SOME HELP AND HOPE

**DATE: 8/3/2016 Wed.**

**TEXT: Isaiah 2:1-5; Revelation**

**INTRODUCTION**

Isaiah can see plainly what has gone wrong with Judah and Jerusalem, even though the people are oblivious to their sinful condition

And he offers some **Help**

In addition, Isaiah is given great insight into what will happen later

And so offers some **Hope**

Beginning in **v. 2** he writes of the ***“last days”***

Some debate the time frame of the ***“last days”*** with a lot of speculation

But all that can be safely presumed has a reference to a period of time after Jesus’ incarnation (when the ***“last days”*** began) that will culminate with His second coming

**Hebrews 1:2 –** ***“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds”***

Just as important as *when* this will occur is *what* the people of God can expect

Isaiah describes an elevation of the mountain of the LORD’S Temple

**v. 2 - *“the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains”***

The Temple of Solomon had been built on the spot where Abraham had attempted to offer Isaac

The entire area was later known as Zion, a designation Isaiah uses many times throughout his prophecy

In the Bible, a ***“mountain”*** often symbolizes Stability and is often associated with Divinity

Isaiah’s description indicates that one day the kingdom of the Messiah will be preeminent over all the kingdoms of the earth

The Gentile nations will desire to know God’s Truth and will stream to the House of God,

Resulting in an unprecedented time of peace – **vs. 3**

Although the Messiah is not named in this passage, later portions of Isaiah (**chapters 7, 9, 11, 53**) will be quite specific about His character and the role He will play

In this instance, He fulfills the role of Judge

In light of what God will eventually accomplish in the Gentile world,

Isaiah challenges the house of Jacob (Judah and Jerusalem) to walk in the light of the Lord **– v.5**

This portion of Isaiah regarding the Messiah’s future kingdom is repeated almost verbatim in **Micah 4:1-3**

We don’t know if one writer borrowed from the other or if they both drew from the same source

Since Isaiah and Micah were contemporaries

It isn’t surprising that the Holy Spirit would give these two prophets the same thing, to establish and emphasize His Word

As we begin **chapter** 2 this evening, I want to think on this thought

**“Help and Hope”**

Let’s stand and Read **vs. 1-5** and then pray

We will mainly be looking at **v.4** (so let’s read that together)

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE “PEACE MAKER”**

**v. 4** begins with ***“And He shall judge among the nations”***

The ***“He”*** here is referencing the ***“LORD”*** from **vs. 1-3**

When we think of the Lord Jesus Christ we often think of a *Personal Saviour*

Which is rightly so

He came to redeem us from the curse of sin individually

**Titus 2:14 –** ***“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works”***

But when He comes again He will ***“Judge among”*** the Nations

First, when it comes to this **Peace Maker**, let’s look at …

**A. The Authority of the Judge**

A Judge is someone who arbitrates disagreements

Someone who has the final word / Authority

The world has been trying to throw off the yoke of the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ since His first coming

Only to suffer the consequences of turmoil created by such an attitude

The Jewish Leaders didn’t want Jesus to rule when He first came, and the world rulers have totally disregarded Him ever since (religious & secular)

One day, however, the Lord will rule this world and establish His kingdom during His millennial reign

And anyone who tries to get in His way will be mowed down!

Listen to what the Bible says …

**Isaiah 60:12 –** ***“For the nation and kingdom that will not serve Thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted”***

**Matthew 21:44 –** ***“And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder”***

***“And He SHALL judge (all) the nations”***

It’s a done deal!

He is going to be The Authority and will Judge this world

The sooner someone realizes and accepts His authority, the *better off* that person will be

Let me share with you a few verses regarding this

**John 5:22, 27 – *“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:” “And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man”***

**Psalm 9:8 *– “And He shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness”***

**Acts 17:31 –*“Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead”***

What is Jesus’ Authority? He has Risen from the Dead!

**The Authority of the Judge**

**B. The Definition of a Judge**

Let’s look at exactly what being ***“Judge”*** means

It is a word which means *to govern, to decide controversy, to punish, or to mediate*

Again we are reminded of the Lord's role as Mediator among men

Right now He is our Mediator in Heaven

**I Timothy 2:5 *– “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”***

Then … His authority and integrity will enable men to settle disputes among nations just as He was able to solve the controversy between God the Father and men

He is the Prince of Peace

**Isaiah 9:6, 7 *– “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” “Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice***

***…from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this”***

**THE “PEACE MAKER”**

**II. THE “PROBLEM SOLVER”**

***“and shall rebuke many people …”***

Many men and women today have a passion for world peace, but will never see it

It is ironic that on one of the walls in the UN appears the text of **Isaiah 2:4**

It says – ***“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 any more”***

This text was a gift from the Russian government to the United Nations

Unfortunately, the first and most important part of that verse has been left out

The deletion reveals the reason for the failure of the UN

Again the verse begins - ***“And He (the Messiah) shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people"***

When Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation, He will establish His kingdom for 1000 years on earth

(Thus the term “Millennium” = 1000 yrs.)

Jesus is the Problem Solver

**A. Those who Survive**

Contrary to popular belief, not everyone dies during the Tribulation period

Those who are resurrected by the Lord at the Rapture will have a glorified body in the millennial kingdom

But those who survive the Tribulation period will enter the Millennium with a body of flesh and blood

There will be many who survive

But they will still have their sin nature

This is why the Lord will have to rule with a rod of iron and will have to ***“rebuke”*** many people

**Revelation 19:15 – *“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”***

**B. Children will be born during the reign of Christ**

**Isaiah 11:6 – *“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”***

**Isaiah 11:8 – *“And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den”***

Children born with a sin nature

Not only will children be born, but …

**C. The life-span of mankind will be greatly increased**

Except for penal measures, sickness and death will be a rare thing

The longevity of man will be restored as it was in pre-Flood days

The Lord's healing ministry will affect the entire world

**Isaiah 65:20 – *“There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed”***

**Isaiah 33:24 – *“And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity”***

Here’s **The Situation**

**D. Those who are born during the Millennium …**

Will have to accept Jesus as the Son of God and acknowledge Him as their king just like everyone else

Unfortunately, many will not do so and will be deceived by Satan when he is freed at the end of the Millennium

**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”***

Multitudes will follow the great deceiver into the fires of Hell, even though they have witnessed the Power and literal Presence of Jesus Christ

It shows us just how deceitful our hearts really are!

Turn to **Revelation 20:7-10 …**

**THE “PEACE MAKER”**

**THE “PROBLEM SOLVER”**

**III. THE “PRINCIPLES PROVEN”**

***“and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks …”***

Let’s look at 4 Principles this Statement makes …

First is …

**A. A Statement of ‘Praise’**

Beating their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks is a statement of Praise for what?

For what Christ will accomplish in the world when He is in charge

He does what no man has been able to do

What a drastic change is going to take place on planet earth

Right now, the sinfulness of man has made this world a difficult place to live / a mess

In fact, the Prophet Joel describes the conditions of today has being just the opposite of Christ’s Reign

**Joel 3:9, 10 – *“Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:” “Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong”***

One day, the conflicts of this planet will be resolved

That day will be the Day when Jesus Reigns

This is also …

**B. A Statement of ‘Power’**

It will take someone who has absolute Power and Authority to bring men to a point of submission and to lay down their weapons

The philosophy of *peace through strength* is very Biblical

The strength and might of the Lord is going to bring peace into this world because He will have the power to maintain the peace

**Matthew 28:18 – *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth”***

He is the Sovereign King

He will rule with a Rod of Iron

Next is …

**C. A Statement of ‘Purpose’**

Men will have a new Purpose in life and the time and money of men will be used for a good cause

The curse on the world will be removed by the Lord

The original curse placed upon creation because of sin will be removed

**Isaiah 35:1 – *“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; (lifting of the curse) and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose”***

During the reign of Christ, the world will have an abundance of food

There will be abundant productivity and the animal kingdom will be at peace

Again **Isaiah 11:6-9** and **65:25** (see above)

Agricultural productivity will increase greatly because of the abundance of light / God’s Glory

**Isaiah 60:19, 20 – *“The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory” “Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended”***

Last it is …

**D. A Statement of ‘Practicality and Productivity’**

Why? Because weapons are going to be transformed into farming tools

The Plowshare is simply the metal tip which actually breaks the earth and cuts the furrow in the soil

The Pruning-hook was an implement that was used to prune the vines and cut off extra leaves and young shoots

It was a short knife with a curved hook at the end, sharpened on the inside like a sickle

Destroying weapons and fashioning agricultural implements indicates a transition from Fear and Stress to Peace and Security

**THE “PEACE MAKER”**

**THE “PROBLEM SOLVER”**

**THE “PRINCIPLES PROVEN”**

Let me close with this thought

**IV. THE “PEACE PROVIDED”**

***“… nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more”***

Sounds like Peace to me

When Jesus reigns, the nations of the world will finally be at Peace

There will be no need to learn or prepare for war anymore

**Isaiah 32:17, 18 – *“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever” “And My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places”***

Peace comes from worshiping the Prince of Peace

When Jesus reigns, the world will worship Him

His glory will fill the earth

This verse is very revealing

**Zechariah 14:16 – *“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”***

**Isaiah 24:23 – *“Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously”***

**Isaiah 40:5 – *“And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it”***

The Lord Jesus will fulfill what seems impossible when He returns to rule one day

**Psalm 104:31 *– “The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in His works”***

There is Help and Hope