

Christ, Zion's Prince of Peace

Isa 2:2-5 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. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

In the opening chapter of this book, Isaiah has pointed out the sinful state and wickedness of Israel. I want us to stand there with Isaiah, in our mind's eye, as he may have been standing on Mount Zion when this Word of the Lord came to him. As he looked about him and viewed "the mountains that are round about Jerusalem" though greater in height, yet they must yield their glory to Zion's temple mount. Yes, even Mount Hermon, standing in the distance with its snow-clad summit, some 9,000 feet above sea level, must humble itself before Mount Zion. For more glorious to the saints of God was that little hill of Zion on whose summit stood the temple, where yearly the faithful came to worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

I do not doubt that Isaiah's heart would have been heavy with grief as he has pronounced judgment and destruction upon the city of Jerusalem and upon the Temple itself. I cannot help but to believe that that place was a place of great delight to him being the house of prayer, the place of sacrifice, the glorious mount where the tribes went up, where the tribes of the Lord gathered to serve Jehovah, the God of Abraham. But now with prophetic sight and with heavy heart, he saw its structure burned with fire; cast down to the earth and its beauty ploughed into the very ground upon which it stood.

But let us with Isaiah look beyond the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, and see a Child born to a virgin, upon whose shoulders a more glorious government shall be borne. But again with certain pain we shall see Him bruised, forsaken and rejected. And with a certain sorrow, and yet with grateful joy, for in our behalf we shall see laid on Him the iniquities of us all. We shall see Him laid in a tomb, but once again we shall see Him resurrected, ascending on high and reigning from heaven as King of kings and Lord of lords. Yet once more we shall see a ruined temple, not one stone left upon another, and the holy city once again brought down to destruction.

But finally, this morning as we come to this season of Advent, as we look forward to the remembrance of the birth of our Savior, we shall begin with the hope given to God's people in this second chapter of Isaiah. For first we shall see a restored Mount Zion, with a most glorious temple, a New Jerusalem, far above all the mountains of the earth, we shall see all the nations of the earth come to this temple of worship to praise and serve the Most High God, and finally we shall see a kingdom of eternal peace for evermore.

A. Here Isaiah speaks of a restored Mount Zion, with a most glorious temple, a New Jerusalem, far above all the mountains of the earth.

Isa 2:2 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.

1. First we need to understand the meaning of the words, "*The latter days*"
 - a. Many in the church in this day, since the mid-1800's intrusion of the teaching of dispensationalism, speak of the "last days" as being yet future.
 - b. But it should be noted that all commentary's prior to the mid-1800's speak of these latter days as being from the birth of our Savior, His death, burial and resurrection and the establishing of His Kingdom throughout the nations of the earth
 - c. We need to understand that Isaiah here speaks of the coming Messiah.
 - d. We need to keep in mind the promise given in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar where the stone cut out of the mountain without hands filled the whole earth.

Dan 2:44-45 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

- e. Which we now understand from the book of Hebrews to be none other than the present day Church of the Living God.

*Heb 12:22-24 But you have **come to Mount Zion** and to the **city of the living God**, the **heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels, **to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven**, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.*

- f. This "mountain of the Lord's house . . . established on the top of the mountains and . . . exalted above the hills" is none other than the Church of Jesus Christ.

B. Secondly we shall see all the nations of the earth come to this temple of worship to praise and serve the Most High God

1. This was fulfilled when God in mercy and love added the Gentiles to His church.
2. When Peter of necessity asked, "*Can any man forbid water*" at the conversion of Cornelius and his household.
3. When Paul and Barnabus so boldly declared that they would now turn to the Gentiles.

Acts 13:47-48 For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

4. We see this fulfilled today as God's elect throughout all the nations of the earth have even come into this heavenly Jerusalem to worship the Most High God and to hear God's Word proclaimed.

" . . . and all nations shall flow to it. 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.

- a. Every gathering of God's people this morning throughout the nations are a fulfillment of this prophetic Word.
- b. Where ever God's Word is preached this morning is God's law going forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
- c. Isaiah - no need for tears - this is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

C. And finally we shall see a kingdom of eternal peace for evermore. - 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

1. We who were at enmity against God are now at peace with God.

Rom 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

2. And in the church all nations are but one people for in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek.

Gal 3:26-29 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

3. As you can see then, the Church is clearly the complete fulfillment of this glorious promise for there is One Lord, one faith, one baptism. (cf. Eph 4:4-6)

Conclusion: I would close with this benediction of the Apostle Paul,

*2 Cor 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, **be of one mind, live in peace**; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*