

January 14, 2018

“The Day of the Lord”

Focal Passage: Isaiah 2 (NASB)

Cross References: Psalm 72; Isaiah 11:4-9; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Micah 4:1-3; Matthew 5:18; Luke 1:32-33 and 19:12-27; Revelation 20:2-7

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Jan 7 Genesis 22-24	Jan 8 Genesis 25-26
Jan 9 Genesis 27-29	Jan 10 Genesis 30-31
Jan 11 Genesis 32-34	Jan 12 Genesis 35-37
Jan 13 Genesis 38-40	Jan 14 Genesis 41-42

REMINDER ABOUT NEXT WEEK: On Sunday, January 21st all of the youth and adult classes will meet together in the Worship Center. Dr. Deron Biles, Old Testament and Preaching Professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be with us for Sunday School and Worship to lead an overview of the entire book of Isaiah. He will help us understand the background and setting for Isaiah, as well as sharing with us the major themes of the book. It should be very informative and inspirational as we begin this biblical undertaking.

BACKGROUND:

Verses 1-5 speak of a coming day of the Lord’s reign on earth with Jerusalem (the mount of the Lord) as the central location of His rule. Verses 6-9 speak of the current state of Judah during the prophecy of Isaiah. It was a time of prosperity, but also of great wickedness and idolatry. The final verses 10-22 speak of the day of the Lord’s judgment on the pride and idolatry of man. It will be a time of great terror for sinful man, but will display the splendor of God’s glory as well.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **There is coming a day when the Lord will reign on earth. It will be a time of peace, when the Lord and His word will be exalted.**
- **Men will be judged for their idolatry and pride. Men will be humbled, and God alone will be exalted.**
- **The Day of the Lord will be terrifying to the wicked. Men need to honor Jesus as Lord of their lives now.**

Lesson Idea: We need to dedicate ourselves to seek after the Lord and not after the pride of men’s achievements.

Isaiah 2:1-5 The Glorious Future of Israel

1 The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Now it will come about that in the last days

The mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it.

3 And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.”

For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 And He will judge between the nations,

And will render decisions for many peoples;

And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

5 Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

DISCUSSION:

- V 1-2. Isaiah “saw” this word from the Lord. What did he “see” concerning the future of the mountain of the Lord (Jerusalem)? When will this occur? (see Micah 4:1-3)
- V 2-3. Why will all the nations stream to it? What should happen at the “house of God?” Why should those things be true in churches today?
- V 4. What else will be true of the Lord’s future kingdom? What does it mean when people hammer their swords into plowshares?
- V 5. What does he entreat the people to do?

Isaiah 2:6-9 The Sad State of Israel

6 For You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob, because they are filled with influences from the east, And they are soothsayers like the Philistines, And they strike bargains with the children of foreigners.

7 Their land has also been filled with silver and gold And there is no end to their treasures;

Their land has also been filled with horses

And there is no end to their chariots.

8 Their land has also been filled with idols;

*They worship the work of their hands,
That which their fingers have made.
9 So the common man has been humbled
And the man of importance has been abased,
But do not forgive them.*

DISCUSSION:

After stating what the glorious future of Israel would be, Isaiah then shared the current state of Israel in his day.

- V 6. Why had God abandoned His people? What kind of influences were affecting them? What kind of influences negatively affect God's people today?
- V 7-8. How and why does prosperity often contribute to immorality in God's people? What kind of idolatry exists in churches today?
- V 9. What happens to common people during immoral times? How does immorality affect "important" people? Why would they not receive forgiveness?

Isaiah 2:12-22 The Terrible Day of the Lord

10 Enter the rock and hide in the dust from the terror of the Lord and from the splendor of His majesty.

*11 The proud look of man will be abased
And the loftiness of man will be humbled,
And the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.*

*12 For the Lord of hosts will have a day of reckoning
against everyone who is proud and lofty and against
everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased.*

*13 And it will be against all the cedars of Lebanon that
are lofty and lifted up, Against all the oaks of Bashan,*

*14 Against all the lofty mountains,
Against all the hills that are lifted up,*

*15 Against every high tower, Against every fortified wall,
16 Against all the ships of Tarshish
And against all the beautiful craft.*

*17 The pride of man will be humbled
And the loftiness of men will be abased;
And the Lord alone will be exalted in that day,*

*18 But the idols will completely vanish.
19 Men will go into caves of the rocks and into holes of
the ground before the terror of the Lord and the splendor
of His majesty, When He arises to make the earth
tremble.*

*20 In that day men will cast away to the moles and the
bats their idols of silver and their idols of gold,
Which they made for themselves to worship,
21 In order to go into the caverns of the rocks and the
clefts of the cliffs before the terror of the Lord and the*

*splendor of His majesty, when He arises to make the
earth tremble.*

*22 Stop regarding man, whose breath of life is in his
nostrils; for why should he be esteemed?*

DISCUSSION:

Isaiah now sees the future Day of the Lord, when His wrath will come upon His people for their wickedness.

- V 10. Why does he advise people to "enter the rock and hide in the dust?" Why will the "terror of the Lord" also display the "splendor of His majesty?"
- V 11. Why will the proud and lofty be humbled in that Day?
- V 12. What is a "day of reckoning," and upon whom will it come?
- V 13-17. Why will all the things that make men proud of themselves be humbled or abased?
- V 18-21. What will happen to all of men's idols and false religions, and why?
- Why will men go into caves and holes in the Day of the Lord? Why will the earth tremble?
- V 22. After sharing the terror that was to come, what was Isaiah's advice for the people of God in His day? How should we take that advice to heart?

APPLICATION:

- ✓ Is your life built on the Lord and His Word, or on the things of man? What will you build on this week?
- ✓ God's warnings should not bring fear to those who are walking with Him. But they should strike terror into those who are not. How have these verses affected you?

Lesson by Bro Stan

NOTES from David Guzik, *Isaiah*:

v 1-5. ***In the latter days***: In context, the term latter days refers to the "time of the Messiah," when the Anointed of the Lord reigns over the earth. This (*may*) speak of the time many refer to as the millennium, 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). [see also Revelation 20:2-7]

. . . 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.

Come, let us 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 administered enforced righteousness on this 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).

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore: It is important to see that this is not the peace of capitulation. This is the peace of enforced righteousness. . . But there is no more war because there is a new ruler on earth, Jesus Christ. Psalm 2:9 tells us what the Messiah will do to the disobedient in that day: *You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.*

After painting the picture of the glory of the Messiah's reign, Isaiah then challenges Judah (house of Jacob) to live in the Messiah's reign right now. ***To walk in the light of the Lord*** means to order your life after God's truth and God's 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.

V 6-9. ***Their land is also full of silver and gold:*** Judah had allowed the false gods of wealth and materialism to captivate their attention. Because Judah was in a time of economic prosperity (*full of silver and gold . . . no end to their treasures . . . full of horses . . . no end to their chariots*), they were far more prone to economic idolatry.

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.

V 10-22. ***The high tower, the fortified wall, the ships of Tarshish and the beautiful sloops*** all are 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.