

**CALVARY PANDAN  
BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**DHW BIBLE CLASS**

**LESSON 2**

**ISAIAH**

**CHAPTER 2**

**Theme: “The LORD Alone Shall be Exalted!”**

**THEME VERSE**

**Isaiah 2:4-5** (KJV) “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. 5 O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.”

**INTRODUCTION**

The wrath of men knows no bound today. No matter how much the LORD has demonstrated His power through His creation, man continues to elevate himself towards his own destruction. There is no fear of God in man. With improvement in medical science, man lives longer today than 100 years ago. The advancement of technology has improved life and shrunk the world into a global village where man can communicate and control others at will. Weapons of war have risen to gargantuan proportions that boggle the mind where the press

of one tiny button could destroy the world, as we know it! These advancements had driven man further and further away from God than ever before. Man is full of pride and self.

The LORD who is also the Creator of this world and universe will not tolerate or allow man to go on sinning. He is heading towards total self-destruction and refuses to believe it even when the universal evidence screams to be heard that man might be warned. However, sinful man is either in a drunken stupor and cannot see or he is so deeply caught up with self-delusion that even the fires of Hell do not frighten him! How much more when the sins came from Judah, the only spiritual nation that the LORD has placed on this earth to shine forth God’s grace and mercies. Instead, Judah was in the darkness of sin and shame!

Judah and Jerusalem were the targets of this word from the LORD through Isaiah. Judah has a duty to witness to the world and she had failed miserably by her idolatry and sinful ways. The LORD will not stand for this. Judah must humble herself and return to the LORD. This was the only way. No matter how man might promote himself, the LORD will ultimately prevail. He alone will be exalted above all the earth!

**OUTLINE**

1. A Glimpse of the Millennial Rule (vv.1-5);
2. Sins of Judah Listed (vv. 6-9);

3. The Day of the LORD upon the Lofty (vv. 10-16);
4. The Loftiness of Man Bows Down (vv. 17-22);

### COMMENTARY

#### A Glimpse of the Millennial Rule

##### — 2:1-5

Verse 1 describes the recipient of this prophecy. The word of the LORD came through Isaiah to Judah and Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah. Jerusalem was the political and spiritual capital of Judah. This means that the message was for both the political leaders and priests. The first point to note is that this prophecy was to turn Judah's attention to the time of the millennium. The phrase used here to describe the millennium is "the last days." In this period of the last days, the LORD Jesus Christ will reign on earth. The kingdom of Christ or the capital city of Jerusalem, is described as the mountain of the LORD's house. It will be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills. The rule of Christ will be on the highest point on earth. All nations will flow into it. This means that all nations will have to come and make their pilgrimage into this capital city of Christ!

Many people will come 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. **4** 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. **5** O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD." (vv.3-5)

The one consuming thought of the people in the millennium will be to go to Jerusalem where Christ will rule. They will want to listen to God's Word! Christ will teach and the people will walk in God's ways. Obedience of the Word of God will be a universal delight! There will be only one national identity and that is Christ's kingdom! What will come out of Zion will be the very Word of God and the law of God. This will have to be the Ten Commandments, which is the eternal and unchanging moral Law!

Christ will judge the nations. The word "nations" is used here to describe the many different nationalities that will enter the millennium as believers. He shall rebuke many people. If only believers would to enter the millennium, then why will Christ have to rebuke many during the millennium? The believers who enter the millennium with the glorified body will never sin and will not be able to procreate. However, there will be believers who enter the millennium, such as the 144,000 Israelites (see Revelations 13), with the mortal bodies that would still be able to sin and procreate. These are the ones who will have children and their children will have more children. The sinful nature will still exist in their

mortal bodies. Some of these people, who have the mortal bodies, will rebel or perform their duties by going to Zion with a rebellious heart. The LORD knows every heart. Christ will rebuke these ones! No matter how rebellious they will be, they will not be allowed to build weapons of war to bring war or fight against Christ!

Here Isaiah called Judah the house of Jacob, depicting Judah as rebellious. The old name of Israel was Jacob, which means “usurper.” The call to wayward Judah was to return to the LORD and walk in the light of the LORD. The message of the millennium was one of glorious hope. Israel will remain as a nation in the millennium when Christ will rule on earth whereas all other nations of the world will cease to exist! What a tremendous encouragement to know that one’s own nation will be the only nation that will remain on earth and Christ rules in it as well!

#### **Sins of Judah Listed — 2:6-9**

What were the sins that Judah had committed against the LORD that He had to send Isaiah to bring them back unto Himself? At that point in time, because of Judah’s state of sin, the Bible reveals that the LORD had forsaken the Jews, the house of Jacob! “Hast forsaken” does not mean that the relationship has since been broken whereby Judah has ceased to become the people of God and they are now regarded as Gentiles! What has happened is that the LORD will not come to help Judah when she is in trouble. The fellowship is broken rather than the relationship! It is just like a

father refusing to speak to the son unless the son repents of his sin. Psalm 66:18 teaches this truth clearly when it says, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*.”

Judah sought help from the east instead of seeking help from the LORD. Gentile nations could make alliances to fortify their economy and military might, but not Judah. Judah was a spiritual nation that must look only to the LORD her God for help in every area of her existence. To turn eastward for help was to slap God in the face! It was as good as saying that the LORD was not able to help or His help was insufficient and He would need help from heathen nations with their idolatrous gods. This was an insult to the LORD. These eastern helpers were no better than the western neighbours of Judah, the Philistines! They were also soothsayers who practised the art of black magic such as necromancy! Judah pleased herself in their fellowship with strangers instead of trusting in their familiar God who was with Judah since the LORD brought her out of Egypt!

There was no shortage of wealth in Judah despite their departure from the LORD. Judah enjoyed prosperity because of her alliances with her eastern neighbours. Sinful man is bright enough and endowed by God with sufficient intelligence to live well on this earth! Therefore, the land of Judah had plenty of gold and silver, horses and chariots! The Gentile nations measured success based on these “precious” commodities and felt

good about life. Judah had become like the nations around her because she had measured herself with the materialistic yardstick of these nations.

The root cause of their sinful materialistic symptoms is idolatry. The Bible said that Judah was full of them. This means that idols could be found all over Judah. Judah worshipped the works of their own hands! To emphasise this fact, Isaiah added that phrase, “that which their own fingers have made.” This means that they were made delicately and deliberately. These idols probably looked very beautiful. The Jews carefully manufactured them solely for the purpose of worship. Judah had no excuse for the sin of idolatry that resulted in the family of many sins!

The “mean man” simply means “human being”; he bows down to these idols and the great man humbles himself before these idols! The word for mean man is “adam.” Adam was made the head of God’s creation when God gave to man dominion over all His creation (Genesis 1:26-28). Ironically, man now makes for himself idols and bows down to that which he has been given dominion over! These idols are made out of inanimate material that is void of all life. Yet, man like the first Adam bows down to it! How far has man fallen in the order of things! Man pays homage to an object of his own making and then calls it God and humbles himself before it! This is a clear example of the total depravity in all men.

Judah had fallen into a very sad spiritual state.

### **The Day of the LORD Upon the Lofty — 2:10-16**

If Judah had repented, forgiveness would have come from God as swiftly as lightning! If there were no repentance and this would result in stubbornness in sin, Judah must be prepared to face the wrath of God! Isaiah mocked Judah and told her to run and hide in the rocks and in the dust because of their fear of the LORD! The glory of the majesty of the LORD is awe-inspiring as it takes no nonsense from sinful man. Sinners cannot stand before God and live! Remember when the soldiers who came to arrest Christ asked for Christ and when Christ said, “I am” they all bowed before Him. Man has nowhere to hide. Futile attempts to hide from the all-knowing God is like hiding from the rays of the sun while standing in the middle of an open field!

Man’s pride will be dashed to pieces. His lofty looks shall be humbled where he will have to cast his eyes downwards and his head bowed low. His haughtiness will be brought low. Robbing God of His glory has been man’s obsession since the “Fall”. One of the ways is to will God out of existence by erasing Him from our mind through false teaching such as that of the theory of evolution. It is easier for man to will the sun out of existence than God! Judah had all the revelations from the LORD in the midst of her and yet she attributed all her wealth, might and power, and existence to self and her brilliant alliance with her neighbours! However, the LORD alone will be exalted in that

day! Man has nothing and will have nothing that he can boast of outside of Christ!

The day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon everyone that is proud and lofty. All of these high and mighty men will be brought low by the LORD! Immediately after these words were spoken, Isaiah illustrates or rather compares man with God's creation. "And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, *that are* high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, **14** And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills *that are* lifted up, **15** And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, **16** And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures."

Cedars are enormous trees found in Lebanon. It is said that their girth is between 30 to 40 feet in circumference. They are so tall that it appears to touch the sky if one were to stand at the foot of one of these trees and look up! They are majestic and are sought after by many for construction purposes such as building of columns and beams and King Solomon used plenty of such timber. This is also true regarding the oak of Bashan. Furthermore, trees do not stop growing. Their majestic height and long life attest to their magnificence. What is man compared to these great trees found in Lebanon and Bashan! The LORD will also cut down and destroy these great trees!

All the high mountains and hills have the appearance of eternity because of their permanence. Generations come and go but these

mountains and hills remain! They are landmarks that pepper the landscape of the Promised Land since the time of Abraham and even before Israel existed! The LORD will destroy them in that day too! Every tall tower and fenced wall refers to the buildings of man's hands. Man has always taken pride in their constructions from the seven wonders of the ancient world to the present! Man boasts of his own safety and security because of his manmade walls and tall towers that would allow them to detect advancing enemies who intend to attack his fortified cities! The LORD says that these will also be brought low for there is no safety in walls and high towers when the day of the LORD comes! Man has nowhere to hide from the wrath of the LORD!

The "ships of Tarshish" was a common phrase used in the OT to depict large and secure ships from a distant city where tradesmen brought spices, precious stones and metal and exotic animals into Judah for business. The phrase "pleasant picture" means that they presented pictures of desire where many lust to possess these rare and precious products brought by these ships of Tarshish. It is very much like the so-called designer goods that many long to own and pay thousands to wear and show off to the world that they are the elite of the elites! These rare items were sought after by many as articles of importance and great distinction in the society of the rich and famous! The LORD will destroy these false honours that are determined by one's possession on that day!

On that day, The Lord will surely destroy man with all his surroundings and the things that his hands have created! There is no escape for these proud, sinful and foolish Jews!

**The Loftiness of Man Bows Down  
— 2:17-22**

The LORD sealed the certainty of the destruction of the high and haughty by repeating what He had declared in verse 11. He restated it again in verse 17. There can be only one final and eternal conclusion in the scheme of man's existence and that is all men will be humbled by the LORD and the LORD alone will be highly exalted even above all the earth! The idols will be utterly abolished and will be seen no more! As far as God is concerned, He is the only true and living God. All other claims are false as the idols are the works of man's hands. They have eyes but they cannot see. They have ears but they cannot hear. They have mouth but they cannot speak! They have hands but they cannot help. They have feet but they cannot move!

Sinful idolatrous men will run and hide from the wrath of the LORD to come! They will hide in the holes of the rocks and caves of the earth, which are exactly what many nations today have built into their mountains for their leaders and important citizens to hide in. The fear of the LORD and the glory of His majesty will reduce these proud men into cowering frightened fools. The LORD will rise and shake the earth terribly i.e. fiercely.

On that day of wrath, idolatrous man will cast down his idols of silver

and gold when they realise, to their shame and horror, that they are useless and of no help. They had been worshipped but no more! They will be thrown to the moles and bats. These refer to burying them into the ground or thrown into deep holes and caves where bats live. Once again, man will hide in clefts of rocks and tops of ragged rock believing that their inaccessibility to man will also be inaccessible to the LORD! Foolish man must learn that he can never hide from the omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent God who is also the LORD God of Judah and all believers!

The final word in this chapter of Isaiah is placed in a rhetorical fashion. With imperatival command, Isaiah declared to all mankind to stop trusting in man or himself for his life's breath is in his nostril! This is how frail and weak he is and so are all his teachings and work! The phrase, "for wherein is he to be accounted of" means "Why is he to be esteemed?" Why is man so foolishly esteeming one another? Can man ever be anything without the LORD? He is nothing without God!

**PRACTICAL VALUE**

Sin of pride – Out of the three sins in the Bible, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, it is the sin of the pride of life that is most deadly. Man has always been plagued by this sin. He is reduced to a state of drunken stupor where he sincerely thinks that he is very clever and smart! The sin of pride has prevented millions from seeing the errors of their ways and they have died

head first, into the depths of Hell. Without first seeing the errors of their ways, they do not believe that they have sinned against God. Since they believe that they have not sinned, they do not see the need to repent of their sins. They will remain in a state of condemnation as long as their sin remains. When they die in this state of sin, without the saviour as their Mediator between God and them, there is only one judgement and that is to be consigned to the depths of Hell where there is wailing and gnashing of teeth!

Wealth equals success – The world measures success by the size of their bank account. The more they have, the more successful they would consider themselves.. They trust in their wealth to give them security and peace of mind in this life. They have arrived and they can now weather the storms of life without God, for they have their own god called mammon. Judah had embraced this philosophy to her own destruction.

The carnage left behind by this philosophy would be a destroyed testimony of God's grace and mercy. The world that looked at Judah finds a mirror image of herself, void of any truth and God's glory! Judah was to testify of the LORD's goodness and mercies to a world in darkness and sin. Instead, Judah had become like that world of darkness. Judah had become darker than the rest of the world simply because she was given the truth and God's light, the very word of God and she bears the name of God.

Many local churches today are like the Judah of old. They mirror the world so much so that the darkness they project is not the light of Christ but the light of the world that brings forth deception and death!

Hiding from God – Sinful man hides behind their wealth for protection and safety. However, the wrath of the LORD, that will soon come, will render the protection they had been enjoying to be no better than using cellophane paper to stop the sweeping destruction of a Tsunami. Outside Christ, there will not be any hiding place on earth that can shield man from the wrath of God because of their sin.

The day of the LORD will probably shock many. Many think that the day of the LORD will be a day of victory and great rejoicing. However, the words of Christ rings very true today: **Matthew 7:21-23** (KJV) "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Man must now hide in Christ to be delivered from the wrath of God. There is no other way! False Christs abound today. Sinners have been deluded into thinking that they are saved but in fact are not. There is no safety in health and wealth which is the gospel preached by many Charismatic

pastors today! This is a deadly game of materialism that will destroy the greedy ones, as well as those desperate sinners who sincerely seek help but instead, are given a spiritual placebo.

Are you longing for the millennium? – The millennium is our rule on earth for a thousand years with Christ. This is paradise lost, regained by the LORD, when He returns in power and glory! As Christians, this world is not our home. We are strangers and sojourners on our way to heaven. This life is a life of service unto the LORD for the blessing of others. We are not to live for self.

Self-gratification must be replaced by self-sacrifice for the sake of Christ! This is the way of service for every believer until the day of the LORD comes. Any injustice we faced today, must be seen in the light of this hope. Self-pity is not the way of faith and trust in a sovereign God who always gives the very best to His children. Looking for our eternal home gives us the focus to recognise temptations and to flee from them. The world will try to lure us away from the life of faith by way of persecution or seduction. However, the Christian must remain steadfast and unmoved. He is bound for heaven and in God’s time He will come to take us all home to be with Him. AMEN.

**DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Daily Readings**

**MONDAY:** Isaiah 2:1-9;

**TUESDAY:** Isaiah 2:10-22;

**WEDNESDAY:** Isaiah 2:1-22;

**THURSDAY:** Isaiah 2:1-22;

**FRIDAY:** Isaiah 2:1-22.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What is the millennium to you? Do you see this revelation as a blessed hope?

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2. Are there other passages in the Bible that describe the millennium?

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3. Should Christians turn to unbelievers for help? Will it appear that God is weak if we ask others for assistance?

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4. Do you find confidence in silver and gold (economic growth), horses and chariots (military strength)? What or whom do you lean on the most for peace of mind? Can this "leaning" be measured?

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6. Are there idols in your life? If I do not attend church because of my children's exam, can I say that my children are my idols? Can you cite an example where an idol is often not perceived as an idol until it is too late?

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5. Can God forgive if there is no repentance? How do you explain what Christ prayed on the cross when He asked the Father to forgive them for they knew not what they were doing (see Luke 23:34)?

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7. Is the day of the LORD always used as a reference to the Second coming of Christ?

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8. Is the day of the LORD a happy day for all? Explain your answer.

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11. What positive steps can be taken to ensure that CPBPC will not go the way of rebellious Judah?

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9. Why do men like to trust in man and in the accomplishments of man? Is it wrong to trust in man?

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12. What lessons can you learn from this chapter about God and about yourself?

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10. How is the fear of God to be interpreted here in Isaiah 2? Does it mean to be afraid because of sin or is it reverential fear where sin is absent?

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