

Zion the Church Glorious

Isa 2:1-4 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; 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.

A careful reading of this passage leaves little doubt but that God through the prophet Isaiah is confirming His protection and the establishing of His Kingdom, the Church. It is true that as Reformed believers our view of the oneness of the elect saints in the Old Testament with those of us in the New Testament differs from what has become the common view of many in the church today. Because of a late teaching, I say late because it was virtually unknown in the church prior to the 1850's, that is, the late teaching of dispensationalism that sees the church in the New Testament as some kind of parenthesis totally separate from the Israel of God. Whereas we in agreement with the historic church see the saints of the Old and New Testament as children of Abraham, one body, one faith, one Lord. I would simply point out that our understanding is quite in agreement with the teaching of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Ephesus where he clearly stated that the Gentile believers in the New Testament had been made one body with the saints of the Old Testament. Reading from Ephesians 2 verses 11 through 13; *"Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."* (Eph 2:11-13)

Now let us carefully read on from the same chapter verses 19-22; *"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."* (Eph 2:19-22)

Thus we properly teach that the Gentile's in the New Testament Church were strangers from the Commonwealth of Israel, but now in Christ Jesus are no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints of the Old Testament.

Thus in full agreement with the above Scriptures it is quite evident that in this passage before us this morning Isaiah is comforting the soon to be suffering saints with the hope that there will be a day when Zion will be exalted above all the mountains of the world, for from Zion's mount the good news of a Savior Redeemer will go forth into all the World. Once again, we will see Christ and His church in the Book of Isaiah. 1. What Isaiah saw. 2. His words of Comfort. 3. The When it will take place.

A. What Isaiah saw - **The word** that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

1. The Word speaks of revelation. A revealed truth from God.
2. A revelation of future events regarding the Kingdom of God.
 - a. Trying times will fall upon God's people.
 - b. Nothing was more precious to God's people than the Lord's house in Zion.
 - c. Judah and Jerusalem will be carried away into captivity in Babylon.
 - d. Temple worship will be brought to a close and the temple itself will be destroyed by fire.
 - e. God's people will hand up their harps of joyful music and be brought to great despair.

Ps 137:1-2 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion. We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it.

3. But God in mercy speaks comfort in the midst of what must have seemed to be great loss
4. Believers can always be assured that God has a perfect purpose in all that He permits to take place in our lives.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

5. And so comfort is promised in the face of that trial

B. His Words of Comfort - Zion, the Israel of God would be restored not to its former glory but to an even greater glory.

Isa 2:2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.

1. The small hill of Zion will be exalted above the greatest and highest mountains of the earth.
2. All the nations of the earth shall as a river flow to Zion.
 - a. It would be foolish to think that this speaks of a tiny piece of real estate.
 - b. A greater temple

*Heb 9:11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, **with the greater and more perfect tabernacle** not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.*

3. This speaks of Gentile nations coming to Christ.

Ps 2:6, 8⁶ "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion." 8⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance,

4. Rather the prophet makes it quite clear they shall look to Zion for truth - *Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.*
 - a. They that sat in darkness a great light shall come to them.
 - b. This speaks of the power of God to open blind eyes and raise the dead to life.

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him.

5. The church is that mountain for the church is the pillar and ground of the truth.

"For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

- a. The work of the church is to preach Christ
- b. The work of the church is to "preach the Word"
- c. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

6. The church then is the Zion of God.

*Heb 12:22-23 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels to **the general assembly and church of the firstborn** who are registered in heaven*

C. The question is when?

1. It was to take place in the "latter days".
2. Always be mindful that the Old Testament prophets understood that such prophecies did not speak of their day but of a day yet future.

1 Peter 1:10-12 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven

- a. Note carefully the Apostle Peter says regarding the Old Testament prophets the following:
 - (1) Search what and what manner of time the Spirit of Christ in them testified of.
 - (2) Aware of the sufferings of the Christ and the glories that would follow.
 - (3) Finally it was revealed to them that they were ministering not to themselves but to us, (the New Testament saints).
- b. The latter days are none other than that time period from the birth of our Lord (His first advent) to His Second Coming.

CONCLUSION: *What is the peace that this will bring - He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; 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.*

The weapons of the church are not carnal but mighty through the power of God

2 Cor 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Our only weapon is the Word of God which is sharper than any two edged sword.

But it is not a weapon of death but of life.