

A WARLESS WORLD--HOW CAN IT BE?
Isaiah 2

Intro: In chapter 1 of Isaiah we have his introduction to the entire prophecy.

In it we learned several things:

- 1) That Israel's (or, Judah's) basic sin was that they had turned away from the Lord.
- 2) That all of Israel's troubles stemmed from this one fact. The results had been disastrous.
- 3) Their sin had rendered their worship meaningless. It was thoroughly rejected by the Lord.
- 4) In spite of this, the Lord was appealing through Isaiah for their return.
- 5) The chapter closes with both hope and warning regarding the future.

Chapter 2 begins with a subject which is only mentioned this once in this way in all of Isaiah's prophecy: "the last days." But he does follow it with a similar expression which is found throughout the book: "In that day," which is explained in Isa. 2:11, 12 as "the day of the Lord of hosts."

"The last days" are spoken of first in Gen. 49:1. Similar expressions are, "latter days" (Dan. 2:28), and "last times" (1 Pet. 1:20).

It always has to do with the end of something--the final outcome of that particular nation or work of God. The context determines what!

So that, as we get acquainted with the Scriptures, we learn that there is a difference between Isa. 2 and 2 Tim. 3--because there is a difference between Israel and the Church, and their "last days" do not come at the same time.

It is as Isaiah's prophecy unfolds that we are able to determine when these "last days" will take place for Israel. We may look ahead somewhat tonight, but we need to watch this important theme develop as we go through Isaiah's book.

Before we begin noticing the details, it is important to know that this is such a significant passage that one of Isaiah's contemporaries gives us the very same passage.

Cf. Micah 4:1-5.

Now--in view of all that we hear about a world without war, this passage is very up-to-date in what it says. So, in answer to the question, Will the world ever be without war?, we can say on the authority of Scripture . . .

1. THERE WILL BE A WARLESS WORLD (Isa. 2:4).

But, this raises another question of paramount importance.

II. WHEN WILL IT BE?

— We have already noted that Isaiah has said that it will be "in the last days" (v. 2).

There are many ways that we could go about to show when this is, but by definition it means the time when the Lord will bring to fulfillment all of the promises that He has made concerning His people, Israel, and His purposes for that nation as they relate to the earth.

But we also have a very clear and simple answer given to us in what very probably could be the oldest book in the Bible: the book of Job. Cf. Job 19:25,

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."

Therefore, this day of peace will only come when the Lord has come to the earth.

The clear implication in Isaiah 2 is also that the Lord is on the earth again. See vv. 3, 4.

— Therefore, on the authority of Scripture we can say that there will be a warless world, but that it will not be until the Second Coming of Christ to the earth.

III. WHAT WILL BE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THAT DAY?

Thinking of Isaiah 2-4 as a section of the prophecy, let us note what we have in this passage.

A. It will be a day when Jerusalem will be the capitol of all the earth (Isa. 2:2).

B. It will be a day when "many" among the Gentiles will go to Jerusalem seeking the Lord, His Word, and His will (Isa. 2:3).

This is where we have the promise that we are thinking about tonight. It will follow the judgment of the nations spoken of in Matt. 25:31 ff. by our Lord.

— C. It will be a day when "the Lord alone shall be exalted" (cf. Isa. 2:11, 17).

What stands in the way of the Lord's exaltation?

Note the words "filled" and "full" in vv. 6, 7, 8. And note how all of them have to do with the security of the people: sorcery, money, armies, religion.

And because of these things man is proud (running all through the latter part of the chapter) because he feels sufficient in himself.

And note: In the chapter we see also you will see how men will be made to fear when they realize the terrible wrath of God. Cf. Isa. 2:20-22.

And a part of this humbling of men will be the humiliation of women. Cf. Isa. 4:1.

- D. It will be a day when the Messiah is upon the earth (Isa. 4:2).

Note the emphasis upon His humanity, and upon His Deity: "the branch of the Lord . . . the fruit of the earth."

This is also apparent in Isa. 7:14; 9:6, i.e., that He is both human and divine.

- E. The remnant of Israel will be redeemed (Isa. 4:3-6).

Concl: So there will be a warless world, but not until the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth and both the nation of Israel and the nations of the earth turn to Him.

Where does this leave us today? Are we just to resign ourselves to the fact that this has to do with the future, and be unconcerned about conditions today? Is there nothing for us to do NOW?

Yes, there is something for us to do--the same three things which Isaiah told Judah and Jerusalem to do. These are the only exhortations in the chapters (2-4). Note what they are:

- 1) Isa. 2:5. There must a walk in accord with the Word.
- 2) Isa. 2:10. Should "rock" be capitalized? Rock? When David wrote his Psalm of deliverance, he asked the question, "For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?" (2 Sam. 22:32). Therefore, they were to take refuge in Him from the coming judgments.
- 3) Isa. 2:22. You cannot really do 2) without doing 3). But this had to be stated separately because it was so prominent among the people of Judah, as it is among us today.

God's answer to Judah is His answer for us!