
Wednesday, June 14, 2023 ▫ Read Isaiah 2:1–21

Questions from the Scripture text: What does v1 call v2–4? When will this happen (v2a)? What will be where (v2b–d)? Who will go there (v2e–3a)? To Whose mountain will they say they are coming (v3b)? To Whose house (v3c)? For what to happen (v3d–g)? What will this instruction include (v4a–b)? With what result (v4c–f)? In light of this, what does the prophet urge Israel to do (v5)? What has God done to them (V6a)? Why (v6b–d)? What do they treasure and trust in (v7–9b)? What will not be done for those who do this (v9c)? How will those who humbled themselves to idols end up being infinitely more humbled (v10, 19)? Who will be exalted (v11, 17c)? What will His day do to whom (v12–18)? What will an idolater do to his idols on that day (v20)? Why (v21)?

What are the dangers of humbling ourselves before idols instead of before God? Isaiah 2:1–21 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty-one verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **men who trust in anything other than God will be humiliated, as will whatever they trust in.**

We are still in that opening section of Isaiah (chs. 1–5), where the Lord describes how His people have provoked Him. This middle part (2:1–4:6) of the introduction basically begins with what God's people and city are designed to be (2:1–4) and ends with how the Lord will bring it about (4:2–6). In between those bookends, we read about the Lord's chastening to purify them from their idolatries (2:5–21) and then the judgment that must come when idolatry is not removed (2:22–4:1). So, for this week, we see the exalted end for which God's people are destined—and His determination to purify them from the idolatry that is hindering that end.

Exaltation for God's People, vv1–4. Yahweh teaches His people, and there is coming a day that all nations (v2e), many people (v3a), will desire to be taught by Him and walk with Him (v3d–e). In the last days, they will come to "the mountain of Yahweh's house" (v2b)—Zion (v3f), Jerusalem (v3g). They would need no more weapons, because with Yahweh as their God, these nations would no longer war (v4). This is what Israel, Judah, Jerusalem should have been—God's people to whom all nations came in order to join and be God's people!

Humiliation of Idolaters in Idolatry, vv5–9. Grievously, the opposite happened. Though they were called to walk with Yahweh (v5), rather than bringing the nations to Him, they left the Lord in order to walk like the nations (v6)! They trusted in treasure (v7a–b), power (v7c–d, cf. Deut 17:16), and idols (v8) just like the rest of the nations. What a temptation! And sadly, many who call themselves Christians even today fall for one or more of those. They humble themselves (v9a–b, cf. Ps 20:7–8) not before God but before wealth, power, or religion.

Humiliation of Idolaters at the Judgement, vv10–17. Those who humble themselves before idols instead of before God will ultimately fail in their purpose. Their knees will yet bow, and their tongues will yet confess that Yahweh alone is God. (Indeed, they will confess that Jesus Christ is Yahweh God, Hallelujah! cf. 45:23; Rom 14:11; Php 2:10–11). There is "that day" coming (v11c, v17c), the day of Yahweh of Hosts (v12a). And it will bring down all of the proud and lofty, not only among men (v11a–b, v17a–b) but among all creation (v12b–16).

Humiliation of the Idols Themselves, vv18–21. Money can't love you back, weapons of war can't deliver you, and manmade religion can do absolutely nothing for you. When God's enemies are humiliated before Him on the last day, their idols will be eliminated (v18). As the idol's worshipers scramble in terror of the Lord (cf. Rev 6:14–17), their idols will at first go into their holes with them (v19), but be abandoned altogether when there isn't room for both idol and idolater in their holes (v20–21). A similar thing is going to happen when Judah's idols slow them down during the Babylonian exile, and idol and idolater are captured together (cf. 46:1–2). The almost humorous picture of v20d is of idols strewn outside the cave for desert creatures to "worship."

Everyone worships. Judah and Jerusalem were to worship the Lord alone, and to be used by God to bring others into His worship. And whatever parts of the visible church today fail to worship the Lord, by falling into the idolatries of the world, can expect its own lampstand to be removed. The Lord spare us. And may the Lord give us instead to be used of Him to bring others streaming in to worship Him, the Triune God, through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Which are you most tempted to trust in: wealth, power, or manmade religion? How often do you humble yourself before the Lord right now, in this season of life?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You that You have given to us to know You, to be instructed by You, and to walk with You. Forgive us for how often and how much we are like Israel—hoping in our wallets, or hoping in the security of our weapons, or hoping the religious activities that we do. Grant instead that we would be humble before You and trust in You, so that the last day will be for us a day of great exaltation rather than terror. Forgive us, and help us, we pray through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP73C "Yet Constantly, I Am with You" or TPH508 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Isaiah 2, versus 1 through 21. These are God's words. The word that isaiah the son of a moss saw concerning Judah and jerusalem. Now, it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of yahweh's house, shall be established on top of the mountains and she'll be exalted above the hills.

And all nations saw flow to it. Many people shall come and say come, let us go up to the mountain of yahweh. To the house of the god of jacob. He will teach us his ways. And we saw walking his paths. For out of zions, i'll go forth the law.

And the word of yahweh from jerusalem. He so judged between the nations. And review many peoples. They shall beat their swords in the plow chairs. Their spears into pruning looks nations will not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war anymore? Oh, house of jacob come. Let us walk in the light of yahweh.

For you have forsaken, your people, the house of jacob because they are filled with eastern waves. There, seasairs, like the flustens and they are pleased with the children of warners. Their land is also full of silver and gold. There is no end to their treasures. Their land is also follow forces, there's no end.

To their chariots. Clear land is also full of idols. It worship the work of their own handset, which their own fingers have made. People bow down and each man

humbles himself. Therefore, do not forgive them enter into the rock and hide in the dust. From the terror of Yahweh, the glory of his majesty.

The lofty looks at man shall be humbled. The holiness of men shall be bowed down. And the offly alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of y'all may have host, shall come upon everything, proud and lofty. Upon everything lifted up. It shall be brought low. Upon all the cedars of lebanon that are high lifted up upon all the oaks of the shed.

Upon all the high mountains upon, all the hills that are lifted up. On every high tower and upon every fortified wall. On all the ships of tarsus. And upon all the beautiful sloops. The loftiness of man shall be bowed down. The holiness of men shall be brought low, yahweh alone.

Be exalted in that day. But the idols he solderly abolish. They shall go into the holes of the rocks and the caves of the earth. From the terror of yahai and the glory of his majesty. When he arises to shake the earth, mightily, And that day a man will cast away his idols of silver and as idols of gold, which they made.

Each for himself to worship to the moles in the bats. To go into the clefts of the rocks and the cracks of the rugged rocks. From the terror of yahweh. And the glory of his majesty. When he arises to shape the earth. Mightily. So far the reading of god's inspired engineering toward

The lord is exalted, he alone as All praise and glory. Due to him and inherent. To him. You see that several times. In the refrains of the passage whenever there are Refrains or repetitions in the passage, you pay attention because the Lord is, Telling you. One of the great themes of the passage and so verse.

10 from the terror of yahua and the glory of his majesty. Verse 19 from the terror of yahweh and Gloria. His majesty one. He arises to shake the earth mightily. Verse 21. From the terror of y'allah and the glory of gods of his majesty when he arises to shape the earth mically.

And then also, Verse 11, you all the way alone shall be exalted in that day. Verse 17, yahweh alone. Will be exalted in that day. And so, you have this. The greatness of yahua alone as exalted. And a day coming in, which everything that has been lifted up will be Cast down.

And when his people who have been humble, We'll be lifted up. And that's how the chapter starts. Especially in versus, Two, three four, talking about Judah talking about jerusalem as they were designed to be as they were called to be god's people. Because they are his. Because they are taking this his house.

And he selects not a great physical mountain. Like hermen or Maybe from another place of the earth, although the Jews knew nothing of The himalayas, or The alps or the Andes. But he takes his people to be his mountain. He raises his mountain. Above all of the other mountains.

What is man that God is mindful of him, man is This creature, who, Inherently in himself, he's not comfortable to the angels. And yet. God exalts man to the great position of being united to him. Well, despite that exalted condition of being humbled before god. Judah had humbled themselves before anything but Yahweh.

They wanted to have a land full of silver and gold and treasures and horses and chariots. If you read verse 7, the fleshly Burton would read verse 7. I think. Oh wow. God was really blessing them. Except for, if you remembered that. One of the things you're prohibited to do is to multiply horses and chariots and That one that was added to.

What solomon increased in multiplied. It was already. It was already an indication that Solomon was being worldly, more than godly. Even as. This thousand wives and concubines and turn his heart. Away from the lord. As he was quote, unquote, pleased with children of foreigners for six. And so the people who were supposed to be, So exalted in the lord that other people verse 3 would say calm.

Let us go to the mountain of the lord. To the god of jacob. The house of the god of jacob that they would. Um, israel was supposed to be An example of How you may be lowly in every other way, but if you have the Lord, Then you ought to be the envy of the whole world.

They would want to come and be part of you. And say. What other nation is like this that has a god. So near it. Was such commandments and judgments and statutes and so on. And that's what they're supposed to be verse 3. The people that all the other nations said, oh, we've come and we're part of them.

We'll get to draw near to god. We'll get to be taught by god. This word and his ways. And we ought to be like that. Ourselves, most of all. To have been brought near to god and the lord jesus christ. But the lord. Uh, the lord, for circus people verse 6, because they did not.

Walk in his life, verse 5. They were filled with everyone else's ways, instead of everyone else coming and wanting to know the lord. So they humbled themselves before idols, humbled themselves. Uh, before the wisdom of the world, the humbled themselves before the wealth of the world. They humble themselves before the power of the world.

In order to gain what they thought, these false gods would give them. And we're still susceptible to that. To think that. Our life, our being lifted up a comforter phrase, our pleasure. Will come from the things of the world. The lord describes it as a A humbling universe house.

But if we humble ourselves before, Idols. Uh, we haven't seen anything yet as far as being humbled, as concerned. Because god will expose the idols and you will bring down everything that has lifted up. And you see that, Really starting verse. Verse 10. That's the transition. He said each people bow down each man, humbled himself.

Therefore do not forgive them. Like, what i thought the lord is Merciful to the humble. Yeah, but they're not humbling themselves before god. You're humbling themselves before the idols. And then verses 10 following. You describes how god will humiliate? Those who don't humble themselves before. Just like in verse 2.

Are the nations ranging in the king's not verse two guys, diverse psalm 2. Um, nuisance raging in kings and people plotting in van trying to overthrow God and because christ to whom all things belong, but it all belongs to the lord jesus and he's going to shatter them. With the rod of iron.

And so we must humble ourselves before that, we not might not be Devastatingly humiliated after every knee will bow. And every tongue will confess Which jesus christ is lord. So Verse 11, the lofty looks at man shall be humbled to haughtiness of men shall be. About down. And he, The day of your way, verse 12 comes upon everything that is proud and lofty.

Everything that has lifted up, we should not seek to be. Exalted now except in a sense of having the lord and those who And he gives wisdom to desire the same with his team that very highly. But the day of the lord verse 11 to 18, Is coming to destroy everything that has lifted up before you just make yourself a target.

Um, it's like king to the hill except for, there's god. Which makes king of the hill. A very Dreadful. Uh, game to play here thing to do. And so, all of these Um, all these people who have been Exalted in themselves by. Humbling themselves before idols. Will be brought down and the idols themselves will be brought down.

We see in the book of revelation, and Uh, we see here in Isaiah chapter 2, When the lord appears. Those who have rejected him. Will be terrified. Terror of yaha and the glory of his majesty, And they'll try to crawl in the holes and rocks. Remember revelation asking the mountains and the hills to fall upon them.

But they won't be able to take their idols with them. Was a similar. Occurrence, during the Babylonian exile prophesying. Chapter 46 of this book. In which they've got these great big idols of bell and nebo. Uh, but they're so heavy that when the time, they get them loaded into the carts, they're oxen, can't get the carts going.

And here come the Babylon as you're getting closer closer, and still can't get the carts going. And then finally because their idols were too heavy. The oxen, the carts, the people, and their idols all go. Into captivity together. And so there's a little bit of a picture of that year in verse 20, where Um, But got, you know, the people are trying to hide from yahweh in a hole in the rock, which is Itself.

Pretty pathetic. Because what if they're able to make it into the hole that really hidden from the lord? And yet so irrational, are they? And so Uh, terrified. That they finally check their idle away. Because they and their idols cannot fit together in the hole. And the picture at the end of verse 20s.

Hilarious. It's a guy stuck in a really tight hole trying to hide from the lord and the moles and bats running up to and flying up to their idol. And worshiping their the idol. That is Strenocide of the outside of the outside of the hole or the outside of the cave.

Really as pathetic. To live for. Or trust in money or power. Or any of the things that? The world replaces. What's in the place that belongs to the to the living? God. And yet. Since we know that his people have been tempted, To think and trust and value. The way the world has.

Throughout the centuries. We should be. Guarded. Against. Ourselves. Inviting drinking deeply of. To the mindset of the culture. And trust in you and hope again and evaluating and living for The same sorts of things they do. Even if it seems. Your whole life long. Like it really is a position of Of great blessedness quoted quote by convert 7.

Uh, we know that the reality is Than if you don't have the lord as your hope, the lord is your help. The lord is your happiness. You will be humiliated utterly and permanently In the last day and so will all of the things. But you had put in his place.

So, let us Delight in him. Let us depend upon him. Let us be devoted to him.

Our father in heaven will pray that he would help us.

Recognize. Where we are falling into the same, kind of mindset as the world.

And then you would, He would give us to. Trust in you. Delight in you. Be devoted to you. And give us your spirit to do that. We ask in jesus name, amen.