

**Isaiah 2:1-5**  
**Mt. Zion, Advent, 2013**  
**Good Shepherd, Advent, 2022**

Isaiah was a prophet of God who served His Lord about 750 years before Jesus was born. He was working at the same time the prophets Micah, Amos, Hosea, and Jonah were serving the Lord. The nation God had chosen for His people, unfortunately, was not interested in what the prophets said. Trouble was coming for the nations of Judah and Israel.

New Testament Christians will find the message of Isaiah filled with hope and comfort. You will find Jesus Christ in Isaiah's words! Isaiah prepared the hearts of the people to look forward to the coming of the Messiah. And that is the purpose of the season of Advent – to prepare us for the coming Savior.

Although the countries of Israel and Judah would be swallowed up by their powerful neighbors, spiritual Israel, believers in the true God, would endure, and even win the victory as the nations and the universe would be destroyed.

What Isaiah promised in this text is what we have today and what we also look forward to in the future,

**A promise of future peace.**

Isaiah saw what was to happen to Judah and Jerusalem. Like all true prophecies, the Holy Spirit gave Isaiah a peek into the future about the wonderful things in store for God's people.

This text is a promise of God for His people. "The last days" for Isaiah, included the coming of the Messiah and the final judgment of the nations. We live between the two events that Isaiah and the Old Testament believers saw as one.

What is that beautiful promise?

Simply this –

- ❖ *God promised that He would send His Messiah;*
- ❖ *The Messiah would walk among God's people;*
- ❖ *Because of the Messiah, the Lord would draw the nations to come and learn of God's love for sinners.*

God had made Judah and Jerusalem special to Him by promising that the Messiah would come into the world through them.

- ❖ *God promised that the Messiah would come from Judah;*
- ❖ *The temple in Jerusalem showed that God was with His people;*
- ❖ *The temple was a reminder that God would keep that promise;*
- ❖ *This promise would be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.*

This is a simple, spiritual promise of God to His people – including us. God promised to establish something so great that people would flock to it from all over the world. God would bless His people and there would be lasting peace for all time.

Isaiah saw that promise being fulfilled by his Savior, our Savior, the Savior of the world.

Isaiah prophesied that in the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established and that many people will want to travel to the mountain of the Lord. What does that mean?

This must be understood spiritually. The mountain of the Lord is the preaching of the good news of the gospel, the message of Jesus and forgiveness He won for us.

- ❖ *The gospel gathers believers because of the promises God fulfilled in Christ;*
- ❖ *People hear how God fulfilled His promises for their salvation through the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus.*

- ❖ *The good news draws nations to God.*
- ❖ *Isaiah saw believers streaming to God's mountain of God's grace!*

Once people hear the good news about Jesus, they invite others to learn of God's love for them – Come, let's go to the mountain of the Lord! (Let's hear about Jesus)

This is a natural response. What we believe, we want to tell others! This prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled at Pentecost when the disciples spoke about what Jesus did for the world, and those who heard, marveled. The prophecy of Isaiah continues to be fulfilled today as believers speak of Jesus to others and invite them to come and learn of Jesus. There is one final fulfillment to this prophecy – that is when all believers will be gathered to Mount Zion, or the New Jerusalem when Jesus returns. (Heaven)

God's people want to learn the ways of God, and He teaches them. The mighty God gave us His Word and teaches us through that Word. Believers are interested in learning more of the Word of the Lord. The people of God, that is the Church, want to hear God's Word! Once believers hear that word, they want to tell others. After that, they want to live as the Children of God.

The Messiah came to bring peace. This is what Isaiah prophesied: He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

We are to look at these words with the eyes of faith, not with the physical eyes of politics. The peace promised is peace with God based on Christ and His work of forgiveness. It is a peace that affects what believers do; they live at peace with one another and with those around them.

The gospel does that! Peace with God changes human hearts.

This is a different peace than the peace the world seeks. In the United Nations Plaza, a stone wall quotes Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares." That speaks of the hope of peace in the world. All people want peace, but in this world of sin, peace will never happen!

What Isaiah means is so different. Christians are not at war with God because of sin. Isaiah saw a spiritual peace based on God's love in Christ. Only when Jesus returns will all wars cease. Believers focus on the peace of forgiveness within us and eternal peace ahead of us, not promises of political peace on earth.

When Isaiah considered the promises of God, he encouraged the people of his day to walk in the light of the Lord. That light is the Word of God. To walk in the light is to:

- ❖ *Know the light; (Jesus)*
- ❖ *Recognize the light; (Savior)*
- ❖ *Follow the light. (live in faith)*

The psalm writer said: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. We are encouraged to use the Word so that it might show us the path that leads to life and give us the power to walk as the Lord wills.

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