

# Sermon Notes – October 3, 2021

## Review

- Isaiah was a spokesman for God about 2,750 years ago, around the year 740 B.C. His name means, “The Lord is Salvation.”
- The book of Isaiah is a collection of his writings and sermons. It is quoted in the NT at least sixty-five times.
- The term, “The Holy One of Israel,” is used in the OT thirty-one times. Twenty-five of these are in Isaiah.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are two of the major themes. Judgment is about to come, but Isaiah looks ahead to the coming Messiah and to future restoration.

## Today’s text: Isaiah 2:1-22

Chapters 2-5 form a unit that appears to be one continuing sermon or discourse. This chapter contains BOTH of our major themes. It begins with future hope and then returns to the present-day reality of pending judgment. The first part (2:1-5) is nearly the same as Micah 4:1-3, indicating that Micah, the younger prophet, may have taken careful notes when Isaiah preached! The second half of the chapter (2:6-22) describes judgment, both what was immanent and what is yet future in the ultimate “Day of the Lord” (Rev. 6:12-16).

## A Word About Bible Study & Interpretation

- ⇒ In literary terms, Isaiah is largely a prophetic book, though it has a section that is historical narrative (36-39). Prophetic literature often includes poetry, ample \_\_\_\_\_, and even apocalyptic language.
- ⇒ The literal, \_\_\_\_\_, grammatical approach to Bible interpretation means that we read the Bible according to the normal and customary uses of language.
- ⇒ The book of Isaiah says a lot about the nation of Israel, describing Israel as the nation God has created & chosen (43:1), and the nation “written on the palms of His hands” (49:16). Many of Isaiah’s prophecies have already been literally fulfilled, so there is good reason to believe that his other prophecies will be literally fulfilled as well.

## God, The Merciful Father, Will One Day Restore (READ 1-5)

- ⇒ Even in seasons of active judgment, God has His eye on future \_\_\_\_\_. This is a good and helpful habit for us in seasons of difficulty as well. Why embrace hope when things are difficult? Well, God does!
- ⇒ This text looks ahead (“in the latter/last days”) to the future of “Judah and Jerusalem” (2:10). Jesus, the Apostles, and other NT writers regularly identified contemporary events as fulfillments of OT prophecy, as in Matthew 15:7-9, Acts 2:16 and Peter’s sermon in 3:17-26.
- ⇒ This text speaks of a glorious, future season of peace between nations with God ruling and reigning from Jerusalem (“the mountain of the House of the Lord”), and His Word flowing forth to guide “all the nations.” Clearly, the peace between nations described here (2:4) has not yet happened.
- ⇒ Though the “\_\_\_\_\_” and “\_\_\_\_\_” are often debated, I see this as part of a coming “Kingdom Age” or “Millennial Kingdom,” a concept that we will see fleshed out on the pages of this prophetic book.

## God, The Righteous Judge, Is Able to Fully Judge Sin (READ 6-22)

- ⇒ In our study of Matthew’s gospel a few years ago, we talked about biblical prophecy. For example:
  - Some prophecies are, “This is \_\_\_\_\_” (Micah 5:2; Matt 2:6).
  - Some prophecies are, “This is \_\_\_\_\_” (Hosea 11:1; Matt 2:15).
  - Some prophecies utilize “Prophetic Foreshortening” – when a text addresses current circumstances, while looking ahead to a future day that is similar and likely worse (see Rev. 6:12-16).
- ⇒ God judges false worship (6-8, 18, 20).
- ⇒ God judges pride & arrogance (11-17).
- ⇒ God judges – and there is no place to \_\_\_\_\_ (10, 19, 21).
- ⇒ God judges – and His judgment days are certain (12).

## Responding to God’s Word in Worship & Obedience

- ⇒ Is MY heart proud? Do I know my need for God, or am I the master of my fate and the captain of my soul?
- ⇒ Everyone worships something – possessions, power, false religions. What do you worship? Who do you worship? The Bible calls you to bow your heart before the God who sent His Son Jesus to redeem you.

# Community Group Notes

## Getting Started

Okay, nothing fancy here: Did anyone go to the Puyallup Fair this year? What did you see and what did you enjoy doing? And if no one went...well...talk about what you WOULD have done if you had gone.

## Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: READ Isaiah 2:1-22 and remember the main points from Sunday. In summary form, what was this week's sermon about?
2. This chapter is an interesting combination of hope and judgment, our two main themes for this study. How do you see these themes fitting together here? What is the function of hope when things are going from bad to worse?
3. Think specifically about 2:1-4. Pastor Jay mentioned on Sunday that he sees this text as addressing a yet-future time that people sometimes call, "The Kingdom Age" or the "Millennial Kingdom." Others see this as referring to the church and the triumph of the gospel around the world. Without polarizing your group, what phrases do you see in this text that would point one direction or the other?
4. God's judgment is a terrifying subject to address. Clearly no one can fool God or, in rebellion, hide from Him – as in 2:10, 19, 21 & Rev. 6:12-16. Looking at this text, WHO is being judged here (2:6) and for what specific sins?

5. In what way is the certainty of God's judgment a comfort to us in this world of difficulty, rebellion, loss, and injustice? How do you see judgment taking place when Jesus was crucified on the cross in our place? (Think about how the gospel and other NT texts address the justice in God's judgment)

## Thinking Deeper & Taking It Home

Remembering our sermon title from this week, how would you answer the Why? Why DO we embrace hope, and how do we do that TODAY in our current circumstances? Titus 2:11-15

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## Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs. Here's a place to list specific prayer needs:

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Worship Next Sunday: October 10, 2021

"God's Kindness In Acts Of Judgment"

(Isaiah 3:1-4:6) Pastor Jay Mosser