

The Supremacy of God in Dealing with His People

Texts: Isaiah 2:1-22

Date: 6-7-20 Outdoor/Drive-In Service

I. The Promise of Future Protection of God's People (Isa. 2:2-5).

The N.T. though points its fulfillment to the Millennium. We must remember that God has made covenants with Israel, and He will be faithful to fulfill those covenants.

God will keep and protect His people even though for much of their history they have disobeyed Him. Even though they would go into captivity and judgment, God will bring His people back to Himself. This place of Zion will be the very center of all of God's government. **Jehovah will be recognized and exalted as who He is: above all other gods.**

Israel will rise spiritually as the cream of the crop, as the fountain of spiritual life for all nations (Isa 56:7-8).

People of all nations will desire to follow the Lord and walk in His paths. Why? Because they will truly see Jehovah as the one true God. "True doctrine places within one's heart the desire to walk in the law of God. Truth leads to godliness, and when one has been truly instructed, he will want to do God's will" (Young 106). The word of the Lord will go forth and attract all nations to this place. The worship of God will be revealed as triumphing over all of the world religions. Israel will be known throughout the world based on God Himself.

True world peace will finally come to the nations of the world. There can be no real peace when the Prince of Peace is defied by the nations of the world (as we saw in Matthew).

Isaiah has just given an engaging challenge to the people: let us walk in the light of the Lord. Let us choose right. Let us forsake the allure of the false gods and wicked ways. God promises to do great things for us and through us. Let us live righteously in the present day.

Truth: What we see unfolding here is the superiority of God's kingdom, God's way, and the peace that God gives to the remnant.

II. The Present condition of the nation (Isa. 2:6-9a).

Why would Isaiah have to command the people to walk in the *light of the Lord*? Because, as we will soon see, they weren't doing it.

A. God had rejected His people because they had followed the pagan nations (v. 6).

God had abandoned His people but not because He didn't love them. Rather, they didn't love Him. He has not abandoned His promises to them, but He has left them to their own ways, and He will judge them for it.

They have embraced the world's ways and its worldly structure all the while going through the motions of worshipping God on the outside. They have one foot with God and one with the pagan nations. They have continued in close cultural and commercial relationships with the ungodly nations. They have taken on divination like their pagan counterparts. Instead of discerning the future from God, they trusted in worldly methods. Ultimately they have turned their hearts and lives over to the enemy.

B. God had rejected His people because of their great material wealth (v. 7).

C. God had rejected His people because of idolatry (v. 8).

When God's glory should have been fully on display, they replaced that glory with idols made of wood and stone. God had revealed Himself through the law and the prophets, yet they would not truly worship Him.

The pinnacle of foolishness was to then replace the glory of the Lord with the worship a dumb object and inanimate object.

D. God had rejected His people because of their pride (v. 9).

The common man and the man of importance will be humbled (Matt. 23:12). No one would escape God's judgment work. No one could come to the place that they could escape the all-seeing eye of God. God's patience was clearly running thin.

Following the pagan nations, wealth, idol worship, and pride led to the downfall of the nation. The stark reality though is that the sins of the people started at their hearts. A lack of love and fear of God led the people to the place where they would follow their own desires instead of the very Lord of Hosts who had made them a great nation.

Our own nation has given over to following the ways and religions of other lands. Our wealth and prosperity has become our idols. Our pride is evident throughout the land. In our churches we think much in terms of money, large buildings, pride in our own ways, and not the way of the Lord.

III. The Powerful Consequences Brought by God (Isa. 2:9b-11).

The repeated affronts to a holy God led God to a point where the people would not be forgiven. No man could say God had not been patient with His people. But, eventually even God's patience runs thin and ultimately out.

The dreadfulness of God's judgment is seen in the call to hide and run, but we must remember that no one can run or hide from God's judgment.

IV. The Painful Chastising Day of the Lord (Isa. 2:12-22).

The day of the Lord (See Joel) refers both to the coming conquest of the Babylonians and, further down the road, in the coming trials in the 70th week of Daniel. This specifically is called *the day of the Lord of hosts*, or in other words *the day that belongs to Yahweh of hosts (Sabaot)*. The phrase is used over 60x in the book and means *army or division*. This indicates God's strength and power in battle.

So what is involved in this day of reckoning? Isaiah outlines it here:

1) Proud, lofty, and those that are lifted up will be humbled (2:12-17).

Nothing can stand against God's judgment. All of His creation will have to conform to His power and strength. The use of these 3 terms shows the entirety of which God's wrath will befall them.

"Everything that seemed to **man** in his **arrogance** to be permanent and secure will be swept away. **The Lord alone will be exalted**"¹

2) Idol worship will be destroyed (2:18; 20)

When people worship idols it perverts all other aspects of God's creation. God is saying then that root will be cut off completely. God will shake the earth and with that will come the terrible and awesome reality that the gods were worthless and powerless against the chastising hand of God.

It is at this point that the silver (something of value) will be cast aside as this will demonstrate just how foolish man's trust in money and man-made objects had become. **Since the idols will hinder their escape, they will throw them to the bats and the rodents.**

3) Man's self-confidence will be removed (2:19; 21).

Verse 22: "Then the prophet called on Judah to **stop trusting in man** (v. 22; cf. Ps. 118:8–9). Man is merely like a vapor. His **breath** can be snuffed out quickly. Therefore to trust in him is nonsensical, for man is easily removed (Isa. 2:9, 11–12, 17). In view of God's coming judgment Judah should begin to turn to Him in the present. God's glory should cause them to live righteous, holy lives and thus escape His severe judgment".²

²Martin, J. A. (1985). [Isaiah](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1039). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

How does Isaiah 2 apply to me?

- 1) God never looks favorably on sin.
- 2) God willfully judges those who continue to oppose Him.
- 3) God always holds His people to His righteous standard.
- 4) There are no free passes with God.
- 5) God is a God of promise and patience, but He will never allow our sin to stop Him from carrying out His justice.

What does this passage reveal about the character and nature of God?

- 1) God is always faithful to His Word and His promises bound by His word.
- 2) God continually remains as the Judge over the people of the world.
- 3) God's heart is full of continual provision for those who trust Him.
- 4) God hates pride and a haughty heart.
- 5) God is above all idols. Nothing compares to God's glory and majesty and any attempt to circumvent that truth will always end in judgment.
- 6) Not one single detail goes unnoticed by God. This brings reassurance, is eye-opening, should cause us to spiritually wake-up, but also remain fearful of what God will do when His patience runs out.

Action Points

1. We must get rid of idols in our lives for they are against God, takes the place of God, and worthless unusable objects.
2. Our trust must be completely placed in God who one day will be exalted by all mankind. Psalm 2:11-12
3. We must come to a place in our lives where the supremacy of God is not just a truth, but it is a truth that causes us to live obediently, trust confidently, and hope patiently for this future outcome.
4. We must give all people who oppose God over to God who will judge all men.
5. We must live our lives with the supreme confidence that the *Lord alone will be exalted in that day!* Isa. 2:17