

**Study Notes: Isaiah 61:4-7**  
**December 4, 2022: “The Savior Came to Bring Us Everlasting Joy”**  
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***They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.***

- When the Servant of the Lord comes, who is the Messiah (see Isaiah 61:1 and notes), a great restoration will take place among God’s people. The people will be empowered to rebuild and restore cities and places that have been devastated by their enemies. This continues the theme that began in Isaiah 61:2-3, about things being set right and as they should be.

***Strangers will shepherd your flocks;  
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.  
And you will be called priests of the Lord,  
you will be named ministers of our God.***

- The idea of strangers and foreigners entering the nation of Israel speaks to God’s intention to use the nation to bless all nations, and also refers to the all-encompassing work of the Messiah. The ministry will reach beyond the nation of Israel, touching all nations. It also speaks to a reversal, because earlier in Isaiah 14:2, it was the people of Israel who will serve as slaves to the other nations. In this case, the roles are reversed.
- God’s people will have a part in the work of reaching the nations, as they are called priests and ministers. This fulfills the word that was spoken to Moses in Exodus 19:5-6, and this will be a result of the obedience of the Servant of the Lord. In Revelation 1:5-6 and 5:9-10, it is clear that this work is fulfilled by Jesus Christ, who purchased a people for Himself by His blood. In 1 Peter 2:9, it is clear that this promise is extended not just to the nation of Israel, but to all of God’s people through Jesus Christ.

***You will feed on the wealth of nations,  
and in their riches you will boast.  
Instead of your shame  
you will receive a double portion,  
and instead of disgrace  
you will rejoice in your inheritance.  
And so you will inherit a double portion in your land,  
and everlasting joy will be yours.***

- The work of the Messiah also results in blessings for God’s people. They will enjoy the wealth of nations, and instead of shame and disgrace, they will enjoy a double portion of rejoicing and everlasting joy. The New American Commentary explains, “Israel’s old way of life involved sin, rebellion, divine judgment, and the emotional feelings of shame, but God promises that their new life in God’s kingdom will substitute a ‘double’ portion (cf. 40:2) instead of shame. The content of the ‘double’ portion is not defined, but the parallelism with the next line implies that the double portion must be something extraordinarily good.”