

Last week we were encouraged by Isaiah’s prediction of the kingdom of God. We saw the current fulfillment in the advancement of the gospel. The conversion rate of Christianity outpaces all other 12 religions combined.<sup>1</sup> We also considered the ultimate fulfillment in the Millennium when Christ Jesus will reign on the earth. But before that ultimate fulfillment, the Day of the Lord will come. As in many prophecies, this passage also has an intermediate fulfillment for the people of Judah and an ultimate fulfillment during the end of the Tribulation period.

Isaiah presented the glorious coming kingdom and invited us to walk in the light of the Lord right now. He was telling the people of Judah not to wait, but be changed now. He first gives the positive reasons to do so, but now continues with the consequences of remaining in rebellion. *6 For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners.* Isaiah 2:6 The house of Jacob was another way of saying the house of Israel. Isaiah uses the name of Israel’s old nature, Jacob. They could have walked in the conversion of the man who became one who prevails with God, but they chose to walk in his old nature, the conniving and scheming youth who looked at everything through the eyes of selfish gain (Genesis 27:36).

God rejected them because they were full of things from the east. This is a contrast with the preceding prophecy of Jerusalem filled with the knowledge of the Lord (2:3). Presently they are filled with the pagan influence the caravans have brought from Syria, Assyria, and Ammon. The gods of those areas and their superstitions had infiltrated the thought life and private practice of the people. The high places and groves or gardens we saw two weeks ago are among those imports, even the detestable practice of sacrificing children to Moloch.

From the southwest they had let the fortune-tellers of the Philistines influence them (1 Samuel 6:2). King Uzziah had conquered several Philistine towns which brought with it a greater influence of the customs of those they conquered (2 Chronicles 26:6).

In our land of the United States of America, we have seen a repeat of the influence of the east and the fortune-tellers. Walk through our city. Everywhere you look you will see idolatry, eastern influence, and fortune-telling. You can get an aura photo, your chakra aligned, a class on skipping your 6<sup>th</sup> karmactic life cycle, or some other eastern influence. Just as in Israel, it snuck in quietly at first. People looked into these practices privately. As the influence grew and the universities and elites increasingly welcomed the influence, we began to see it on book shelves, movies, and television shows. Then the temples were

**Commented [PW1]: Genesis 27:36 (ESV)**  
<sup>36</sup> Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

**Commented [PW2]: Isaiah 2:3 (ESV)**  
<sup>3</sup> and many peoples shall 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 his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**Commented [PW3]: 1 Samuel 6:2 (ESV)**  
<sup>2</sup> And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us with what we shall send it to its place."

**Commented [PW4]: 2 Chronicles 26:6 (ESV)**  
<sup>6</sup> He went out and made war against the Philistines and broke through the wall of Gath and the wall of Jabneh and the wall of Ashdod, and he built cities in the territory of Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines.

<sup>1</sup> <http://fastestgrowingreligion.com/fgr.html>

built and the shops began to flourish. Now, as in the later stages of the nation of Judah, paganism is ingrained itself into our daily lives. It is "in." The parallel to Judah is a wakeup call (1 Corinthians 10:6).

Striking hands with the children of foreigners may be familiarity and acceptance of the evil ways of pagans. We call it acceptance of "diversity" and "tolerance" in our day. Christianity in American history for the most part has been tolerant of other faiths. It has not been accepting of them however. There is a world of difference. It is one thing to allow Muslims to practice their religion and build mosques. It is another altogether to be accepting of other faiths as equal to and as valuable as our own. Christians are prejudiced by the Word of God (8:20; Proverbs 30:5)!

We play such silly word games today and rely on the ignorance of our fellow man. Of course we are prejudice. **Only liberal Christians who don't believe the Bible is the Word of God think Christianity is just one of many valid religions.** When I came to Wayside, there was a prominent attendee who told me Buddhism was just as valid as Christianity. How can it be when they contradict each other? The Bible is truth or it isn't, and if you are of the opinion that you can decide what parts of it are true and which are not, then you are playing God and making up your own personal religion. You have a right to do that, but I don't have to accept your belief system has the same validity as Christianity (John 14:6). We are so desperate to not offend that we are afraid to speak the truth. That is not love. If the Bible is true, we must speak the truth in love (Psalm 40:10). We must study to give an answer to the hope that we have (1 Peter 3:15). We need to understand where others are coming from so we know how to answer them.

I could stop with this one verse. Look at how it applies to the Western world. Listen to this quote of what is happening in Europe. *Today's Europe is spiritually beset by a morally relativistic post-modern worldview that encourages indifference to religion, especially of the Judeo-Christian variety. Religious apathy, induced by secular humanism, has emerged as the defining characteristic of contemporary European society; has created a huge spiritual vacuum that Islam is eager, willing and determined to fill.*

*At the same time, Europe's near-wholesale rejection of the Judeo-Christian worldview is fuelling a demographic time bomb, planted by Europeans who see no meaning to human life beyond the present, and who do not believe in the future enough to want to pass it on to the next generation. This is reflected by the fact that birth rates among native Europeans are far below replacement levels in most European countries. By contrast, Muslim immigrants in Europe are procreating at a breakneck pace, with birth rates that in many cases are double or triple those of native European populations.<sup>2</sup>*

**Commented [PW5]: 1 Corinthians 10:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

**Commented [PW6]: Isaiah 8:20 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.

**Commented [PW7]: Proverbs 30:5 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

**Commented [PW8]: John 14:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Commented [PW9]: Psalm 40:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly.

**Commented [PW10]: 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/1536/islam-religion-of-europe>

We exported secularism and imported eastern religions to fill the vacuum, and we will pay the price. We are already paying the price! Has the tragic declaration already been made over us, "You have rejected Your people?"

*<sup>7</sup> Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots.* Isaiah 2:7 Have you seen any ads for silver or gold? The demand for precious metals is so high that whole industries have been created buying jewelry to refine and resell the metal. People actually think silver or gold will save them from the judgments of God (Ezekiel 7:19). The only thing that will save us is turning in repentance and having a personal relationship with Jesus (Psalm 3:8).

There is no end to their treasures. Judah was fantastically wealthy for as small a nation as it was (Isaiah 39:2). This made them a target. We are the wealthiest nation in the history of the world, which makes us a target as well. But it isn't so much the military threat, but rather the spiritual threat of relying on our wealth rather than God to be our security (Psalm 17:14). Our national debt makes our hoarded resources barely worth anything at all. We just haven't yet come to grips with that reality.

Only under Solomon were horses and chariots ever a large part of Israel's military. But for the wealthy in Isaiah's day, these were a show of status. This thought is along the lines of the abundance of silver and gold. Trusting in being the upper class of society was not going to save from the coming Day of the Lord. You may be riding in the latest handmade Rolls Royce. It won't deliver you. Only Jesus can deliver us on that day.

*<sup>8</sup> Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made.* Isaiah 2:8 It sounds as if the people were still making household gods called *teraphim*. They were quite small, sometimes made of stone or clay and covered in gold or silver, and others made completely of precious metals. They represented gods of a foreign culture. Judah witnessed the prosperity or power of that culture and some thought it must be due to the worship of their gods; so they took up the practice.

How strange, today, that we take up the gods of cultures vastly inferior to our own. We are welcoming the gods of cultures that have enormous poverty, corruption on a grand scale, and a fraction of our life expectancy. As we adopt their gods we adopt the fruit of worshiping those entities. We can see the decline and yet we continue on in our stubborn walk into darkness (Psalm 115:4-8). What will it take to wake up America?

*<sup>9</sup> So man is humbled, and each one is brought low— do not forgive them!* Isaiah 2:9 Trusting in idols, wealth, and prominence results in humiliation. God rejects us when we reject Him (2 Kings 23:27). If we insist on turning away from Him after all His goodness to

**Commented [PW11]: Ezekiel 7:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> They cast their silver into the streets, and their gold is like an unclean thing. Their silver and gold are not able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD. They cannot satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs with it. For it was the stumbling block of their iniquity.

**Commented [PW12]: Psalm 3:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people! Selah

**Commented [PW13]: Isaiah 39:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And Hezekiah welcomed them gladly. And he showed them his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his whole armory, all that was found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them.

**Commented [PW14]: Psalm 17:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> from men by your hand, O LORD, from men of the world whose portion is in this life. You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants.

**Commented [PW15]: Psalm 115:4-8 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.  
<sup>5</sup> They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.  
<sup>6</sup> They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.  
<sup>7</sup> They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.  
<sup>8</sup> Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

**Commented [PW16]: 2 Kings 23:27 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> And the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there."

us, and choose to exalt ourselves rather than God, we will be humbled, brought low! It is a principle in Scripture. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted (Matthew 23:12). Why is that? Self-exaltation is self - enthronement. It is the rejection of the truth of our real condition. We don't like to hear that we are sinners with an evil nature. That is why some reject the idea and label rebellion against God and his Word as enlightenment. Imagine standing before the holy Creator of all things and telling him you are a god.

Humility is fitting because humility is the only appropriate behavior of fallen creatures that are redeemed by grace alone. When we realize what we are by nature and what we deserve, and then see it is only the loving grace of God that redeems us in spite of ourselves, how can you not be humble?

Isaiah is saying that even when they are humbled, even when they see the destructive end of their choices, don't forgive them. That doesn't seem in-line with New Testament teaching, but perhaps Isaiah is declaring that they are physically humbled but their heart is not changed. To restore them would only result in a repeat of the pattern (Proverbs 26:11). Only captivity will be momentous enough to truly change the direction of the nation.

Now the prophet seems to shift to the ultimate Day of the Lord. While it was coming to Judah upon their defeat by Babylon, the language points us forward to the day of God's wrath upon the earth. <sup>10</sup> *Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty.* Isaiah 2:10 Judah has numerous limestone caves in which the people would try to hide themselves when a conquering nation would invade the land. Isaiah is telling the people that it is coming. Get right with God now before it arrives. Conquering nations were said to be the instrument of God to execute judgment upon nations (Ezekiel 39:23). It is the same today. The book of Revelation echoes this thought on the day of God's wrath (Revelation 6:15-16). People will look for caves and bunkers to hide themselves from what is coming on the earth.

<sup>11</sup> *The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.* Isaiah 2:11 Every arrogant leader in the secular and religious realms will know they are nothing. Every prideful person will know the vanity of their ways. The LORD alone will be exalted in that day! That is a glorious phrase to those who know Him, for we know He alone is worthy to be exalted (Psalm 96:4). We also know the exaltation of man is the source of this world's problems. It started in the Garden of Eden when Satan whispered the most powerful deception to enter the ears of man, "You shall be as gods (Genesis 3:5)!" No! God alone is God and worthy to be exalted.

**Commented [PW17]: Matthew 23:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

**Commented [PW18]: Proverbs 26:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.

**Commented [PW19]: Ezekiel 39:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity, because they dealt so treacherously with me that I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they all fell by the sword.

**Commented [PW20]: Revelation 6:15-16 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

**Commented [PW21]: Psalm 96:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

**Commented [PW22]: Genesis 3:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

*<sup>12</sup> For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low; <sup>13</sup> against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up; and against all the oaks of Bashan; <sup>14</sup> against all the lofty mountains, and against all the uplifted hills; <sup>15</sup> against every high tower, and against every fortified wall; <sup>16</sup> against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft.* Isaiah 2:12-16 There are different interpretations of this passage. Are these literal trees and mountains or are they symbolic of people and kingdoms? It is my understanding that Isaiah is addressing people and kingdoms. At the same time, the earth will be purged through the Tribulation while the ultimate cleansing will take place at the end of the Millennium.

Verses 15 and 16 were historically present and worked on in the days of the kings to whom Isaiah prophesied. They were building high towers and reinforcing walls. Ships of Tarshish were great ships that could trade with the distant city of Tarshish and withstand storms. This was addressing the things that men trusted in for security. The high towers and fortified walls were to protect against a siege while the ships kept trade flowing to increase their wealth. They would try and buy the protection of Assyria only to later have Assyria attack them (2 Kings 16:8).

*<sup>17</sup> And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. <sup>18</sup> And the idols shall utterly pass away.* Isaiah 2:17-18 This is nearly a repeat of the previous paragraph. It declares the certainty of it coming to pass. The prophet's life was on the line if it did not (Deuteronomy 18:20). Isaiah is declaring he has no doubt that day is coming. It seemed impossible to those who received the prophecy as it seems impossible to us. Could their great wealth, their fortifications, their trading ability all come to an end? Could all these prideful people of power be brought to nothing? Can God humble a nation to such an extent? Isaiah had no doubt.

*<sup>19</sup> And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. <sup>20</sup> In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats, <sup>21</sup> to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth.* Isaiah 2:19-21 They will hide from the splendor of the majesty of the LORD of the whole earth because they have rejected His right to reign over their life. They know He is bringing justice, and they know what they deserve. Isaiah mentions the splendor of the majesty of the LORD three times (2:10, 19, 21). Jesus is not coming again as the Lamb but as the Lion of the tribe of Judah and we will see the awesome splendor of His majesty (Revelation 5:5). To those who love Him it will be a welcome vision. To those who hate His authority that day will mean the end of all things for which they have wasted their lives.

**Commented [PW23]: 2 Kings 16:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Ahaz also took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasures of the king's house and sent a present to the king of Assyria.

**Commented [PW24]: 2 Kings 16:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Ahaz also took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasures of the king's house and sent a present to the king of Assyria.

**Commented [PW25]: Revelation 5:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

*22 Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?* Isaiah 2:22  
Stop our breath for a few minutes and we are but dust. Why do we put so much faith in man and our personal abilities? Stop regarding man. Start looking to God, the maker of heaven and earth. Man will be humbled and the Lord alone exalted when He reveals the splendor of His majesty.

#### Questions

- 1 Why did Isaiah call Israel the house of Jacob?
- 2 How does verse 6 relate to the USA?
- 3 What is the difference between tolerant and accepting?
- 4 Review the quote regarding Europe.
- 5 How does it apply to the USA?
- 6 Has the tragic declaration already been made over us, "You have rejected Your people?"
- 7 In what ways does God's description of Judah match the USA?
- 8 Why would we choose to worship gods of an inferior culture?
- 9 Why should we be humble?
- 10 Why should we stop putting our hope in man?