

“Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home. Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy, for merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands.” Isaiah 60:4-5 NLT

lectio // Isaiah 60:1-6

I used to think that EVERYONE liked a happy ending, but now I think the world has changed to the point where they believe that's just in movies or novels. I still believe in happy endings. I believe all the best stories that capture hearts and rapture souls have love, drama or trauma and redemption in them. I believe that is so because God wove that rhythm into the fabric of the human story. Here, Isaiah highlights the redemptive, happy ending for Israel. And since Israel is a huge overarching type of humanity, we see glimpses of our own story reflected in their journey. Homecoming! I love when family gets together. Robin and I are most happy when all the kids and their mates come over for a meal, a celebration or some games. At this point in our life, it is our happy place. Now thinking of a time when all sons and daughter, not just of Israel, but of humanity - come home. This is an overwhelmingly joyous picture! Knowing just a little bit of all the drama-trauma that life, sin and the evil one has thrown at people, I'm surprised that so many get up everyday and face it without acknowledging their creator. They go at life and suffer through pain without listening to the whisper of love from their heavenly Father. That is so sad and very brave. I would love to see the heartbroken, hardened-hearted, soul crushed sons and daughters run home into God's loving embrace. Isaiah promised that Israel would see this, thus finishing their story with a happy ending. My hope is that the grander story of us will end in similar redemption - a happy ending for all those who are tired and want to also come home.

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

As an agent of your grace and an ambassador of hope, help me carry the news that you are waiting. Please let our sons and daughters hear your whispers of love, acknowledge you as creator and come home to find forgiveness, redemption and transformation in their life.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root