

CHRIST'S COMING KINGDOM

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

LESSON 342 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "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" (Isaiah 2:3).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Isaiah 2:1-22

- ¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- ⁵ O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.
- 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.
- 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:
- ⁸ Their land also is full of idols;

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Exaltation of Christ

1. The prophet spoke of the exalted position of Christ and His coming Kingdom, Isaiah 2:1, 2; Psalm 2:6, 7;
Micah 4:1
¹ But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.
Revelation 19:11-16
¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
¹² His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.
¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.
¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.
¹⁵ 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: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
2. All nations will come under the rule of Christ during the Millennial Reign, Isaiah 2:2, 3; Psalm 2:8-12;
Micah 4:2
² And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
Revelation 11:15
¹⁵ And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.
3. War will cease during the period of Christ's Kingdom, Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3, 4.

II Reign of Righteousness

1. Those who refuse to come under the rule of Christ will be judged, Isaiah 2:5-9; Psalm 2:1-3;
Zechariah 14:17-19
¹⁷ And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.
¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that *have* no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.
¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.
Revelation 19:19-21
¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him

they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

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

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

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.

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

¹⁴ And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills *that are* lifted up,

¹⁵ And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall,

¹⁶ And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.

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.

¹⁸ And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

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.

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;

that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

2. Sin and pride will be brought low in the Day of the Lord, Isaiah 2:10-18.

3. Idolatry will be discarded and men will seek a hiding place when the Lord arises to shake the earth, Isaiah 2:19-22; Psalm 2:4, 5;

Revelation 6:12-17

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

4. The Lord will be exalted and will reign in righteousness and peace, Isaiah 2:17;

Isaiah 25:6-9

6 And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

7 And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations.

8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this *is* our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this *is* the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 35:1-10

1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, *and* the excellency of our God.

3 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

4 Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you.

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the

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.

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

Psalm 2:1-12

¹ Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

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

³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

⁴ He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

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

⁶ Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

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

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

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

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

¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

¹² 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.

thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.

⁸ And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*:

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Zechariah 14:16

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:20-21

²⁰ In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

²¹ Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

Revelation 20:4-6

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

NOTES:

In the beginning of time, the Triune God looked over His creation, "and, behold, it was very good." Provision had been amply made for the prosperity and happiness of all creation. The rhythm and reason of all things is harmony with God and praise to Him.

The cadence of this happy, perfect living was soon broken, however, for mankind listened to and obeyed the subtle, sinful suggestions of Satan, spoken through the mouth of the serpent. Immediately the living, eternal soul of man became separated from God — dead in trespasses and sins. The absolute perfection that man had known was destroyed, and the nature of sin became inbred in the very soul of man, ruling the nature and destiny of the unregenerate man to this day. Satan attempted to usurp God's power and creation, and seemingly almost succeeded; but God retains His might and authority, and one day he will release the earth from the cruel bondage imposed upon it by the curse of sin. God will send Jesus back to the earth to set up a literal kingdom and rule the earth in righteousness for one thousand years.

Last Days

"It shall come to pass in the last days," was Isaiah's introduction to his prophecy of the coming Kingdom of Christ. At the time when sin has run its course and Satan seems ready to

deliver his final destructive blow to men and to the world, Jesus will appear on the scene and wrest the world from the power and influence of Satan. "I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. . . . And the armies, which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 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 19:11, 14, 15). The Kingdom of Christ will be a world power. The very thing that history's great military leaders fought to obtain, and wasted their lives trying to achieve, will be given to Jesus, the Son of God.

There will be a terrible war of short duration to prepare the way for this righteous reign of Christ. Many people will fight against the Lord in that day, but they will be destroyed by the sword of Christ's mouth. Satan will be bound a thousand years in the bottomless pit, and his chief emissaries will be cast alive into the lake of fire. The people who escape from this time of judgment and tribulation will be ushered into a thousand-year period of unprecedented peace.

The Way into the Kingdom

There is a sure and blessed way of entering this wonderful coming Kingdom of Christ. John the Baptist was God's instrument to announce the Kingdom to the world with its admission fee: "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). Jesus proclaimed and enlarged upon the same message, but He indicated that the complete fulfilment of the Kingdom was not at that time. "When he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20, 21).

All men who truly receive Jesus Christ into their heart and fully obey His commandments are born into His Kingdom. These people overcome the powers of Satan by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. These full overcomers may die physically, yet they will be resurrected, and, along with the living, overcoming saints, will be translated to Heaven to be with Christ during the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. When Christ is revealed to the earth as King, these saints will come to the earth with Him, to be priests of God and Christ and reign with Him during the thousand years. (Read Revelation 19 and 20.)

To their own destruction, multitudes are putting off making this most important decision to serve Christ. Most people fail fully to realise the fatal consequences of neglecting to take the necessary measures to insure their part in Christ's Kingdom, but nothing in a man's life should be deemed of more importance than praying through to real salvation. The Lord has given time and opportunity to the children of men to prepare their hearts for eternity. "The Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation" (Hebrews 3:7, 8). All people who have refused or failed to trust and obey Christ in this life will have to face the second death. Some unrepentant sinners will have the privilege to live during the Millennial Reign, but then they must face God at the Great White Throne Judgment. From there they will be cast into the lake of fire; "This is the second death" (Revelation 20:14).

The Exalted Kingdom

Throughout the history of Christendom, the Kingdom of Christ has never been unanimously received by the world; however, the time is coming when all living men will acknowledge Jesus Christ

as Lord. Christ's disciples have laboured through the years to bring men into the Kingdom of Christ; but all the exertion, however extensive and faithful, will not bring about the final, complete fulfilment of Christ's Kingdom upon earth. That will require the coming of the King Himself out of Heaven.

The earth's inhabitants will no longer hate Jesus and say of Him, "We will not have this man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14); but all nations shall flow unto the Lord's house in Zion. "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" (Isaiah 2:3). The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. The lofty looks of man will have been humbled, and the haughtiness of men will have been bowed down. The idols He shall utterly abolish. All men do not worship a golden or silver idol today, but anything that is set up in preference to God, or anything that is given more love and more devotion than is given to God, that thing is an idol and will be utterly abhorred in the day of the Lord of hosts.

Time of Peace

Before the influence of Satan and sin entered the Garden of Eden, the scene was one of peace and tranquillity. The people, the animals, the birds — all lived together in unity without a trace of fear or suspicion of one another. The Lord had appointed the green herbs of the field to be the meat of the beasts and fowls, and apparently the curse of sin brought about the practice of carnivorous animals consuming other animals for food. When Christ comes forth from Heaven upon the white horse and conquers Satan and all the forces of evil, the dispositions and appetites of the beasts and fowls will revert to the status enjoyed in the Garden of Eden. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:6-9).

The Lord shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people. With such a triumphant King as Christ at the head of the government to worship and serve, and with Satan bound in the bottomless spit, and false accusations, envy, and pride lying dormant even in sinners, men will find it possible to live at peace with one another. The implements of war, the swords and the spears, will be reformed into plowshares and pruninghooks. "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn way any more." The nations have gone to great length to obtain peace in the world, yet it seems the harder they try to attain peace the more elusive is that scarce state. In the day of the Lord of hosts, however, peace will be in evidence on every hand — in the home and on the streets, in the country and in the cities. The divorce courts will no longer be in operation, because family life will be once more as God intended that it should be.

The Jews

As Jesus comes back to the earth to be revealed to the Jewish people and all the people of the world, the "blindness in part" which "happened to Israel" will be done away with. Then will be fulfilled the words of Isaiah: "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD" (Isaiah 2:5). A few scattered Jews have believed in Jesus as their promised Messiah down

through the years, but as a whole the Jews have rejected Jesus as their Messiah. Dire trouble has followed that nation, especially since that day when their rulers demanded Jesus' crucifixion and death, declaring, "His blood be on us, and on our children" (Matthew 27:25). More disastrous trouble lies ahead until, at last, those Jews who are left will recognise their King on the white horse and receive Him as the Saviour and Son of God. "It shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God" (Zechariah 13:8, 9).

QUESTIONS

1. When will Christ's Kingdom appear on the earth?
2. Where will the headquarters be located?
3. Who of the earth's inhabitants will worship the King in that day?
4. How will Christ's Kingdom differ from the kingdoms of the world today?
5. Why was the house of Jacob forsaken by the Lord?
6. What treatment will be given to pride and haughtiness in the Day of the Lord?
7. What will happen to idols when the Lord is revealed? To idolaters?
8. How long will Christ's Kingdom remain on the earth?
9. How can we be sure of being with Christ in His Kingdom?