

## Sermon Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Isaiah 2

### **Old Testament - Isaiah 2:1-5**

1The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the Lord  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be lifted up above the hills;

and all the nations shall flow to it,  
3and many peoples shall come, and say:  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;  
and 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.

5O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord.

INTRO - This year during Advent, a time of waiting for Jesus, I'll be focusing on the Old Testament Lessons which are all from Isaiah. Today, the first Sunday of Advent is often called the Sunday of Hope. So, have any of you received hope in tangible form? We are starting to receive Christmas lists from our children and grandchildren. We have lists from our daughter, from one of our sons. These are pictures of what they would like, or what they hope for.

I. Do you know that the Jews, the Israelites, had a wish list?

A. God had established the nation of Israel as the people through whom He would send the promised Savior.

1. Israel experienced political, military, and financial success under David and Solomon.
2. Their wishes were for glory for their nation, like under David and Solomon,
3. However, the people of Israel did not understand the full intent of God, the spiritual goals the Lord had, the eternal goals.

B. With this in mind consider the prophecies, the promises of Isaiah 2. **2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and 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. Imagine, all the world coming to Jerusalem, desiring to come.
2. Imagine, the truth of God is found in Zion, and goes out to others from there.
3. Imagine, the Lord bringing peace, ending war and fighting.

C. God’s promise and prophecy in Isaiah 2 is everything the Jews hoped for, and more.

1. No wonder the people of the world say, **“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”**
2. No wonder the people of God say, **O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**
3. This was everything on their list, everything in their hearts, and more.

II. Do you think that nations ever get their wish lists wrong? After WWI Germany was beaten and humiliated and suffering. They not only wanted to recover from defeat, at least some wanted to humiliate those who had defeated them. You know the horrors of history.

A. The truth is that the Jewish people did confuse political success with God's spiritual and eternal goals.

1. This ultimately caused them to miss God's promised blessings when the Savior came.
2. These selfish desires for self-glory caused some of them to miss Jesus, at least to begin with.

B. This is a lesson for us.

1. It is good to want the blessings of God.
2. However, listen to Jesus. <sup>19</sup> **"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**
3. Or, please consider Romans 14:17. **For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**
4. What is on our list? The wealth of this world, or heaven? Or Jesus?

III. Do you know that when children receive gifts at Christmas that they are receiving more than the physical object, they are also receiving love from their parents?

A. Do you know what God means when Isaiah speaks of Jerusalem, of Zion, of the House of Jacob?

1. Zion and Jerusalem are ultimately God's kingdom of heaven.
2. The House of Jacob, the children of Abraham are ultimately the Christian Church, believers in Jesus the Messiah.
3. God's list of the whole world coming to His truth, to His ways, to His peace are ultimately found in Jesus, through His church.

B. How about your list?

1. Do you want the truth of God to guide your ways?
2. Do you want to share Jesus, His forgiveness, His resurrection, with the world.
3. Do you want peace which comes because Jesus died for our sins and rose to provide eternal life, through faith in our Savior.

C. If you want these eternal blessings of God then you will join in saying, **O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

1. If this is your wish, Believe in Him and his love for you
2. If this is your wish, live for him, love one another.
3. If this is your wish, worship him (come to church)

CONCLUSION - What IS on your Christmas list? Perhaps there are some things you might like. I bet even more than physical gifts you wish for love, and peace, and joy. God gives these gifts through Jesus, the light of God in a dark world of sin. So, we say with Isaiah, **come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**