

## ISAIAH 2

### *Man's Pride Will Be Humbled*

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

2 It shall come to pass in the latter days (בְּאַחֲרֵי הַיָּמִים)<sup>1</sup> that the mountain of the house of Yahweh shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be lifted up above the hills. And all the nations<sup>2</sup> shall flow to it, <sup>3</sup> and many peoples shall come and say:

Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, 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 forth the law, and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

### *Walk in the Light of Yahweh and Don't Regard Man*

5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of Yahweh.<sup>4</sup>

6 For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines,<sup>5</sup> and they strike hands with the children of foreigners. <sup>7</sup> Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures.

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<sup>1</sup> Most translations understand this phrase to refer to the eschatological era (cf. "in the latter days" in ESV, and "in the last days" in KJV, NIV, HCSB, and NLT). The phrase "end of days" occurs thirteen times in the OT. It often refers to the future in a general way (see Gen. 49:1; Num. 24:14; Deut. 31:29; Jer. 23:20; 30:24; 48:47; 49:39). On other occasions it appears to refer more specifically to the culminating period in Israel's history when God destroys his enemies and vindicates his people (see Deut. 4:30; Ezek. 38:16; Dan. 10:14; Hos. 3:5; Mic. 4:1). The situation described in vv. 2-4 is the result of the purifying judgment and restoration announced in Is 1:26-27.

<sup>2</sup> All nations will one day worship Yahweh. So why not get started worshipping Yahweh now?

<sup>3</sup> Peace on earth will happen only when Messiah Jesus rules. Today's wars prove Jesus is not ruling yet. "For Isaiah, living in the 8th century B.C., facing the Assyrian menace, war meant (a) bloody slaughter on the battlefield in hand-to-hand combat, (b) siege warfare, resulting in starvation and atrocities, such as eating one's own children, (c) destruction of crops, (d) the raping of helpless women and the slaughter of innocent children, (e) the slave trade, and (f) the deportation of entire population groups to foreign lands. But all this will change in the day of Jerusalem's glorification. Nations will plant crops instead of going to war; they will listen to God's teachings and allow him to mediate their differences."

<sup>4</sup> The believer's job is to practice today what all believers will practice in the future. We do this by obeying God's commands in grace and modeling true peace (see Ro 14:19; 2 Co 13:11; Col 3:15; 1 Th 5:13; Heb 12:14). Vv. 5 and 22 are an inclusio.

<sup>5</sup> Divination was prohibited in Israel (Dt 18:10), but in the ancient Near East it was a popular form of discerning the divine will and receiving guidance for life (Dt 18:14). Active omens included examining the internal organs of animals and casting lots. Passive omens came in celestial, terrestrial, and physiognomic forms. Omen reading was essentially an attempt to manipulate one's destiny. Once the (hypothetical) future was known, one could then seek to avoid disaster by using magic.

Their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots.<sup>6</sup> 8 Their land is filled with idols. They bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made.

9 So man is humbled, and each one is brought low—do not forgive them! 10 Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of Yahweh and from the splendor of his majesty. 11 The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and Yahweh alone will be exalted in that day. 12 For Yahweh of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low: 13 against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up, and against all the oaks of Bashan; 14 against all the lofty mountains and against all the uplifted hills; 15 against every high tower and against every fortified wall; 16 against all the ships of Tarshish and against all the beautiful craft. 17 And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and Yahweh alone will be exalted in that day. 18 And the idols shall utterly pass away. 19 And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of Yahweh and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. 20 In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats, 21 to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, from before the terror of Yahweh, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth.

22 Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?

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<sup>6</sup> It's okay for a nation to have horses and chariots (aircraft carriers and F-22s) for national defense. But ultimate trust must not be placed in them.

*Notes*