

Isaiah 02 - A Vision of the Coming Kingdom; Millennial Mountain; The Day of the Lord; Israel, the Lord's Vineyard; The Judgment of God's Chosen

I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1—35:10)

(1) Condemnation of Judah (Is 1:1—12:6)

(A) Book of hardening (Is 1:1—6:13)

(c) Judgment to eventually lead to millennial conditions (Is 2:1—4:6)

(i) Millennial conditions (2:1-4)

(ii) Sins inviting judgment (Is 2:5—4:1)

(a) Foreign customs (2:5-11)

(b) Pride (2:12-22)

Isaiah 2

(c) Judgment to eventually lead to millennial conditions (Is 2:1—4:6)

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

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1 The message that Amoz's son Isaiah received concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

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Millennial Mountain

2 Now it will come about that **In the last days** The **mountain** of the **house of the LORD** Will be established as the chief of the **mountains**, And will be raised above the hills; And **all the nations** will stream to it.

2 Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.

2 "It will come about in the last days that the mountain that is the LORD's Temple will be established as the highest of mountains, and will be raised above the hills; all the nations will stream to it.

2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

- Israel will be raised up to a place of prominence among all nations of the world
- "...In the last days" - a phrase that appears to carry a reference to the Messianic age (Gen 49:1; Num 24:14; Deut 4:30; 31:29; Is 2:2, et al.)
- "...mountain" - refers to Mt Zion in Jerusalem. Mt. Zion will be exalted and elevated above the mountains and hills around it, in fact it will be the highest mountain in the world.
- Often referred to as the "Millennial Mountain" (Is 27:13; 55:6-8; 66:20; Ezek 17:23; 20:40-41; 40; Micah 4:1-2).
- This mountain will become the center of both Jewish and Gentile attention and world worship (Is 27:13; 56:6-8; 66:20). All nations will move toward it in pilgrimage in order to learn the ways of God because the Law of the Millennial Kingdom will emanate from this mountain. This will result in worldwide peace because differences among the nations will be settled by the Word of the Lord that will come from the Mountain of Jehovah's House (v3b-4).
- It could refer to changes in Zion's physical elevation or its elevation in the sense of prominence. Likely both.
- Zech 14:4-8 describes topographical and geological changes that will affect the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem and the land of Israel
- The Millennial Temple will stand atop this mountain
- "...house of the LORD" - the Temple
- "...mountains" - idiomatic for kingdom, authority, rule (Dan 2:35,44-45; Rev 17:9-11)
- "...all the nations" - the kingdom will have a universal element (Cf. Acts 15:14)
- Verses 2-5 are very similar to Micah 4:1-3,5 (a contemporary)

OT Prophets and the Kingdom

Throughout the dark years of national disobedience, Gentile dominion, and kingdom postponement, the OT prophets held out hope for the nation and the world by faithfully speaking of a coming generation of Jews who would return to *Yahweh* thereby ushering in kingdom blessings.

Millennial Mountain

Ezekiel received the most extensive revelation about this mountain:

- Ezek 17:22-24 - it will be a place of lush greenery and vegetation
- Ezek 20:40-41 - it will serve as the center of Jewish worship in the Kingdom, after Israel's regeneration and regathering.

- Ezek 40:1-4 - it will have a skyline of a city on its southern side; this city is Millennial Jerusalem
- Ezek 45:1-8 - provides the most detail of the Mountain; it will have a 50-mile square plateau on top, which will house the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. It will be subdivided into three sections:
 - Northern Section (v2-4) will be 20 miles by 50 miles with the Millennial Temple at its center. The Temple will be one mile square, and the rest of the area will be reserved for a certain group of priests to live in.
 - Middle Section (v5) will be 20 miles by 50 miles and will be reserved for the Tribe of Levi.
 - Southern Section (v6-8) will be 10 miles by 50 miles and contain Millennial Jerusalem, which will measure 10 miles by 10 miles, at its center. There will be areas of fields on either side of the city, each measuring 10 miles by 20 miles. These areas will be controlled by the prince, the resurrected David, who will apportion the Land according to tribe.
- Ezek 48:8-22 - the Mountain will be 50 miles square (v8). He then provides additional details about the three sections:
 - Northern Section (v9-12): will be inhabited by priests, who are the descendants of Zadok; they will occupy the area around the Temple, because that segment of the Tribe of Levi remained faithful while the rest went astray.
 - Middle Section (v13-14): this area will be reserved for the rest of the Tribe of Levi, those Levites who did not belong to the line of Zadok.
 - Southern Section (v15-19): the adjacent area beside Millennial Jerusalem will be for the purpose of growing food for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Jerusalem will not belong to any particular tribe, but will be inhabited by members of all 12 tribes.
- Is 27:13 - the Millennial Mountain will become the center of Jewish worship.
 - Is 56:6-8 - But not Jews only, as Isaiah points out that the Mountain will become a place of prayer for all people, Jews and Gentiles alike.
- Is 66:20 - Gentile nations will conduct the regathered people of Israel to the Millennial Mountain
- Micah 4:1-2 - similar verbiage to Is 2:2-4

The Rule of God from Jerusalem [Messianic Kingdom: Basis for Belief, Characteristics, Government, Israel's Role, Gentiles](#)

3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let's go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; So that He may teach us about His ways, And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go out from Zion And **the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**

3 And many peoples will 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 concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 Many groups of people will come, commenting, "Come! Let's go up to the Temple of the God of Jacob, that they may teach us his ways. Then let's walk in his paths. Instruction will proceed from Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

- During the kingdom, Gentile nations will desire to go to the temple in Jerusalem to learn how to walk in God's paths and follow His law. During this time, contrary to the "Times of the Gentiles," the nations, formerly enemies of Israel, will not come for plunder, but in peace; not to rob, but to learn.

- Jerusalem will be the headquarters, the nerve center, of the millennial kingdom

- Diligent Jews would often make pilgrimages to Jerusalem as part of their worship.

During the kingdom, what had been Israel's experience in the past will be that of all the nations.

- During the exodus, Israel went to Mt Sinai to receive God's law; during the Messianic Kingdom, the nations will stream to Mt. Zion to learn God's law.

- "...the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem" - one of the characteristics of the Kingdom will be universal peace. While differences between nations will arise, they will no longer be settled by military conflicts, but only by "the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

4 And He will **judge** between the nations, And will mediate for many peoples; And they will **beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning knives**. Nation will not lift up a sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

4 And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

4 He will judge between the nations, and will render verdicts for the benefit of many. "They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations will not raise swords against nations, and they will not learn warfare anymore.

4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

- Universal peace will be a characteristic of the Messianic Kingdom. The money and materials usually poured into military might will be devoted to peaceful pursuits (Cf. Micah 4:3).

- "...judge" - *shapat*, to govern, vindicate or punish; to decide controversy in regard to civil, political, domestic or religious questions.

— The Lord will make executive and judicial decisions in regard to the nations that are in need of righteous judgments. The Lord will bring "punishment" on nations who do not act as they should (Zech 14:18-19).

- "...beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning knives" - this is a reversal to Joel's call to war (Joel 3:9-11) in his prophecy of the Great Tribulation. In the Millennium, Isaiah issues a call to peace, saying the Messiah will settle disputes between nations to make war unnecessary.

In v2-4, Isaiah describes one of the major characteristics of the Messianic Kingdom, that of universal peace. While differences between nations will arise, such differences will no longer be settled by military conflicts, but only by the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Even the art of warfare will be forgotten.

Is 2:4 is inscribed on the well-known statue (donated by the Soviet Union) on display at the United Nations in New York. Significantly the first part of the verse is omitted: "And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples." The Warrior-King of Rev 19, not the United Nations, will bring peace to the earth.

Does Is 2:1-4 Speak of the Church?

The view that Is 2:1-4 is fulfilled in the Church today is not correct for several reasons:

(1) Verse 1 indicates that the word concerns Judah and Jerusalem. Any view that divorces the Jewish geographical element from the prophecy is violating the context of the passage. There is no evidence in the Old or New Testament that directs us to take references to Judah and Jerusalem to mean "Church."

(2) Is 2 predicts more than just "salvation" or salvation into the Church. It is discussing global international peace. While salvation is crucial, God's kingdom involves more than salvation, it includes a holistic restoration of all things, including nations experiencing international harmony.

(3) It is not the case that Heb 12:18-24 indicates that Is 2:2-4 is fulfilled in the Church. The writer of Hebrews declares that Christians today are positionally related to a city that is still to come (see Heb 13:4). But how can the fact that Christians are positionally related to the coming New Jerusalem prove that the prophecy of Is 2:2-4 is finding its fulfillment today? Heb 12 is not revealing a full fulfillment of Isaiah 2.

(4) This “fulfillment in the Church” view presents an imbalanced and even unfair understanding of the blessing/curse motif in regard to the nation Israel. It gives curses to the nation Israel but not the blessing of restoration. The promised blessings of Is 2 must not be spiritualized since it calls for literal fulfillment of curses to Israel but not literal blessings for the nation

(ii) Sins inviting judgment (Is 2:5—4:1)

(a) Foreign customs (2:5-11)

The Call to Israel

5 Come, house of Jacob, and let's walk in the light of the LORD.

5 Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

5 "You house of Jacob! Come! Let's live in the LORD's light.

5 O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

According to the wonderful predictions here (v2-5) and in Is 11:6-9, when the Messianic Kingdom materializes, Jerusalem will be the center of world spiritual and political authority. This authority will result in perfect justice, world peace, cessation of conflict with and among the animal kingdom, and universal, spiritual knowledge. These glorious conditions await a future Jewish generation's enthronement of the king of God's own choosing (Deut 17:15). Such enthronement will make Israel not only the owner but also the possessor of all that is promised in Israel's covenants. As these covenantal blessings come upon Israel in that future day, the entire world will be blessed as well (Rom 11:12,15).

Reasons: The Sins of Israel

6 For You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled *with influences* from the east, And *they are* soothsayers like the Philistines. They also strike *bargains* with the children of foreigners.

6 For You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob, Because they are filled *with influences* from the east, And *they are* soothsayers like the Philistines, And they strike *bargains* with the children of foreigners.

6 For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are filled with practices learned from the East and they are fortune-tellers like the Philistines. They cut deals with foreigners.

6 Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

- They have abandoned their own people by giving up the best things which the nation stood for. (...as in America!!)

- [v6-22] The necessity of humility in the Day of YHWH.

7 Their land has also been **filled with silver and gold** And there is no end to their treasures; Their land has also been filled with horses, And there is no end to their chariots.

7 Their land has also been filled with silver and gold And there is no end to their treasures; Their land has also been filled with horses And there is no end to their chariots.

7 Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots.

7 Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land is also full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots:

- "...filled with silver and gold" - another hint that during the end times, Israel will accumulate great wealth. Ezekiel also made reference to Israel's wealth in the time leading up to the Magog Invasion (Ezek 38-39, see v11-13).

— Does the Bible prophesy that Israel will discover massive oil reserves? (Deut 33:19,24)

8 Their land has also been filled with idols; They worship the work of their hands, That which their fingers have made.

8 Their land has also been filled with idols; They worship the work of their hands, That which their fingers have made.

8 Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made.

8 Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

The Announcement of Judgment

9 So *the common* person has been humbled And *the person of importance* has been brought low, But do not forgive them.

9 So the *common* man has been humbled And the man *of importance* has been abased, But do not forgive them.

9 "So mankind is humbled, each human being is brought low, and you won't forgive."

9 And the mean man boweth down, and the great man humbleth himself: therefore forgive them not.

10 Enter the rocky *place* and hide in the dust From the **terror of the LORD** and from the splendor of His majesty.

10 Enter the rock and hide in the dust From the terror of the LORD and from the splendor of His majesty.

10 "Go into the rocks! Hide in the dust to escape the terror of the LORD and to escape the glory of his majesty!

10 Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.

- "...terror of the Lord"... 18 words that imply trembling, etc.

11 The proud look of humanity will be brought low, And the arrogance of people will be humbled; And the LORD alone will be exalted on that day.

11 The proud look of man will be abased And the loftiness of man will be humbled, And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

11 The haughty looks of mankind will be brought low, the lofty pride of human beings will be humbled, and the LORD alone will be exalted at that time.

11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

- Compare with Is 14: the fall of Lucifer through pride (Cf. v17)

- Zech 14:9; Phil 2:9-11 also speak of the exaltation of the Lord

(b) Pride (2:12-22)

12 For the LORD of armies will have a day *of reckoning* Against everyone who is arrogant and haughty, And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be brought low.

12 For the LORD of hosts will have a day *of reckoning* Against everyone who is proud and lofty And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be abased.

12 "For the LORD of the Heavenly Armies has reserved a time to oppose all who are proud and haughty, and the self-exalting— they will be humbled.

12 For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

13 And *it will be* against all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up, Against all the oaks of Bashan,

13 And *it will be* against all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up, Against all the oaks of Bashan,

13 He will take his stand against all the cedars of Lebanon, against the proud and self-exalting; and against all the oaks of Bashan;

13 And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan,

14 Against all the lofty mountains, Against all the hills that are lifted up,

14 Against all the lofty mountains, Against all the hills that are lifted up,

14 against all the high mountains, and against all the lofty hills;
14 And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up,

15 Against every high tower, Against every fortified wall,
15 Against every high tower, Against every fortified wall,
15 against every high tower, and against every fortified wall;
15 And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall,

16 Against all the **ships of Tarshish** And against all the delightful ships.
16 Against all the ships of Tarshish And against all the beautiful craft.
16 against all the ships from Tarshish, and against all their impressive watercraft.
16 And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.
- "...ships of Tarshish" - large, ocean-going; two-year cruise durations; tin from Britannia;
see tag: Ships of Tarshish.

17 And the pride of humanity will be humbled And the arrogance of people will be brought low; And **the LORD alone** will be exalted on that day,
17 The pride of man will be humbled And the loftiness of men will be abased; And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,
17 "Humanity's haughtiness will be humbled, male arrogance will be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.
17 And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.
- Humanities haughtiness will be humbled
- "...the LORD alone" - also, Is 63:5; Cf. v11

18 And the idols will completely vanish.
18 But the idols will completely vanish.
18 Their idols will utterly vanish.
18 And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

19 *People* will go into caves of the rocks And into holes in the ground Away from the terror of the LORD And the splendor of His majesty, When He arises to terrify the earth.
19 *Men* will go into caves of the rocks And into holes of the ground Before the terror of the LORD And the splendor of His majesty, When He arises to make the earth tremble.
19 "They will enter caverns in the rocks "and holes in the ground to escape the presence of the terror of the LORD, to escape the splendor of his majesty when he arises to terrify the earth.

19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

- Rev 6:16; Joshua 10:16-17. Note the parallelism between Joshua (*Yehoshua*) and (The) Revelation...

See [Joshua as a "Type" of Revelation](#) for an overview of Joshua-Revelation parallels.

20 On that day people will throw away to the moles and the bats Their idols of silver and their idols of gold, Which they made for themselves to worship,

20 In that day men will cast away to the moles and the bats Their idols of silver and their idols of gold, Which they made for themselves to worship,

20 At that time, mankind will throw their silver and gold idols that their fingers have made as objects of worship to the moles and to the bats.

20 In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

21 In order to go into the clefts of the rocks and the crannies of the cliffs Before the terror of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty, When He arises to terrify the earth.

21 In order to go into the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs Before the terror of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty, When He arises to make the earth tremble.

21 They will enter caverns in the rocks and clefts in the cliffs, to escape the terror of the LORD and to escape the splendor of his majesty, when he arises to terrorize the earth.

21 To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Indictment and Judgment of the Leaders

22 Take no account of man, whose breath *of life* is in his nostrils; For why should he be esteemed?

22 Stop regarding man, whose breath *of life* is in his nostrils; For why should he be esteemed?

22 "Stop trusting in human beings, whose life breath is in their nostrils, for what are they really worth?"

22 Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

- Breath as the index of man's frailty (Job 34:14ff; Ps 104:29)...National disintegration through sin. Sound familiar?