

The first chapter of Isaiah was a preview of the entire message of Isaiah. God challenged the people to see their true spiritual condition. He warned of the consequences of going on without hearing God and changing their rebellious ways. He graciously invited them to come and reason with Him as He was willing to change their bloody hands from crimson to pure white (1:18).

The beginning of chapter two is another invitation to experience now what will one day be a worldwide experience. There are two ways of interpreting the passage. This is true with many prophecies in Scripture. We often see an immediate or intermediate message and also an ultimate fulfillment of a future promise. For example, the first great promise of the coming Messiah in Genesis 3:15 tells us the Messiah will bruise the head of the Serpent while the Serpent will bruise His heel. Jesus defeated Satan on the cross. We could say it was fulfilled then, but there will be an ultimate fulfillment when Satan is cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10). Or we could consider the reign of Christ on earth. A prediction later in Isaiah tells us that Jesus will reign on David's throne forever (9:7). Jesus is reigning now in the hearts of believers, but He will reign over the nations during the Millennium.

We also have to consider the poetic nature of Isaiah's prophecy that often uses

allegory and the language of eschatology (end time prophecy). When prophets are speaking of the End of Days, they express things with extreme wording. It's not that they are exaggerating, but rather to give us a sense of the enormity of the situation, they have to use the most extreme language possible.

¹ *The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.* Isaiah saw God's word. It's an interesting expression. He is a seer of visions. He could see this happening, but what he is seeing is the Word of the Lord. The "word" in Hebrew is "dabar." It is what God is speaking or revealing. Instead of using "word" we could say it was the "communication" or "council" of the LORD that Isaiah saw.

This was a message to and concerning Judah and Jerusalem. While it was for them in that day, we'll see that it speaks to us today as well. It is almost the exact wording of Micah 4:1-3. Since Micah wrote around the same time as Isaiah, some believe that Isaiah was copying the Micah prophecy. Man always looks for a natural explanation. Could it be that Isaiah was seeing this vision and the words of Micah were quickened to his spirit and so perfectly fit what he was seeing that he wrote them down almost

Commented [PW1]: Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Commented [PW2]: Genesis 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Commented [PW3]: Revelation 20:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Commented [PW4]: Isaiah 9:7 (ESV)

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Commented [PW5]: Micah 4:1-3 (ESV)

¹ It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it,

² and many nations 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 forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³ He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations far away; and 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;

unchanged? It could also be that these two prophets heard the exact same thing from the Lord. Isaiah wrote that he saw this word, and that settles it for me.

² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, The latter days began at Pentecost. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter explained to those who heard the noise of the rushing wind and gathered to see what was happening, that the prophecy of Joel was being fulfilled before their eyes. In the last days God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:17).

By the way, this Joel prophecy is another of those with multiple fulfillments. The rest of the prophecy says that the sun will be darkened and the moon turned into blood before the great and awesome day of the LORD (Joel 2:31). That did not happen in Peter's day, and yet the prophecy of the Spirit being poured out then did. In the end of the last days I believe we will see a greater pouring out of the Spirit and these signs in the heavens as the ultimate fulfillment comes to pass (Matthew 24:29).

The mountain of the house of the LORD is where the Temple was in Jerusalem. Mountain is also a symbol of a kingdom. Daniel tells us that that man's governments end when a rock from a mountain strikes the image of man and becomes a mountain that fills the whole earth (Daniel 2:35). God's kingdom will fill the earth. Isaiah's prophecy is saying that it will be exalted above all the other nations and the other nations will flow to it.

Here is where we begin to see the two possible interpretations. I'll follow this pattern through the prophecy, showing first its fulfillment in the spread of the gospel, and then the future of the millennial kingdom.

Since the preaching at Pentecost and the pouring out of the Spirit, the gospel has spread to the entire world (Matthew 24:14). There is not a nation on earth that has not had the witness of the gospel. It all began in Jerusalem. The Apostles went out from Jerusalem. That was their headquarters for the first four decades of the church. It is just as Jesus said, "Beginning in Jerusalem..." (Luke 24:47).

The kingdom they were founding was not like those of this world. It does not have a capital, and our King reigns in our hearts rather than from a political center. Those who enter the kingdom through saving faith in Jesus have become a part of the New Jerusalem, Zion (Revelation 21:2; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:22-23).

As missionaries and evangelists travel the globe proclaiming the gospel in the languages of the world, the nations are flowing into the New Jerusalem. Over 25 million a year are

Commented [PW6]: Acts 2:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

Commented [PW7]: Joel 2:31 (ESV)

³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

Commented [PW8]: Matthew 24:29 (ESV)

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Commented [PW9]: Daniel 2:35 (ESV)

³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Commented [PW10]: Daniel 2:44-45 (ESV)

⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,
⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

Commented [PW11]: Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Commented [PW12]: Luke 24:47 (ESV)

⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Commented [PW13]: Revelation 21:2 (ESV)

² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Commented [PW14]: Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV)

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ... [1]

Commented [PW15]: Hebrews 12:22-23 (ESV)

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are en ... [2]

converted to faith in Jesus. Like creeks flowing into rivers that run to the ocean of New Jerusalem, we see the prophecy fulfilled.

If you've ever been to Tel Aviv airport, you can see the New Jerusalem flowing to literal Jerusalem to see where their Lord walked and taught. The languages are numerous. You meet believers from everywhere in the world. You can see by the joy on their faces they love the same LORD. We speak different languages but we sing the same songs with the same message. While they are flowing to literal Jerusalem, the greater flow around the world is to New Jerusalem. The testimonies are amazing. The dreams and visions Joel predicted are coming to pass with great frequency in the Middle East.

Is it any wonder that evil is surging as well? The vile practices of radical Muslims is a forewarning of what will happen when the anti-Christ reigns (Revelation 20:4). In the midst of the uncertainty people are forced to consider what really matters and to think about their eternal destiny. They are flowing into New Jerusalem, which is the kingdom that is exalted above all the kingdoms of man.

In the future sense of fulfillment, the government of Jesus' earthly kingdom during the Millennium will be centered in Jerusalem. The nations that refuse to come up to the Feast of Booths will be punished with drought (Zechariah 14:16-18; 8:22). The flow into Jerusalem in those coming days will make today's flow look like a trickle.

³ 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. Many people indeed! Christianity surpasses all other religions in conversions. About 31.5% of the world's population claim to be Christians. Only God knows how many of them have truly placed their faith in Jesus, but regardless, it is as the prophecy says "many people." Who would have reasoned in their natural mind that the builder from the little town of Nazareth would one day reign in the hearts of billions of people?

They come so that they may be taught the ways of the LORD. The ways of the LORD are the equivalent of His attributes that we studied recently. The current fulfillment is coming into the kingdom to learn to walk in the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The future fulfillment will be similar, but the trip will be to physical Jerusalem where the LORD Himself will be teaching.

Enoch and David both asked to be shown the ways of the LORD so that they could walk with Him (Exodus 33:13; Psalm 25:4). If we want to walk with Him, we need to walk in step with His Spirit (Galatians 5:25). He will not walk with the rebellious or prideful. There are two people in Scripture whom God declared to have walked with Him. Enoch was the first. His testimony is short but profound. He walked with God and God took Him without seeing death (Genesis 5:22). The other person is Noah, a preacher of

Commented [PW16]: Revelation 20:4 (ESV)

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Commented [PW17]: Zechariah 14:16-19 (ESV)

¹⁶ Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.

¹⁷ And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

¹⁹ This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

Commented [PW18]: Zechariah 8:22 (ESV)

²² Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.

Commented [PW19]: Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Commented [PW20]: Exodus 33:13 (ESV)

¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."

Commented [PW21]: Psalm 25:4 (ESV)

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Commented [PW22]: Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Commented [PW23]: Genesis 5:22 (ESV)

²² Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

righteousness whose obedience saved the human race (Genesis 6:9; 2 Peter 2:5). If we want to walk with God, we have to know His ways, His attributes. When we walk in His ways we know we are acting in accord with His character. We need the infilling of the Holy Spirit and a knowledge of the Word to check us when we are stepping out of the Lord's ways.

They go to New Jerusalem because the saints have learned the ways of God and can disciple them. They can learn from our mistakes and successes, but most of all from our understanding of God's Word (Matthew 28:20).

They will go to Jerusalem in the millennial kingdom because the law will go forth from there. That word for "law" in Hebrew is "torah." It means instruction, teaching, precepts, or the laws God applied to Israel. In this case it seems "teaching" would be the most applicable translation. The world will come to hear Jesus instruct them. Imagine that! Those in the Millennium will be able to go and hear Jesus teaching. With Jesus overseeing it all, there will be no false teaching going out of Jerusalem in those days.

The word of the LORD will go out from Jerusalem. That was what Isaiah was doing. He was in Jerusalem declaring the Word of the Lord. It was happening then as we are reading this prophecy. It is happening now with New Jerusalem, and it will happen in the future (Isaiah 52:10).

⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and 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. This portion of the prophecy sounds like it only applies to the future earthly kingdom, but let me try to make a current application.

Before Christianity took hold, clan was fighting clan, nation was conquering nation, and war was a normal part of life. That made every day full of uncertainty. While wars continue in our day, the influence of Christianity has brought peace to many parts of the world. The death toll from war has increased because of man's destructive capacity and population increase, but the chance of you being removed from your home because of a conquering nation has decreased dramatically. Now, when a nation invades another nation, the whole world protests the action.

The biggest warfare has always been man against God. That is the source of earthly wars. God tells us not to covet, but nations covet what belongs to others and go to war to take it (Exodus 20:17). The souls of man are in a war against God as they seek out ways of destroying their own lives and that of others through lust and selfishness. I

Commented [PW24]: Genesis 6:9 (ESV)

⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

Commented [PW25]: 2 Peter 2:5 (ESV)

⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Commented [PW26]: Matthew 28:20 (ESV)

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Commented [PW27]: Isaiah 52:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Commented [PW28]: Exodus 20:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

believe we could apply this passage to the peace we have with God when we come to Jesus and repent of our sins and accept Him as Lord (Colossians 1:20). He judges our sins. He teaches us to forgive and let go of anger and disputes. He commands us to love one another and enables us to do so (John 15:12).

Swords and spears can be the words of our mouth used to attack others and have our way (Psalm 55:21). Certainly words can be weapons, but the Christian tames the tongue by the power of the Holy Spirit. We learn to speak the language of the Spirit which is love and truth in humility. We see the power of a soft word to turn away wrath (Proverbs 15:1). We express the fruits of gentleness and kindness resulting in animosity being disarmed.

While our words were used as swords, we see them transformed into plowshares. They break up the hard ground in others' hearts so that we can plant the seeds of the gospel. How much more fruitful to use our words to prepare a heart to hear the message than to drive them from us or hack them in pieces (Proverbs 25:15).

Our words that were spears are reshaped into pruning hooks. Jesus told the disciples that they were pruned through the word that He spoke to them (John 15:3). That is to use our words to disciple those that began to grow from the seeds we planted. And when we see this fruit from what we once used as weapons, we have no desire to learn war anymore. We are done with fighting men. It is much more meaningful to win them to the Prince of Peace (9:6).

The verse is certainly as fitting to the millennial kingdom, perhaps more so than to the present age. As the nations in the Millennium learn that Jesus settles all disputes and has all power to punish those nations which act out of selfish greed, they will find there is no need for weaponry. They will instead focus on productive use of their resources. The abundance of provision from a world where resources are not consumed by war but instead invested in agriculture will be amazing. Military academies will close. The art of war and tactics will be forgotten until Satan is released at the close of the Millennium (Revelation 20:3).

Isaiah closes the prophecy with a call to Judah to not wait until some future day, but to enter the kingdom under the reign of the LORD now. *⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.* The benefits of learning the ways of the LORD and walking with Him far outweigh anything the world has to offer. One way is light and the other is darkness. (Ephesians 5:8-9) One way is life and the other is destruction. One way is peace with God or to be at war against the Almighty.

Because the Messiah was coming, both in the days of Jesus with salvation and in the coming millennial kingdom to reign on earth, why would they wait? **Why not experience**

Commented [PW29]: Colossians 1:20 (ESV)
²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Commented [PW30]: John 15:12 (ESV)
¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Commented [PW31]: Psalm 55:21 (ESV)
²¹ His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.

Commented [PW32]: Proverbs 15:1 (ESV)
¹ A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Commented [PW33]: Proverbs 25:15 (ESV)
¹⁵ With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.

Commented [PW34]: John 15:3 (ESV)
³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Commented [PW35]: Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)
⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Commented [PW36]: Revelation 20:3 (ESV)
³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Commented [PW37]: Ephesians 5:8-9 (ESV)
⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

it now by yielding our life to the light of the world, learning His ways, and walking with Him (John 8:12)?

History tells us the sad story that Judah refused the invitation. How it might have been different had they received it! They had to experience captivity to realize their wealth had no power to save. Comfort was not security. Other gods were a lie. They learned the hard way. Man seems to prefer that route, and seems unable to learn from the experience of others. I have had to take that hard route in areas of my life, and you have probably had to as well. Will we hear the invitation? Can we learn from Judah? O congregation of Wayside Bible Chapel, let us walk in the light of the LORD by the grace of God. Let us accept His reign over our lives each day. Let us be the New Jerusalem teaching truth and breaking up the hard hearts with the love of God and genuine concern for their souls.

Questions

- 1 How can prophecies have two meanings?
- 2 What are the two ways of seeing this prophecy?
- 3 When did the Latter Days begin?
- 4 What does a mountain symbolize?
- 5 How is the mountain being exalted now?
- 6 How are the nations flowing in?
- 7 Why will many peoples go to Jerusalem?
- 8 Why do we need to know the ways of God?
- 9 What are the weapons and how are they changed now and in the future?
- 10 What is the invitation?

Commented [PW38]: John 8:12 (ESV)

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV)

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Hebrews 12:22-23 (ESV)

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,