

## **God Will Be Exalted and Man Will Be Brought Low at Last!**

**Scripture: Isaiah 2:6-22 (Focus vv.9,11,17)**

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### **I. Background**

God's vision for His people was recorded "in the Beginning, in Genesis Chapter 1-2. His vision for mankind was to (a) remain in Holy Communion with Him, (b) be fruitful and increase in number, (c) work and take care of nature. God initiated a "Plan of Salvation, after the Fall and has remained faithful to His "Plan", even though the people that He created did not remain faithful to Him. The Israelites over and over, turned their backs and became rebellious. But God continued to send His prophets during the period of Apostasy, to proclaim the prophecy of judgment against them and the idol worshipping nations.

In this chapter we are going to witness God, who has had His fill of man's pride; God, who is determined to re-establish visibly the splendor of His majesty and His rightful exalted position as the Preeminent One. He will not tolerate man's pride forever. There comes a point where the day of man is doomed, and God will have His day. This chapter demonstrate the hope that God gives Judah, but we will see that the Coming Day of the Lord there will be God's judgement against those who have an outward appearance of religion but exalt themselves over God. God's people had been called to a life of holiness; a life of separation; they were to be a peculiar people with a testimony that would bring light to the Gentile nations, yet they were living like the pagan nations around them. (Deut.7:6). They didn't impact their culture for God. They had become corrupted by the world value system around them.

This chapter should cause us to examine our lives, shun pride, and seek to walk in the light of the Lord. The chapter consists of three parts (1) the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (v.1-4); (2) a call to the apostate to repent and heed the word of God (v.5-11); (3) the Day of the Lord (Judgment) (v.12-22)

In verse 5, the people of Judah and Jerusalem received the vision from Isaiah concerning their impending Last Days. He let them know what good things would happen for those who would turn back to God. This verse encourages them to walk in the light of the Lord, but they also will again be reminded of the charge against them.

In this study focusing on Isaiah's declaration of the Day of the Lord, we will see judgment is a refining process in which God helps us to see who He is, who we are, and how we are in desperate need of Him. His goal is to get His people to repent and acknowledge Him as Lord of their lives.

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## **II. The Lesson: God Will Be Exalted and Man Will Be Brought Low at Last**

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### **1. vv. 6-9. The Day of the Lord Rejects Man's Pride**

In chapter 1, God's judgement has against Judah for their rebelliousness, evil, and lack of justice (Isa. 1:2,4,7,21,27). The atmosphere has been one of a people who have lost their way or their identity. In Isa. 2:1-5, the atmosphere shifts to one that shows some hope, joy and excitement. But almost as quickly as they received the positive, the rug was pulled from under them. In verse 6, Isaiah declares God's judgement on Judah again.

Isaiah gives the reasons for God rejecting Judah in Isa. 6-8). They had abandoned the people, the house of Jacob (nation of Israel). They are full of things from the east and of fortune-tellers from the Philistines, and they were too friendly with foreigners (making deals); (Ex. 34:12-16). The "east" refers to nations like Chaldea and Persia. These are nations with foreign gods, with different religious practices such as fortune-telling, witchcraft, and divination. Judah had taken such abominations to the Lord to seek to control their future, apart from the sovereignty of God. They had been influenced by the pagan cultures instead of being salt and light. Lev. 19:26b; Deut. 18:10

Second, God rejects Judah because their land was filled with silver, gold, treasures, and horses and chariots (v.7) (Matt.6:21). They depended on their wealth and military as their source of security and comfort amid a geopolitical struggle with a larger, militant Assyrian empire on their doorstep. It seemed politically expedient and practical to make alliances that would improve their chances of survival, but in God's eyes, this is sin (Deut.17:17). Judah had to be emptied because there was no room for God. Nothing is wrong with material prosperity, but the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil (1Tim.6:10). They had set their heart and value system on pursuing materialistic excesses; no thanksgiving or recognition that the power of God allowed them to gain whatever material blessings they enjoyed (Hos.2:8). This is a perfect time to ask ourselves: what is our source of security and comfort? What dominates our conversations with our friends? What do we look at or think about throughout the day?

Thirdly, God rejects Judah because their land was filled with idols: they bow down to the work of their hands (v.8). They believed the figurines they made by hand had more power than the One who delivered them from Egypt and had made them His chosen people. In verse 9, Isaiah is saying since they have cast aside the Commandments of God and broken the most important one which is Ex.20:3-5 and Deut. 5:6-9, Lord do not forgive them. God's name is Jealous (Ex.34:14). There will come a point in time of no return, and it does not matter what or who you are. Whether you are a person of means or a person of modest means- all are the same before the One who is High and Lifted Up, the Almighty King of all Creation (Ex.:7). The prophet is not commanding God to not to forgive them, but he have seen the way man have exalted themselves. They have lived in worldly glory and showed utter contempt of the glory of the true God. They became infatuated with the pagan cultures; they devoted their energies to self-enrichment and humbled themselves to their idols. Such people cannot expect forgiveness from the Lord, but only judgment (Prov.16:18-19). God must humble them to restore them.

## 2. **vv.10-21. There will be a Day of Judgement**

In verse 10, the idolatrous are urged to enter the rock and hide in the dust in terror of the Lord and from the splendor of His majesty. This call is repeated in Verse 2:19 and 2:21, emphasizing the reality and severity of the impending threat. This is a day which God will bring low all that man prides himself on. In response to God's utter show of strength and man's own humiliation, the people will cast away their idols of silver and gold to the moles and to the bats. They will lose all sense of security in military might and material possessions. We see in the prophets such as Joel that kingdom rise and fall because of the people disobedience and God's judgment. There will be a Day of ultimate final Judgment. 2Peter 3:10, points to a future event and the second coming of Christ. This passage, which we are studying, refers to when Judah is taken over by Babylon and all that was sinful will be dealt with. Yet even this day is only a partial fulfillment, pointing forward to the final day. As we learn about Judah's fall on this side of history, we ought to remember that there remains a final day to come, and rather speculate about when will it happen, we must repent of our idolatry. Today society seeks to build a world without God. It preaches security and stability in self-made and in good governance. But God will disrupt these idols (Is.46:1-2). This is a call for us to cast away our idols that are here today and gone in the blink of an eye. (Heb.10:31). Both idols and idol worshippers cannot stand before the terror of the Lord (Phil.2:8-44). They both will be looking for a place to hide but will not escape. The Lord will make the whole earth tremble. (Rev.6:15-17).

## 3. **v.22. Turn Back to God.**

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Finally, Isaiah admonished them to stop trusting man in whom have breath in their nostrils. Why regard them so highly? Turn to the One who is the Source and Sustainer of all life. Man is formed from dust and given life by God. We must look to the Creator and

not the created. The fear of man is a snare (Prov.29:25) and God's judgment is His way of pulling us out of that snare and calling us to trust Him and put our hope in the Sovereign God. God keeps His promise and is patient (2Pt3:9).

This last verse is indicating to us it is not just the idols Isaiah is chiefly talking about, but Man. Idolatry is the result, not the cause. It is the exaltation of man that results in idolatry. The tendency of human beings to make ourselves the center of all things. It's when they make themselves more important than God and edge Him out of their lives. Idols can't make themselves and can't move on their own.

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### **III. Conclusion**

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Col. 3:1-5 reminds us that our lives are no longer our own, but Christ is our life. Therefore, put to death our idols and pride, and set our minds on things above.

For us the point of no return has not yet passed; the offer of salvation and refuge from the terror of the Lord still exists; God urge us to run to the Rock which is the Lord Jesus; to turn from our pride and arrogance; to stop exalting ourselves and cast all our dependence not on man whose breath is in his nostril, but trust in the Lord Jesus who is coming again to receive His own and to judge those who persist in rebellion. Rev.6:12-17

Stop regarding man who is but dust. God's judgment is not to threaten or to bring fear-based response in us, but it causes us to see with clarity that on the day of God's judgment, some will give thanks that they invested their days in eternal things, while others will find their idols fall apart in their hands.

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