

The Day of the Lord

Isaiah 2:1-22

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Isaiah 2:1-4 – The Future House of God

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. ³ Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

v1 – How did Isaiah come by the words he wrote?

He "saw" it. This was revealed to Isaiah in some kind of vision, because this was a word that he saw.

How is it that Isaiah 2:1-3 is repeated in Micah 4:1-3?

Since Isaiah and Micah were contemporary prophets, it isn't surprising that the same Spirit of the LORD could give these two prophets the same word, to better establish and emphasize it.

v2 – What is the mountain of the Lord's house?

Daniel 2:35 – Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

During the millennium, Israel will be the "superpower" of the world. It will be the leading nation in all the earth, and the center of Israel will be the mountain of the Lord's house - the temple mount, which will be the "capital" of the government of the Messiah. All nations shall flow to the "capital" of the government of Jesus.

When will the mountain of the Lord's house be established?

In the latter days: In context, this term refers to the "time of the Messiah," when the Anointed of the Lord reigns over

the earth. This speaks of the Millennial Kingdom, the thousand-year reign of Jesus on this earth (Psalm 72, Isaiah 11:4-9, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Luke 1:32-33 and 19:12-27, Matthew 5:18).

v3 – Why will many people go to the mountain of the Lord?

He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths: During the millennium, the citizens of earth will acknowledge and submit to the Lordship of Jesus. It will be a time of perfectly administrated enforced righteousness on this earth.

v4 – What will characterize the Messiah's reign on earth?

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: During the reign of the Messiah, there will be no more war. There will still be conflicts between nations and individuals, but they will be justly and decisively resolved by the Messiah and those who reign with Him (*He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people*).

Since Jesus is ruling on earth will that mean everyone is saved?

It isn't the reign of the Messiah itself that will change the heart of man. Citizens of earth will still need to trust in Jesus and His work on their behalf for their personal salvation during the millennium. But war and armed conflict will not be tolerated.

How will there be peace on earth during the Millennial Kingdom?

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore: The Lord will enforce the peace...

*Psalm 2:9 – You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.*

Since there would be no more war, there'd be and no more need for weapons. Instead, the weapons would be transformed into tools of prosperity.

Why is Isaiah 2:4 is inscribed on the U.N building?

The nations long for peace but erroneously think they can achieve it through human effort. But it will only happen when the Prince of Peace returns.

Isaiah 2:5-22 – The Day of the Lord

⁵ *O house of Jacob, come and let us walk In the light of the Lord.* ⁶ *For You have forsaken Your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled with eastern ways; They are soothsayers like the Philistines, And they are pleased with the children of foreigners.*

⁷ *Their land is also full of silver and gold, And there is no end to their treasures; Their land is also full of horses, And there is no end to their chariots.*

⁸ *Their land is also full of idols; They worship the work of their own hands, That which their own fingers have made.*

⁹ *People bow down, And each man humbles himself; Therefore do not forgive them.*

¹⁰ *Enter into the rock, and hide in the dust, From the terror of the Lord And the glory of His majesty.*

¹¹ *The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.*

¹² *For the day of the Lord of hosts Shall come upon everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up— And it shall be brought low—*

¹³ *Upon all the cedars of Lebanon that are high and lifted up, And upon all the oaks of Bashan;*

¹⁴ *Upon all the high mountains, And upon all the hills that are lifted up;*

¹⁵ *Upon every high tower, And upon every fortified wall;*

¹⁶ *Upon all the ships of Tarshish, And upon all the beautiful sloops.*

¹⁷ *The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The Lord alone will be exalted in that day,*

¹⁸ *But the idols He shall utterly abolish.*

¹⁹ *They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the Lord And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.*

²⁰ *In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver And his idols of gold, Which they made, each for himself to worship, To the moles and bats,*

²¹ *To go into the clefts of the rocks, And into the crags of the rugged rocks, From the terror of the Lord And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.*

²² *Sever yourselves from such a man, Whose breath is in his nostrils; For of what account is he?*

v5 – After painting the picture of the glory of the Messiah's reign, how does Isaiah challenge Judah?

Not to wait until the Millennial Kingdom, they should resolve to live in the Messiah's reign right now.

What does it mean to walk in the light of the Lord?

This means to order your life after God's truth and His ways.

- The ultimate reign of the Messiah may be many years away, but Jesus can reign in our lives, in our minds, and in our hearts right now.
- We don't have to wait for the enforced righteousness of the millennium to have the blessing of Jesus' righteousness in our lives right now.

What is it that gets you down, that brings darkness into your life?

It could be the darkness of spiritual attack, of unfaithful friends, of bad circumstances, of shame, of guilt, of anything that brings despair. But such darkness is not greater than the light of the Lord which brings hope.

Why should Christians never continue in despair?

John 10:10 – *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

The hope of eternal life makes life in the here and now better since you don't have to fear death.

- Spurgeon: "If you were to go to Australia in a good sound ship, you would get there even if you were always to lie down in the hold among the luggage and the rats; but I should like to go in a first-class cabin, and I do not see why you and I, if we are going to heaven, should not go first-class."

v6 – Why had God forsaken the house of Jacob?

They are filled with eastern ways ... they are soothsayers like the Philistines ... they are pleased with the children of foreigners: Judah had allowed the false gods of foreigners to captivate their attention.

Does this sound xenophobic? Was God opposed immigrants?

God is not against the cultures and customs of other peoples, except where those customs and cultures honor and worship false gods. Perhaps in the name of "diversity," the leaders and people of Judah were allowing the worship of false gods.

v7 – What had caused Judah to be attracted to the ways of foreigners?

Their land is also full of silver and gold: Judah had allowed the false gods of wealth and materialism to captivate their attention.

Matthew 5:45 – *He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

While Judah was prosperous, other nations were prosperous as well so they thought maybe their gods were what helped them to have economic prosperity (*full of silver and gold ... no end to their treasures ... full of horses ... no end to their chariots*). Thus, they became prone to economic idolatry.

Does this indicate that God was opposed to wealth?

No, God is not against wealth and riches, and may choose to bless some with significant resources. This is a rebuke of the love of riches, and any trust in wealth making it into an idol.

v8 – How had foreign ways corrupted Judah?

Their land is also full of idols: Judah had allowed idols to captivate their attention. Because everyone has an innate tendency to worship themselves (*the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made*), we are tempted to worship what we have made and accomplished instead of worshipping the One who made it possible to accomplish what we do.

Does this indicate God's opposition to hard work?

No, God wants us to work hard, and show the accomplishments that we've made. This is a rebuke of worshipping what we have made and done.

How is our culture making the accomplishments of Western Civilization into an idol?

The achievements of science and technology are seen as only the work of man and not as a blessing from God. Science and technology have become idols.

v9 – Why were those bowing down and humbling themselves not forgiven?

There was plenty of worship in Judah, but the object of their worship was not the Creator of all things!

How can it be wrong if people are doing good things to improve the condition of humanity?

God can use even the fruit of the ungodly to improve the lot of humanity but that does not mean it is of any eternal value to the person doing the work.

- God knows our motivations for why we do what we do, and if it is not to see God glorified, it counts for nothing in eternity.

The beginning of the chapter described the glory of the Messiah's reign (Isaiah 2:1-4). The second part of the chapter described the current corruption of Judah (Isaiah 2:6-9).

How will the earth be transformed from its current corruption to the glory of the Messiah's reign?

It will happen by the victory of the Messiah in the day of the LORD of hosts.

- The term day of the LORD (used more than 25 times in the Bible) does not necessarily refer to one specific day. It speaks of "God's time."
- The idea is that now is the day of man, but that day will not last forever.

v10 – How will people react to the Day of the Lord?

See also verse 19... They will be terrified and seek to hide from it...

Revelation 6:15-16 – *And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"*

It is interesting to note that the people during the Tribulation will know it is the Christian God who is causing their troubles yet they have committed to opposing Him. This has to be the result of the "*strong delusion*" God sends them following the rapture of the church (2 Thessalonians 2:11).

v11-14 – What is the purpose of the Day of the Lord?

Every proud, arrogant achievement of man will be humbled, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

- In that day, there will be no more idolatry; the LORD alone shall be exalted (v18).
- In that day, God will be glorified, and all will see the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty.

v15-17 – What did the high tower, the fortified wall, the ships of Tarshish and beautiful sloops represent?

These were all expressions of the loftiness of man and the haughtiness of men. In the day of the LORD, every proud, arrogant achievement of man will be humbled, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

- The science and technology idol will fail men.

v18-21 – How will God utterly abolish the idols?

It will be hard to worship idols when the Creator-Lord Himself will be ruling on the earth.

- Men will be so done with their idols that they will cast them away.

- I could see people throwing away their useless cell phones in light of the Lord returning to earth.

v21 – When will the Lord “shake the earth mightily”?

This will happen as a result of the 7th Bowl Judgment at the end of the Tribulation just prior to the Lord’s return...

Revelation 16:18, 20 – *and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth... Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*

v22 – From who should the people of Judah sever themselves?

Because the days of idols and human pride are numbered, why associate with those who cling to what will certainly be defeated? We should see that such men are of no account, and walk in the light of the LORD instead.

Why is the breath of such a man mentioned?

Everyone depends on God for every breath they take yet so many will deny Him who will shake the earth mightily! It simply makes sense for us to honor and obey God than to follow men into sin.

Why should we sever ourselves from the ungodly?

For of what account is he? If men are only men, why do we give so much attention to the opinions of men? Why rise so high on the praise of men, and get so low at their disapproval? We have something - Someone - better to live for.

What is the problem with harboring close associations with the ungodly?

It is more likely we will end up compromising with their worldly way that their embracing Christ...

2 Corinthians 6:14 – *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

We should plant seeds that God can use to open their hearts to Him but if they don’t respond it is on them, not us.

1 Corinthians 3:6 – *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.*

What applications come to mind from our discussion today?

- Don’t be deceived, the peace the nations long for will not happen until the Lord reigns during the Millennial Kingdom.
- We can walk in the light of the Lord now and this helps us deal with the difficulties of this fallen world.
- Why we do what we do is more important than what we do from an eternal perspective.

- We shouldn’t wait for the Day of the Lord to be humbled... it is much better to humble ourselves before Him now.
- We should not pursue close associations with the ungodly.