

# CHRIST'S COMING KINGDOM

BIBLE TEXT : Isaiah 2:1-22; Psalm 2:1-12.

LESSON 342 Junior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The LORD alone shall be exalted in that day" (Isaiah 2:11).

## BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

### **Isaiah 2:1-22**

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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:

<sup>8</sup> Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their

## BIBLE REFERENCES:

### NOTES:

#### **The Most Important**

As time slips by and days come and go, there may be a desire in your heart for some things which you cannot have. Perhaps it is someday to have a college education, or it may be a desire to travel to faraway places and see the world. You may not be privileged to have all the things you desire, but there are some things that you must make sure of attaining unto. Some things are too important to miss. Let us take time carefully to consider the most important things in life.

We learned in a recent lesson that the prophets of God who wrote the Bible did so under the inspiration of the Spirit, and all Scripture will be fulfilled. Isaiah, one of the major prophets, wrote many things that will happen in the future. In the second chapter of Isaiah we read some of the same words that Micah wrote, about whom we studied in Lesson 330. See if you can find the parallel passages of Scripture. It must have been very important, or God would not have told two of His prophets to write the same words. It is all true and will come to pass; however, the exact time that it will happen is hidden from us (**Matthew 24:36** <sup>36</sup> But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. **Matthew 24:42** <sup>42</sup> Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.).

#### **Soon-Coming**

In order that we may not be confused about future events and the order in which they shall transpire, let us try to fix clearly in our mind just what lies ahead. The next great world-shaking event that is to take place — and it could happen today — is the coming of Jesus to catch away His waiting Bride, His "church," the people who are prepared and watching for the Lord (**Matthew 24:27** <sup>27</sup> For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.).

This is known as the Rapture of the saints, and it is an event we cannot afford to miss! Jesus does not descend to the earth at the Rapture, but He comes down in the sky above; and those who are ready, instantly lose gravitation and are translated to meet the Lord. The dead in Christ rise from their graves, and meet Him in the air, too, clothed with immortal bodies (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.).

"One shall be taken, and the other left" (Matthew 24:40, 41). One shall be taken to be with the Lord, the other left to remain on the earth during the tribulation period (**Matthew 24:21** <sup>21</sup> For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. **Isaiah 26:20-21** <sup>20</sup> Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy

own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

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

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

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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:

<sup>13</sup> And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, *that are* high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan,

<sup>14</sup> And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills *that are* lifted up,

<sup>15</sup> And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall,

<sup>16</sup> And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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;

<sup>21</sup> To go into the clefts of the

doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. <sup>21</sup> For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. **Revelation 13:1-18** <sup>1</sup> And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. <sup>2</sup> And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. <sup>3</sup> And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. <sup>4</sup> And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? <sup>5</sup> And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. <sup>6</sup> And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. <sup>8</sup> And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. <sup>9</sup> If any man have an ear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup> He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. <sup>11</sup> And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. <sup>12</sup> And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. <sup>13</sup> And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, <sup>14</sup> And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. <sup>15</sup> And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. <sup>16</sup> And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: <sup>17</sup> And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. <sup>18</sup> Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.). That time of trouble is one of the things we must be sure to escape; if we make the Rapture, we will not fear the tribulation.

### The Marriage Supper

Those who are caught away at the Rapture will have part in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (**Revelation 19:7-9** Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. <sup>9</sup> And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.). We know not just what this marriage supper is to be, but Christ is going to serve; for He said: "Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them" (Luke 12:37). We are now united in heart with Christ, but then we shall be united with Him forever. Oh! we know it will be wonderful to be an overcomer and "meet the Lord in the air" (I Thessalonians 4:17).

Just as the Lord shut Noah and his family in the ark, so he will shut the Bride in with Him at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

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.

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

### **Psalm 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying,*

<sup>3</sup> Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

<sup>4</sup> He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

<sup>5</sup> Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

<sup>6</sup> Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

<sup>7</sup> I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.

<sup>9</sup> Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

<sup>10</sup> Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.

Just as the ark was borne above the floodwaters, so shall we be lifted up with Christ in mid-air. The Flood did not come until Noah and his family were safe in the ark, so we believe the terrible tribulation will not break forth until after Jesus receives His saints unto Himself.

It is at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb that rewards will be given for faithful service. Those who have used their talents for God's glory will hear the sentence: Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. Every service that was done as unto the Lord, for His glory alone, will receive a rich reward, and all other works will be burned (**1 Corinthians 3:13-14** <sup>13</sup> Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.)).

### **The Tribulation**

Looking at the sinners on earth, Isaiah shows us the other side of the picture when he says: "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" (Isaiah 2:19). But search as they may, there is no hiding place from Him whose eyes are "as a flame of fire" (Revelation 19:12). Oh, that their treasures could avail for them then! but the proud, the lofty and lifted up shall be brought low in the day of the Lord. Today is man's day; the "day of the LORD" (Isaiah 2:12) is coming. The rich man in that day is no better off than the beggar. With the wealth heaped "together for the last days" (James 5:3), the rich man cannot buy a place of safety even for an hour. To the moles that dig in the earth and the bats that fly in the darkness of filthy, deserted houses, he casts his silver and gold which once to him were idols of worship (**Isaiah 2:20** <sup>20</sup> 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;)). Absolutely worthless are they in that day.

### **The Revelation**

At the end of the seven-year tribulation period, Jesus comes back to earth again. This time He does not come "as a thief" (**1 Thessalonians 5:2** <sup>2</sup> For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.), but "behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him" (Revelation 1:7). This is known as the Revelation of Christ. Following Him will be the saints riding upon white horses, coming with Christ back to the earth. This is another marvellous event, which we cannot afford to miss, and we will surely have part in it if we make the Rapture.

Christ descends, as John the Beloved tells us, riding on a white horse and "out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron" (Revelation 19:15).

### **Armageddon**

This great army on white horses, led by the King of kings and Lord of lords, engages in a battle such as the earth has never before witnessed. It is known as "Armageddon." The "antichrist" will be "cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20), and Jesus Christ will cast out of His Kingdom "all things that offend, and them which do iniquity" (Matthew 13:41).

### **A Thousand Years of Peace**

World rulers, great kingdoms, and monarchs have had their day. But most of these have ruled, as it were, with Satan at the head. But when Christ comes back to the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords, Satan shall be held in chains for a thousand years (**Revelation 20:1-3** <sup>1</sup> And I saw an angel come down from heaven,



having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.<sup>2</sup> And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,<sup>3</sup> And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.).

Isaiah spoke of that time in this chapter, and Ezekiel tells us, "They shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods" (Ezekiel 34:25). We learned in Junior and Senior Lesson No. 168, Book 13, and also in Lesson No. 121 of Primary Course, of a time when even little children may sleep in the woods and be safe. In the morning when they awake, should they find a wolf lying beside them, they could reach over and pet him and not be afraid, for the wild animals will be tame. No longer will snails, bugs, and insects spoil the flowers and vegetables in the garden as they do today. Rosebushes and berry vines will not have thorns on them, and there will be no briars and thistles to hurt us and tear our clothes. Pools, streams, and springs of water will be found in the deserts that today are dry, and then the desert will "blossom as the rose" (Isaiah 35:1). No more blind beggars will be seen on the city streets, for the eyes of all the blind shall be opened; hearing aids will no more be needed, for "the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing" (Isaiah 35:5, 6).

At the close of the Millennium, Satan will be loosed for a little season (**Revelation 20:3** And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season **Revelation 20:7** <sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,); but soon he will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever (**Revelation 20:10** <sup>10</sup> And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.).

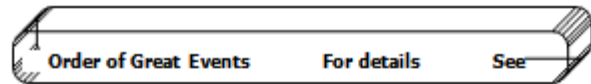
### Judgment

Then will be the Great White Throne Judgment when Christ will gather the living and the dead to judge them for their deeds (**Revelation 20:11-13** <sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.). That day of judgment will not alarm those who have had part in the Rapture. Those who have sent their sins on before to judgment (**1 Timothy 5:24** <sup>24</sup> Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some *men* they follow after.), those who have been caught up to be with the Lord forever will have no fear of judgment. The sinner, the unrighteous, the one who has neglected and rejected God's great salvation will be judged at that day. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3). There is no escape for those who neglect to seek God.

### The All-Important

It all depends on us. If we are ready for the next great world-shaping event, the Rapture of the saints, we need not fear the events that follow. So we conclude that the most important thing in life is to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes. Be saved from

your sins, if you are not saved; then seek God for sanctification, and for the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. Then continue to pray much and read your Bible and **be ready**, "for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" (Luke 12:40).



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| 1. Rapture of Saints (Coming of Christ as a "thief")  | Lesson 164, Book 13 |
| 2. Marriage Supper of the Lamb in mid-air, and rewards given to saints at Judgment Seat of Christ | Lesson 165, Book 13 |
| 3. During this time, Great Tribulation on earth   | Lesson 165, Book 13 |
| 4. Revelation of Christ (Followed by saints riding on white horses)                               | Lesson 166, Book 13 |
| 5. Battle of Armageddon   | Lesson 166, Book 13 |
| 6. Millennial Reign of Christ -- 1,000 years of peace (Saints ruling and reigning with Christ)    | Lesson 168, Book 13 |
| 7. Satan loosed for a brief period (Final battle of Gog and Magog)                                | Lesson 168, Book 13 |
| 8. Great White Throne Judgment (Wicked cast into lake of fire)                                    | Lesson 169, Book 13 |
| 9. New Heaven and New Earth   | Lesson 169, Book 13 |
| 10. Eternity --- forever and ever.  |                     |

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What is the Rapture? Do we know when it will be?
2. What is the Revelation of Christ?
3. What is known as the Millennium? Tell of conditions on the earth then.
4. Where will men go to try to find a hiding place from the Lord? Will they find a hiding place?
5. At whom shall the Lord laugh some day?
6. What will men do with their gold and silver in the Day of the Lord?
7. What is the Great White Throne Judgment?
8. Who will be there? Does it frighten you to think of it?
9. What is the all-important thing for us to do?
10. Does anyone know when Jesus is coming? How do we know that His coming is very near?