INTRODUCTION:

Today we begin a new series entitled Arise and Shine

• It’s taken from Isaiah 60:1 that says… Arise, Shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.
• Over the next few weeks we’re going to look at the First Coming of Jesus from Isaiah’s perspective
• In a sense we’re going backwards in time… we started by looking at the future waves of prophecy and the Second Coming of Jesus
• Then for the past two weeks we’ve looked at what God is speaking to us in the present tense
• But now we want to turn our attention towards Christmas by looking at the prophecies concerning Jesus’ birth
• Specifically looking at what Jesus came to do

NOTE: If you are desiring to know God and His Word more… I’d like to invite you to come Thursday nights for our midweek Bible Study

• We are on a 4 year journey through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation…
• If you’ve never studied the Bible before, it will change your life
• What changed for me personally was realizing that many of the beliefs that I held about God were simply not true
• They were things that I learned from movies or in conversations with friends… some were things I heard in church or on the radio
• But when I went through the Bible I realized that much of what I believed was simply someone’s opinion or a religious tradition – not the Bible
• So I encourage you to join us as we are going through the Bible
• We are currently in the Book of Isaiah and if you join us this week you can read ahead – Isaiah 51-55 and come prepared to hear from God
• In January we will start the Book of Jeremiah

Today let’s look at Isaiah 60:1-3

Isaiah 60:1–3 (NKJV)
60 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the L ORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the L ORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.
**Arise, Shine is God’s wakeup call to Jerusalem**

- It’s the announcement that a new day is dawning for Israel
- Isaiah says, your light has come, but not from the sun
- The light is the glory of God shining on the city
- There appears to be a connection in scripture with God’s glory and light
- The word glory is the Hebrew word – Kabod and it literally means weight or heaviness
- It can also mean a manifestation of power specifically in reference to the presence of God and in fact is one of the titles of God… the Glory
- The Hebrew word Kabod also carries with it a high status of honor and respect and implies a show of reverence or respect through worship
- So when Isaiah says… the glory of the Lord is risen upon you He is saying that just like the sun rises a shines over the earth…
- God’s Presence is rising on you and as it shines on you it’s like a weight, a heaviness that you can feel

**Theologians refer to this as the manifest presence of God**

- It is where God makes Himself known to man
- So the Glory of the Lord is literally God Himself amongst His people in great power and might

**We see this throughout the old testament**

- In the book of Exodus, we are told that the glory of the Lord dwelt in the tabernacle that was in the midst of Israel

**Exodus 40:34–35 (NKJV)**

34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

- God’s Presence was so heavy that Moses couldn’t enter the tabernacle
- I’m not sure if you’ve ever sensed God’s Presence so thick in a room that you felt like you couldn’t move or breath
- I’ve experienced that on a number of occasions… that’s the glory of God
- A cloud was above the tabernacle by day and fire was over it by night
- All the nations could see the manifest Presence of God with Israel
- What an incredible sight that must have been
• No wonder the nations of the world were afraid of Israel

**But in 1 Samuel we read that the glory had departed**
• They allowed the Ark of the Covenant to be captured by the Philistines
• **NOTE:** The ark was never supposed to move from the tabernacle
• But the Israelites treated the ark as some kind of secret weapon
• If we take it into battle we will win
• But the power wasn’t in the Ark, the power was in the Glory… the manifest Presence of God that was with them in battle
• So… The glory of God was absent from Israel until the Ark was returned to Israel and brought into Solomon’s temple and we read in 1 Kings 8...

1 Kings 8:10–11 (NKJV)

10 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

**Once again the glory of God is dwelling in the midst of Israel**
• Here we see the glory of God in the form of a cloud that is so heavy that the priests could not continue ministering
• Imagine being in a room where this cloud begins to fill the room and as the cloud fills the room you feel this heaviness on you to the point that you can’t move
• Lord, I long for that in our churches today!
• But Israel began to worship other gods and turned to idols
• Because they turned to idolatry, the glory of God departed from Israel

**Ezekiel describes the glory of God departing from Israel**

Ezekiel 10:3–5 (NKJV)

3 Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and the cloud filled the inner court. 4 Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD’s glory. 5 And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court, like the voice of Almighty God when He speaks.

Ezekiel 10:18–19 (NKJV)
18 Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. 19 And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels were beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD’s house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

• Ezekiel’s ministry as a prophet in Israel occurs around 150 years after Isaiah
• Ezekiel witnesses the glory of God departing from Israel because of Israel’s sin
• As the glory of God leaves, the nation is plunged into darkness
• How sad for Israel. A people once known for the Glory of God
• A people once known as the light to the Gentiles are now in darkness

But the Lord wasn’t pleased with this
Isaiah 59:15–16, 20 (NKJV)
Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice. 16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

• The word “displeased” is better translated “it wasn’t God’s Will”
• God created man to live in His Presence, not to live in darkness
• But it wasn’t God’s Will for man to live in darkness, but there was no man who could intervene and restore man to God’s created intent
• So God decided to come Himself

And we read in John 1
John 1:14 (NKJV)  
14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

• When Jesus came into the world, the glory of God was restored

Jesus said...
John 8:12 (NKJV)  
12 “I am the light (THE KABOD) of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
John 12:46 (NKJV)

46 I have come as a light (THE GLORY) into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

- For the first time in 400 years, the Presence of God was in the midst of Israel
- So when Isaiah says… arise, shine… he was announcing that God is in your midst once again
- Only this time… whether or not the glory departs is not dependent on your righteousness, it’s not dependent on your obedience
- But Isaiah says it’s dependent on God’s own righteousness and the perfect obedience of Jesus

Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

19 For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.

And Isaiah says...

Isaiah 60:2 (NKJV)

2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD… But the LORD… But the LORD… will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.

- I’m going through a heavy trial… But the LORD…
- I feel like I’m in dark… But the LORD…
- I don’t know what to do… But the LORD…
- I’m not sure I’m going to make it… But the LORD will arise over you and His glory
- That heavy, weighty, powerful, visible, manifested Presence of God is rising up like the sun on the horizon and His glory, God Himself will be seen upon you
- Arise, Shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you

That is really what Christmas is about
- The Glory of the Lord, the Light of the World shining into the darkness
• Over the next few weeks we are going to see what the Glory of God came to do
• First He came to show the way to the Father
• Second He came to save the world
• Third He came to give us new life

ILL: I can remember looking at photos of gifts that I received over the years. I remember one year I got a fire truck with a ladder and on the top of the ladder was a hose that squirted real water. It was cool. Another year I got a aircraft carrier that shot little plastic missles. Another year I got a remote controlled Dinosaur that walked around and made Godzilla noises. I think every Asian kid deep in their heart wants a remote controlled Godzilla. For the life of me, I can’t remember what happened to any of them. They’re gone

As we look at the Glory of God in our midst
• May we be reminded of the gifts that God has given to us
• The gifts that aren’t dependent on our righteousness, our obedience, our power, our strength, our good works
• The gifts that can’t be taken from us or that will fade away
• The gift of His Presence
• The gift of Salvation
• The gift of New, Abundant and eternal Life

Let’s finish by reading our text once more...

Isaiah 60:1–3 (NKJV)
60 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

PRAYER: ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO ALLOW THE GLORY OF GOD TO SHINE UPON THEM
Arise and Shine Your Light Has Come (Isaiah 60:1-3)
Your Light Has Come To Show The Way (Isaiah 60:19-22)
Your Light Has Come To Save The World (Isaiah 61:1-3)
Your Light Has Come To Give New Life (Isaiah 62:4, 12)