

First Wednesday in Advent – 2022
Wednesday, 11/30 at 11 am & 7 pm



You Are Invited

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Text: Isaiah 2:1-5 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: On the three Wednesdays in Advent, we are going to focus on readings from **Isaiah**. In this first sermon, let's think about:

- The 17 prophetic books in the OT.
- The chief task of prophets.
- A summary of **Isaiah chapter 1**.
- A focus on **Isaiah 2:1-5**.

1. **The 17 Prophetic Books in the OT** (TLSB, 1078):

- a. The 17 books begin with Isaiah and are known as the latter prophets, *they spoke and wrote* “from the eighth century BC to the fifth century BC.”
- b. Dr. Luther wrote:
 - i. “the prophets proclaim and bear witness to the kingdom of Christ in which we now live...”
 - ii. Be sure of two things: (1) “the great glory of Christ’s kingdom is surely ours” and (2) great glory is “preceded by crosses, shame, misery, contempt, and all kinds of suffering for the sake of Christ.”

- iii. "...in the prophets we see that things have never turned out well for any man who has despised God's threatening, even though they were the mightiest emperors and kings or the holiest and most learned people... On the other hand, we see that no one has ever been deserted who has dared to rely upon God's comforts and promises, even though they were the most miserable and the poorest sinners..."
- iv. "...the godless feel secure; they are most agile in applying the divine comforts and promises to themselves, and the threats and rebukes to others..."

2. **The Chief Task of Prophets** (*and important for pastors today*): "...to confront the people's sin, to bring them to repentance, and so restore them to a right relationship with God" (2Ki 17:13, 23; 21:10–12) (TLSB, 1078).

3. **A Summary of Isaiah Chapter 1:**

- a. Even though an ox knows its owner, Israel, weighed down with iniquity, had abandoned the LORD.
- b. Their land was desolate, their cities burned, and strangers devoured what they planted.
- c. They sacrificed to the LORD, *but they only went through the motions*, so their hearts were far away, *and their acts of worship were rejected*.
- d. The LORD called them to repent – *to stop their evil deeds and do good*.
- e. The repentant would be washed clean, but the unrepentant would be devoured.

4. **A Focus on Isaiah 2:1-5:** This is a summary: **“The Lord will gather the nations [that is, people from all nations] to His Church [that is, the body of Christ] through the Word. He calls [us – as believers] to fulfill this prophecy by sharing the Word with [our] family, friends, and neighbors”** (TLSB, 1091). Thus, the title of this sermon: **You Are Invited!**
- a. **Isaiah saw:** ¹ **The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. // How did he see the word? “God supernaturally revealed these things to Isaiah, showing coming events [related to] His eternal plan of salvation”** (TLSB, 1088).
 - b. **A picture of the NT Church:** ² **Now it will come about that In the last days [during the NT era] The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. // During the OT era, most who believed in the coming Messiah were Jews. Today, in the NT era, people from every nation are **✦**seeing their helplessness, **✦**being touched with godly sorrow, and **✦**receiving Jesus as their Savior.**
 - c. **Us inviting others:** ³ **And many peoples [that is, believers from every nation] will come and say [to people who do not yet believe], “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob [that is, let us gather at my church]; That He [Yahweh] may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**
 - i. **“He may teach... we may walk”:** Teaching and walking (living) have a definite connection. The right attitude: *I want to learn so I can live!*

- ii. After the Day of Pentecost (50 days after Easter):
What happened? ▶ Believers invited, ▶ unbelievers came, and ▶ some were converted by the HS. *The same HS is at work today through the word!*
- d. The kingdom of God now and in eternity: Today, for those who are in Christ, *they do not hate or kill or engage in war with each other*; instead, they love and forgive. Now, *we see a glimpse of such things*; in eternity, *such things will be true for everyone!* **⁴ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.**
 - i. Accepting God's word: God's word is God's decision; today, *some accept and some reject*. In eternity, *everyone will gladly accept God's word!*
 - ii. Weapons of war: They are needed in our fallen world, *but eternity will include no such things.*
- e. Living for Christ: **⁵ Come, house of Jacob** [*all true believers*], **and let us walk in the light of the LORD.** // During this Advent season and always, let us keep ▶ learning God's word and ▶ living according to it – as ways to ➡ show its importance and ➡ invite others to come and receive!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, cause us to rejoice in Your salvation and gladly invite others to come and receive!

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