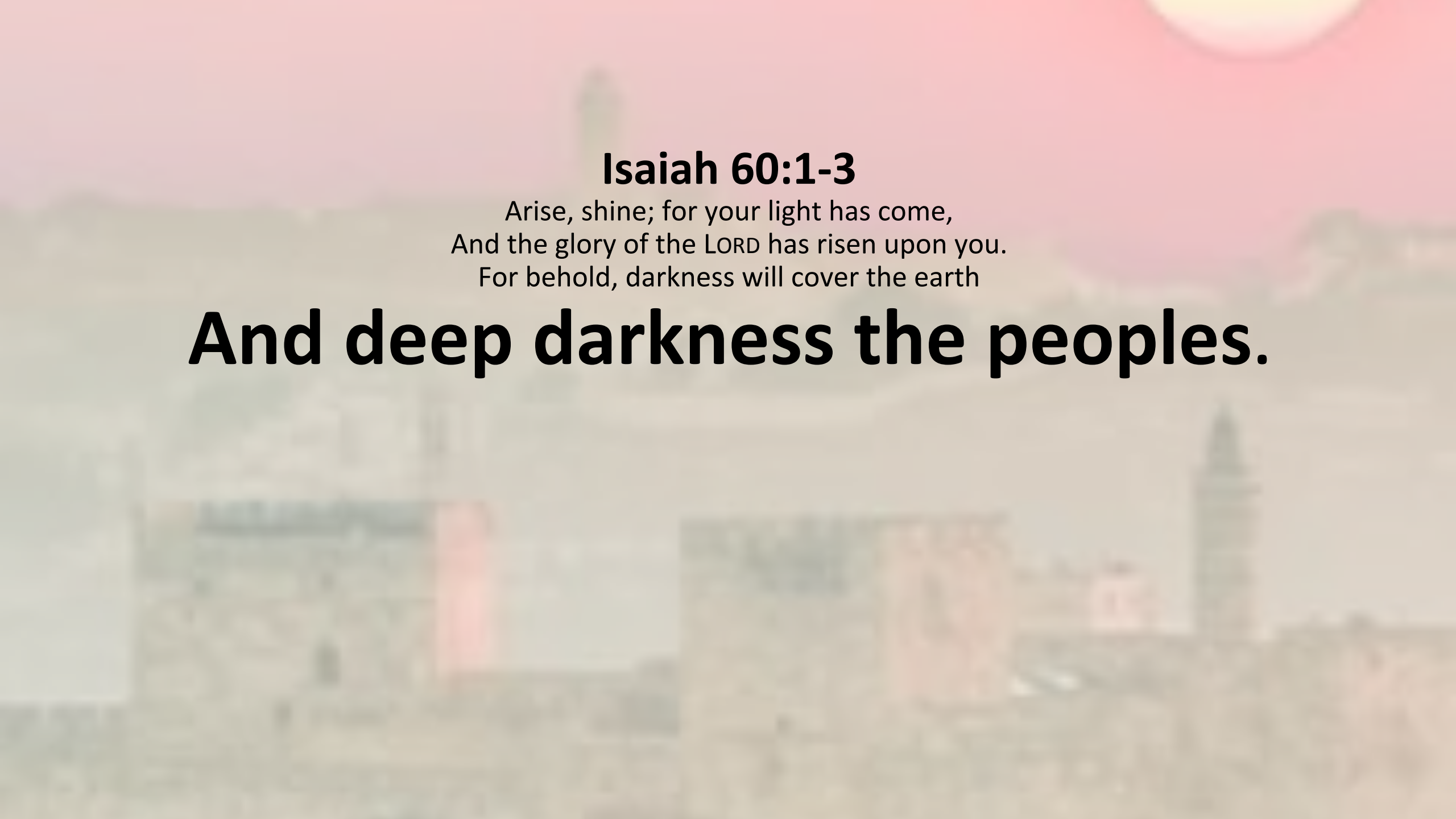
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Isaiah 59:9-10

Therefore, justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us; we hope for light, but behold, darkness; for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

We grope along the wall like blind men,

We grope like those who have no eyes;

We stumble at midday as in the twilight,

Among those who are vigorous we are like dead men.

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A continuing darkness.

Romans 1:21

Even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and **their foolish heart was darkened.**

What is this darkness?

Ephesians 4:17-18

This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.

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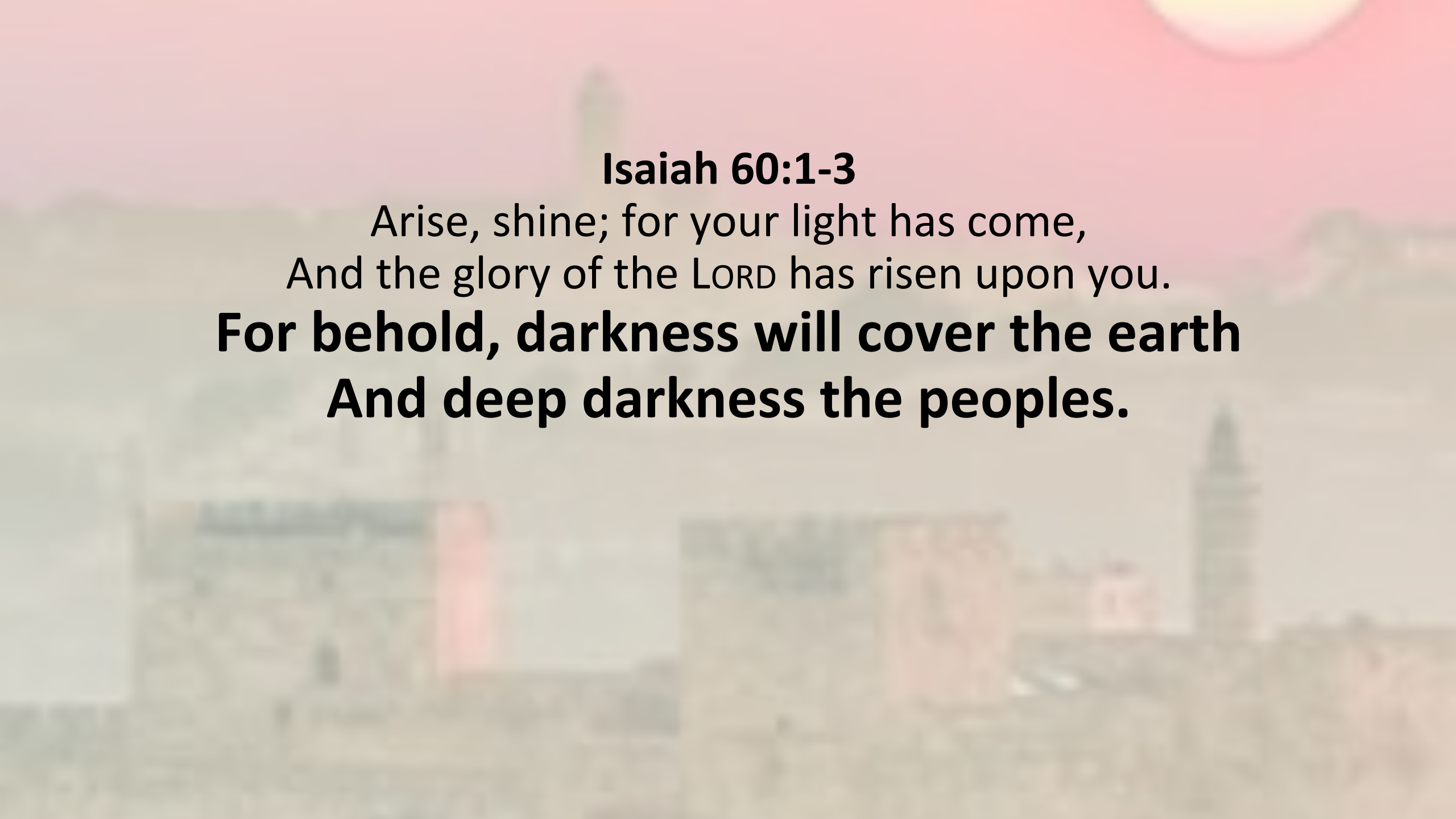
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Despair



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Isaiah 8:22

Then they will look to the earth, and behold,
distress and darkness, the gloom of **anguish**;
and they will be driven away into darkness.

What about now?

2 Timothy 3:1-4

But realize this, that in the last days
difficult times will come.

For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money,
boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents,
ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious
gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,
treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure
rather than lovers of God.

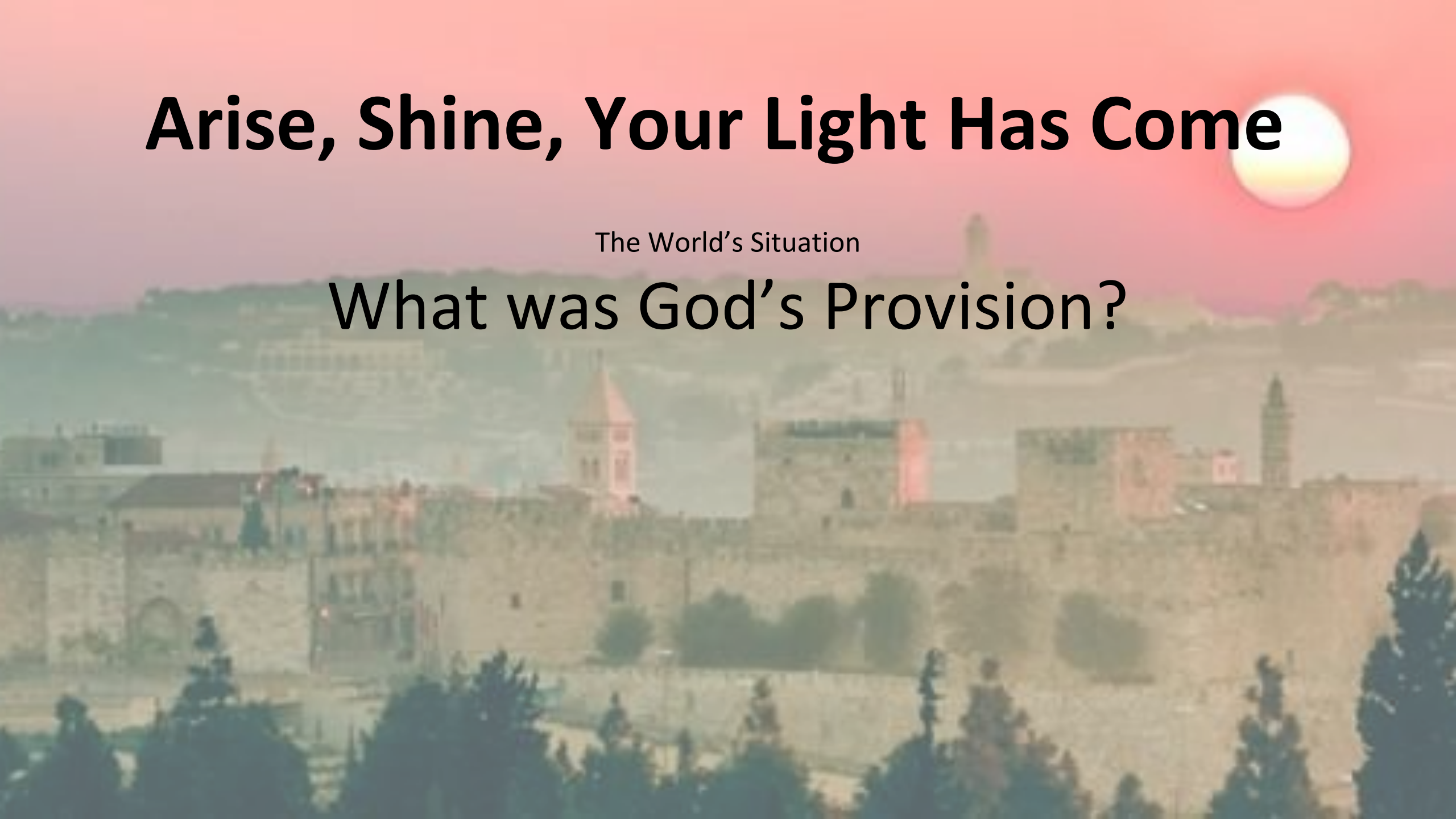
What about you?

What are the indicators of your life telling you about your heart condition right now?

Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come

The World's Situation

What was God's Provision?



The background of the slide is a blurred, high-angle photograph of a city. A prominent feature is a tall, light-colored church spire with a pointed top, located in the middle-right portion of the frame. The rest of the city is a dense collection of buildings and structures, all rendered out of focus. The overall color palette is muted, with soft greens, greys, and earthy tones.

What did God give?

Light

Isaiah 60:1-3

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A Previous Promise

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walk in darkness
Will see a great light;
Those who live in a dark land,
The light will shine on them.

Who is this light?

Simeon tells us...

Luke 2:29-32

Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant
to depart in peace, according to Your word;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You
have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
A light of revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel.

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Who is this light and salvation?

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only
begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 12:46

Jesus cried out...

“I have come as light into the world, that everyone
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Light

Life

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And the earth was formless and void,
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Genesis 1:2-3

And the earth was formless and void,
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Then God said,
“Let there be light”; and there was light.

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Rise up and stand!

Remember their Condition?

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Remember the Promise of Life

Ezekiel 37:4-5

Again He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.’”
Thus says the Lord God to these bones, “Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.”

What is this life?

John 8:12

Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying,
“I am the light of the world;
he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness,
but shall have the light of life.”

John 1:4

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come



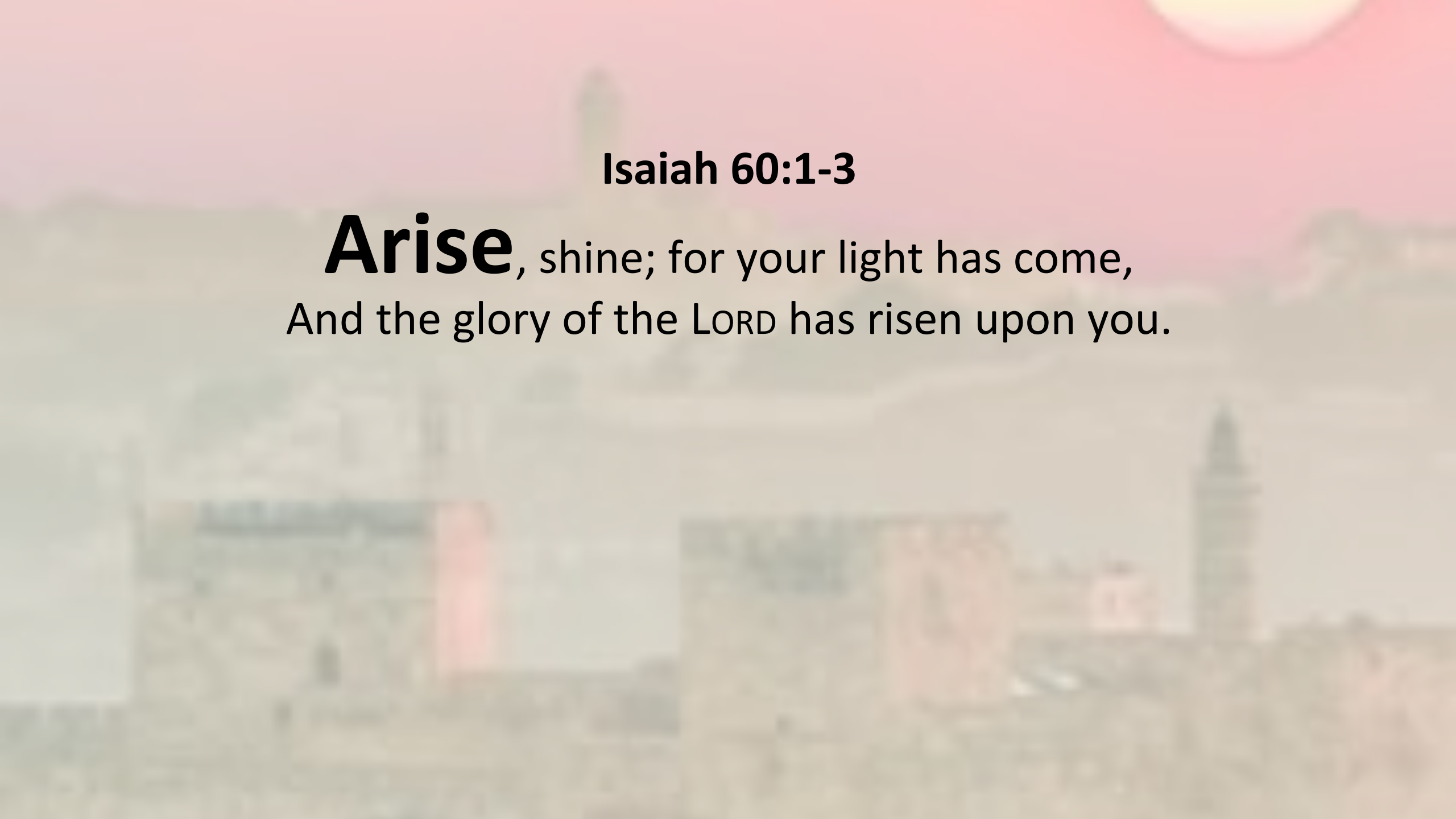
The World's Situation
God's Provision

What is Our Reaction?

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How should we react?

Arise!



Isaiah 60:1-3

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Isaiah 52:1-3

Awake, awake,

Clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion;
Clothe yourself in your beautiful garments,
O Jerusalem, the holy city;

For the uncircumcised and the unclean
Will no longer come into you.

Shake yourself from the dust, **rise up,**
O captive Jerusalem;

Loose yourself from the chains around your neck,
O captive daughter of Zion.

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For thus says the LORD, “You were sold for nothing
and **you will be redeemed without money.**”

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What about us?

Ephesians 5:7-11

Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them.

What about you?

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Ephesians 5:14

For this reason it says,
“**Awake**, sleeper,
And **arise** from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”

But how?

Turn away from yourself and
take hold of Christ by faith!

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Shine brightly!

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What about us?

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;
nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket,
but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all
who are in the house. Let your light shine before men
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Questions for You

Have you received the Light?

Are you receiving the Light?

Are you shining His light?