

A Detailed Study of the Last Days from Isaiah 2:4

The last days cover the entire new testament period from the life (Heb 1:2) and death of Christ to His 2nd advent.

Isa 2:2-4 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

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- And he shall judge among the nations,
 - and shall rebuke many people:
 - and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruninghooks:
 - nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 - neither shall they learn war any more. (Micah 4:3 repeats this verse)

Isa 2:4-a He shall judge among the nations:

The prophets predicted the reign of Messiah as Ruler of ALL nations:

Psa 67:1-4 God be merciful unto us, and bless us;
and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah.

2 That thy way may be known upon earth,
thy saving health among all nations.

3 Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

4 O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

Jesus Christ came to earth as King (Matt 2:2, Luke 1:31-33). He was recognized as King (Luke 19:38, 23:3,38; John 1:49, 12:13, 18:37, 19:14, 19). Now Jesus Christ the King sits on David's throne (Acts 2:30) at the right hand of the Father (1 Pet 3:22) - as Sovereign Judge over the nations:

Jer 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. (Isa 11:1-5, 53:2; Jer 33:14-15, 31:31-18; Amos 9:11; Zech 3:8, 9:9)

That is when the tabernacle of David was rebuilt (Amos 9:11, Acts 15:15-17) with Jesus as the chief corner stone (Psa 118:22, Isa 28:16, Matt 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11, Eph 2:20, 1 Pet 2:6-7):

Zech 6:12-13 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, **Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH;** and he shall grow up out of his place, and **he shall build the temple of the LORD:**

13 **Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne;** and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and **the counsel of peace shall be between them both.**

The saints, which are the church are the holy temple of the LORD. It is not now, nor will it ever be, a literal, physical temple in earthly Jerusalem:

Eph 2:21-22 In whom (Jesus Christ) all the building fitly framed together **groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:**

22 In whom ye also are **builded together for an habitation of God** through the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Executing judgment in the earth is the rule of Christ over all nations in the millennial reign, which is the New Testament period. His servants advance His kingdom among all nations through the gospel of Christ:

Rev 20:3-4 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.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and **judgment was given unto them:** and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and **reigned with Christ** a thousand years.

Those who are redeemed to God by Christ's blood out of every kindred, tongue, people, and nation serve Him faithfully in His kingdom:

Rev 1:5-6 And from **Jesus Christ**, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and **the prince of the kings of the earth**. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And **hath made us kings and priests** unto God and his Father; (Rev 5:9-10, Exo 19:6) to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Christ already brought judgment against Satan to cast him out as ruler to deprive him of the power he had so that now the gospel will go to all nations, and they will be made righteous. This is not a 'future' event:

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world:
now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

By Jesus' death on the cross (Heb 2:14) He confirmed the covenant and disarmed and bound Satan not in literal prison, but in spiritual captivity:

Col 2:15 And having spoiled (Matt 12:29, Mark 3:27) principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Christ's kingdom is empowered by the Spirit and advanced so that the gates of hell cannot prevail against His church (Matt 16:18) being built:

Matt 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and **he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles**.

Isa 2:4-b **He shall rebuke many people:**

The word 'rebuke' means to 'make right', as to 'reprove' or 'justify'. It is how God brings those He loves into lawful subjection to His righteous rule. God's 'correction' is not to our shame, but to our revelation so we will acknowledge our sins, repent, and turn to him as we grow in grace.

God corrects His children in love but His enemies in fury and wrath:

Jer 10:24 O LORD, correct me, but with judgment;
not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

Obedience may be learned by the things which are suffered (Heb 5:8).

Loving correction is '**discipline**' for '**disciples**' that they may learn:

Prov 3:12 For **whom the LORD loveth he correcteth;**
even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

The purpose of rebuke is to bring about a fervent, earnest change of mind:

Rev 3:19 **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:**
be zealous therefore, and repent.

The children of disobedience walk according to the course of this world and the evil spirit (Eph 2:2). They have a haughty attitude and will not humbly receive chastening. They lack the reverential fear of God. They despise those who correct them. But a smart man appreciates direction:

Prov 9:8 Reprove (Hebrew <yakach>) not a scorner, lest he hate thee:
rebuke (Hebrew <yakach>) a wise man, and he will love thee.

The servants of God who have been made kings and priests in His kingdom are to rebuke with much patience and Bible teaching so that God's house may be clean by repentance unto godly living:

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, **rebuke,** (Titus 1:13, 2:15) exhort **with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

God designed for His 'elect' to live a sanctified life and obey His word:

1 Peter 1:2 **Elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, **unto obedience** and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

The Greek word <elegcho> translated 'reprove' (6 times) is also translated 'rebuke' (5 times). So He 'shall rebuke many people' (Isa 2:4b) is the same meaning as 'He will reprove the world'. He convicts the people of all the nations of their sin, and convinces them to repent and be forgiven:

John 16:7-11 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

The next phrase in Isa 2:4 is abstract language. It represents the nations 'ceasing from warfare' against God when Christ rebukes them:

Isa 2:4-c They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks:

This prophecy symbolizes that the people will go from waging war to peaceful farming of cultivating and harvesting crops. Through this imagery God is declaring that instead of the nations warring against Him, they will change their profession to being workers in His fields. They are pictured as caring for the plantings of the field just like Christ taught in parables:

Matt 20:1-2 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

2 And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

The labourers of the kingdom don't use swords, but gardening tools to plant (evangelize), cultivate (teach), and prune (reprove and rebuke):

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. (Matt 9:37-38)

We are to be His workers and sow the seed (the word of God, Luke 18:11):

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; (the field is the world, Matt 13:38) for they are white already to harvest.

In the context, planting and watering is the work of farmers not soldiers:

1 Cor 3:9 For we are labourers together with God:
ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

God's people are called 'trees of righteousness' (Isa 61:3), as Jesus said in Luke 4:18-21 that Isa 61:1-2 was fulfilled that day by Him:

Isa 60:21 Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

In the 'season' of the new testament 'harvest' by Christ's blood now all nations are included not just Israel anymore:

Rom 11:17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

Many people are looking for a day on earth when no nation will ever lift up sword or weapon against another nation. But the truth is, they look in vain. 'That day' will not come on 'this' earth. Our hope is that we look for a 'new' earth wherein dwells righteousness (2 Pet 3:13, Isa 65:17).

Isa 2:4-d Nation shall not lift up sword against nation:

Two nations have been at enmity with each other for a very long time.
It is the **epic spiritual battle** of the Gentiles against God's holy nation.

God taught this principle in an allegory when He told Isaac's wife Rebekah:

Gen 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, **Two nations** are in thy womb, and **two manner of people** shall be separated from thy bowels; and **the one people** shall be stronger than **the other people;** and the elder shall serve the younger.

God loved Jacob, (also Mal 1:2-3)

who represented the kingdom of God and the nation Israel

but God hated Esau,

who represented the kingdom of Satan and the nations of the world:

Rom 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

The prophecy was that Christ would come and 'spoil' Satan's kingdom (Isa 49:24-25, 42:22, 53:12) by conquering him (Heb 2:14, Col 2:15) and delivering the lawful captives. First, Christ had to bind Satan (Rev 20:1-3, Matt 12:24-30), then He could free his prisoners and He did!

Ezek 37:22 And **I will make them one nation** in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and **one king shall be king to them all;**
and they shall be no more two nations,
neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

Now they are one 'spiritual' holy nation joined together in one body:

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **an holy nation,** a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Jesus brought peace to the nations by having them join Him in communion and covenant with the commonwealth of the nation Israel (Eph 2:11-13):

Eph 2:14-17 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. (Isa 57:19-21)

Isa 2:4-e **Neither shall they learn war any more:**

The fleshly mind rejects God and His law and the end result is death:

Rom 8:6-7 For to be carnally minded is death;
but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God:
for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

We are no longer at war as enemies of God. Now we are at peace with Him:

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Our peace from war is 'with' and 'in' God --- not 'with' or 'in' the world:

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Isaiah's prophesied of Christ coming into the world as **Reconciler** Who would remove the violation of law that sin had made, even as Paul testified:

2 Cor 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (Rom 11:15, John 3:16)

Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5)

Who ended the war and brought reconciliation:

Col 1:20-21 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, (also Isa 32:17, 57:19-21) by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

Isaiah's prophecies were of Christ's 1st coming - not His 2nd appearing (Heb 9:28), as the new testament gospel was expanded to include the Gentiles:

Isa 40:1-3 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned:
for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Mark 1:1-3)

Now we preach the gospel of peace (Eph 6:15, Rom 10:15, Isa 52:7, Nahum 1:15) to all nations who will only be truly 'UNITED' in Christ:

Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the children of God.

There will not be a 'golden age' of universal peace on earth for 1,000 years. The imagery of warfare ending and peace among nations is one that signifies the establishment of Christ's kingdom here and now in our hearts where there is TRUE peace and safety God's TRUE building and planting and His TRUE deliverance of the nations. It is the calling of the Gentiles and the spread of God's kingdom to all the earth.

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"
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