

EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #5

Isaiah 2:1-5

Just this past week some people from this church were discussing what church ought to be with a couple who went to another church. They said the reason they liked their church was because of the rock band music, the high fives and because it was fun. The people from our church responded and said is that why you go to that church, what about the Word of God? They said the church should be about carefully going through the Word of God. The people responded, what a novel idea to just go straight through a book of the Bible. These people had never heard of it.

Let me make something very clear from this text in Isaiah; there will come a day when the only reason people will go to the ultimate place of worship, the Temple in Jerusalem, will be to hear the Word of God. They will not go to be entertained. They will not go to have fun. They will go to be taught God's Word. That is exactly what Isaiah saw in this vision.

Now Isaiah had just given a stinging rebuke to Judah and Jerusalem by telling them that their religion was nothing but a sham religion (1:10-15). But now, this courageous prophet, the son of Amoz (2:1), saw amazing grace. He saw a time when Jerusalem was the central place of reverent worship in all the world. He saw a time when people from all nations would travel to Jerusalem to be taught the Word of God at the "house of the LORD." The main point that is stressed here is this:

ISAIAH SAW A VISION OF THE LAST DAYS IN WHICH THE WORD OF GOD WAS BEING TAUGHT IN THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM BY GOD HIMSELF AND PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WERE TRAVELING THERE TO BE TAUGHT AND IN VIEW OF THIS, GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD PRESENTLY WANT TO ACCURATELY KNOW THE WORD OF GOD SO THEY MAY WALK IN THE LIGHT OF IT.

This is exactly what Isaiah says in **Isaiah 2:1-5**. Now the vision that Isaiah is given by God starts in **chapter 2** and runs through chapter 5. This opening part of this vision was precisely revealed to Micah (4:1-5). What you are about to see is a "last days" vision. Isaiah begins **verse 2** by saying, "It will come about." This will really happen. I truly believe that the events described here are very, very near.

Now you will notice from **verses 1-3** that the central city of worship is in Jerusalem and the place in the city where the worship is to take place is "the house of the LORD", "the house of the God of Jacob."

It is clearly and specifically predicted in both the O.T. and the N.T. that the Temple is going to be rebuilt and standing in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-3; Ezekiel 37:26-28; 40:3, 5ff-48; Daniel 9:27; Micah 4:1-2; Haggai 2:7-9; Zechariah 6:12-15; 14:20; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14; II Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 11:1-2). That 35 acres of land, which comprise a rectangular platform in East Jerusalem is undoubtedly the most sought out acreage on the face of this earth because this is the place where God's worship house is going to be built. Isaiah saw it. **At the time Isaiah saw this vision, the Temple was standing in Jerusalem, but today it is not.**

So what I would like to do is to take you on a journey concerning the Temple in Jerusalem in connection with this prophecy in Isaiah, which I believe is very near to being rebuilt right now. I will ask and answer three questions:

QUESTION #1 – What is the history of the Temple of Jerusalem?

There are ten historical facts I want to bring out to your attention about the Temple in Jerusalem:

Fact #1 - In 996 B.C., King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel and moved the ark of the covenant to a place near the Temple site (II Samuel 5:6-12; 6:1-17; I Chronicles 11:4-9; 15:1-16:38).

Fact #2 - In 993 B.C., King David desired to build the Temple of God in Jerusalem, but was informed by God that his son, Solomon, would build the Temple (II Samuel 7:1-13; I Chronicles 17:1-14). You love David's heart - he wanted to build a beautiful new Temple where God could be worshipped.

Fact #3 - In 990 B.C., King David purchased the property for the first Temple site, which means Israel does legally own the land (II Samuel 24:18-25; I Chronicles 21:18-26). David paid 600 shekels of gold for the property (I Chronicles 21:25), which is about 240 ounces or 15 pounds of gold. What this means is that Israel literally and legally does own this land.

Fact #4 - In 960 B.C., King David made complete preparations for the building of the Temple, prior to his death so his son could complete the project (I Chronicles 22:14, 19).

Fact #5 - In 950 B.C., King Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem (I Kings 5-8). He followed through on exactly what his father wanted him to do.

Fact #6 - In 586 B.C., King Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king, invaded Jerusalem for the third time and destroyed the Temple, via the Chaldeans who were servants of Nebuchadnezzar (II Kings 25:8-10; II Chronicles 36:10, 14-20; Jeremiah 18:5-12; 39:1-10). This occurred about 100 years after Isaiah was dead, and the reason why God allowed the Temple to be destroyed was because of Israel's disobedience to God's Word (Jeremiah 24:2-3, 17; 35:15).

Fact #7 - In 515 B.C. King Darius, the King of Persia, in harmony with a decree made by his forefather, King Cyrus, allowed Zerubbabel, a descendant of King David, to rebuild the Temple, thus establishing the second Temple in Jerusalem. This occurred during the days of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Fact #8 - In 20 B.C., King Herod (Herod the Great) oversaw a project to refurbish and expand the second Temple, due to destruction which had been caused primarily by Antiochus Epiphanes in 169-167 B.C. This was the Syrian monster who slaughtered a pig on the altar. The critical part of this reconstruction took 46 years until about A.D. 27 (John 2:20); however the work of the Temple complex continued until about the year A.D. 63 (Matthew 24:1; Mark 13:1; Luke 21:5).

Fact #9 - In 29 A.D., Jesus Christ predicted that the second Temple would be destroyed .
(Matthew 23:37-24:2; Mark 13:2; Luke 21:6, 20-24).

Fact #10 - In 70 A.D. Titus , the Roman general and son of Vespasian, literally and completely destroyed the second Temple. This was just 40 years after Christ's prediction and to this very day a third temple has not been rebuilt. The only thing left of Temple #2 is the western wall and some tunnels which have been discovered underground.

Now when Isaiah saw his vision, he saw the Temple of God in existence and he saw the entire world wanting to go to it to worship. This has never happened anywhere in history. So we may expect that before any of this happens, the Temple must be rebuilt and it is our contention based on certain contemporary events that the construction process is very near. Two Temples have been destroyed and a third must be built.

QUESTION #2 – What are the indications that the rebuilding of the third Temple is near?

Now the third Temple is not the same as the final New Jerusalem which will be built after the millennium by Jesus Christ (Revelation 21:10-27).

There are some very important events that have occurred in our lifetime and within the last years there are 16 events that would suggest we are on the verge of some major prophetic fulfillments:

Event #1 - On June 8, 1967, during the “Six-Day War”, the Israelis recaptured the Temple area. Shortly after the capture, a team of Jewish scholars carefully measured the dimensions of the spot where the Temple is to be located.

Event #2 - On February 29, 1968, the original entrance to the Temple was discovered and tunnels used by the Temple priests were found.

Event #3 - On October 16, 1989, two priests dressed in priestly garments attempted to lay the cornerstone for the third temple, but are stopped due to protests. On the same day, Time Magazine, ran an article which describes current preparations for rebuilding the third Temple, titled, “Time for a New Temple.” In this article, two rabbis told Time that the third Temple could not be rebuilt until they could complete the sacrifice that would offer the ashes of a red heifer (Numbers 19:2).

Event #4 - On October 8, 1990, twenty thousand Jews assembled to lay the cornerstone of the Temple a second time and are prevented by Arab protest.

Event #5 - On September 24, 1991, many Jews gathered for a third time to lay the cornerstone for the Temple and again are prevented by Arab protest.

Event #6 - On March 1992, the exact location of the Temple is discovered by Temple Mount excavations, indicating the time for rebuilding the Temple is very near.

Event #7 - On February 11, 1996, “The Temple Mount” and “The Land of Israel Faithful Movement” conducted an international poll of Israelis of all ages to determine how many Jewish people all over the world are in favor of rebuilding the Temple and the results indicate that nearly 60 percent are ready to rebuild right now.

Event #8 - Beginning in 1997, more Jews have migrated to Jerusalem than ever before in history. The majority of them have come from the United States where Jews feel safe.

Event #9 - In the last years detailed blueprints for the third Temple have been drawn by a team of rabbinical researchers and designers and craftsmen, under the direction of Rabbi Yisrael Ariel. These blueprints have been computerized and computer visualizations of a third Temple have been produced. It is estimated that this Temple could be completely built in 1½ to 2 years.

Event #10 - In March 1997, Yassar Arafat was shown in a photograph which was distributed internationally by the Associated Press, holding up an artist’s concept of the rebuilt Temple and he told his people to “get ready for the next battle.”

Event #11 - In 1997, a red heifer was born in Israel for the first time in 2000 years. Ashes from a red heifer are needed for Temple worship (Numbers 19). Furthermore, other red heifers have been secured from Clyde Lott, a rancher from Mississippi. These heifers have been approved by Israeli authorities.

Event #12 - In the late 1990s, Israeli divers discovered a hillazon snail in the Red Sea that produces from its glands a rich blue color that meets the exact color requirements for the priestly garments (Exodus 28:31).

Event #13 - It has recently been discovered that Jewish men who claim to be descendants of Aaron the priestly line for Temple ministry, carry an aberration of the “Y” chromosome, which now makes it possible to separate and identify this group by a DNA trace. It is now possible to genetically establish the ancestry of the priestly line needed for Temple worship.

Event #14 - On October 13, 2004 a special ordination took place that ordained a new Sanhedrin of 71 of the most respected rabbis in Israel. This group will specifically oversee the rebuilding of the Temple.

Event #15 - On January 20, 2005, this new Sanhedrin specifically met to discuss the rebuilding of the third Temple.

Event #16 - In Qumran Cave #11, a clay vessel was found that contained oil that had solidified into a gelatin substance like molasses. It was wrapped in palm leaves and buried three feet deep in the ground. A scientific analysis of the contents reveals that it precisely matches the formula given by God to Moses in Exodus 30:23-26, 30-31. This oil is critical to the anointing of the Messiah in the Temple (Daniel 9:24). Two rabbis now have this in their possession and stand ready for Temple service.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these things are not coincidental. The Temple Isaiah saw is about to be built, which means, this Church Age is just about over.

QUESTION #3 – What exactly did Isaiah see in **Isaiah 2:1-4**?

There are three main things Isaiah saw:

SIGHT #1 - Isaiah saw the mountain, where the house of the LORD stands, is established as the chief place of the entire world. **2:2a**

The Hebrew “will be established” indicates the Temple is already in existence and will be put right and fixed securely (Brown, Driver, Briggs, *Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 455-456).

The “mountain” refers metaphorically to the chief place of world government and literally to the mountain on which the Temple sits.

SIGHT #2 - Isaiah saw that all the nations stream to Jerusalem to be taught the Word of God. **2:2b-3**

There will not be one person in this world who will go to worship for any other reason other than being taught the Word of God. People will so want to be taught the Word of God that they will travel to Jerusalem to hear Jesus Christ teach it.

Truth is, people today stream into the United States from all over the world to go to college. Well, things will change and one day people will stream to Jerusalem to be taught the Bible, by God Himself, who is Jesus Christ. **You are never more in tune with real worship and Biblical than when you go to church to be taught the Word of God.** Isaiah saw the time when all people in the world would have that passion.

SIGHT #3 - Isaiah saw Jesus Christ judge between nations . **2:4**

The judgment of the nations is described in Matthew 25:31-46. **The primary point of judgment will be how nations treated Israel.** The way a nation treats Israel is critical to how they will be judged by Jesus Christ.

Now we may notice that at the end of **verse 4**, the result of this judgment is that never again will a nation be at war, and I want you to specifically notice what they were using for weapons - swords, spears and they turn them into farming implements like plowshares and pruning hooks. During the Tribulation, which precedes this judgment, God is going to level proud, arrogant man and things on earth are going to become very primitive.

The high tech weaponry, God will destroy and men will be forced to travel by foot or horse and will be using very primitive weapons. At the judgment of the nations, they will turn their lousy weapons in and never again will there be war.

Now in **verse 5**, Isaiah says to Israel, in view of what will eventually happen - walk in light of the Word of God. Get serious about God’s Word.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the events that are predicted here are on the verge of happening right now and we know that seven years before Jesus Christ actually returns to judge the nations that He is going to Rapture His Church. In view of the fact, that the Temple is just about to be rebuilt, we must be very near the Rapture.

So let us reason this out. If you are a sinner and will place your faith in Jesus Christ, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. If you are a believer, if I were you, I would get very serious about worshipping at a place where the Word of God is carefully taught. This should be your primary motive for going to worship; to be taught the Word of God.

You may ask where did you get an idea like that? From the prophet Isaiah and his vision of the last days.