The Last Days Isaiah 2

Jesus did not come to start a religion, He came to start a Kingdom and establish a New World Order for all nations and peoples.

It was not George H.W. Bush who invented the cliché or the idea of a "New World Order" ... President Clinton signed on to the idea, the second President Bush and President Obama all followed with the vision and idea of a New World Order. To Franklin Roosevelt's it was The United Nations; Woodrow Wilson after World War 1 conceived of a "League of Nations" for a New World Order ... long before them our Founding Fathers championed life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all men for a New World Order but the idea did not begin with them. Nor did it begin with Charlemagne's "Holy Roman Empire"; nor with Constantine the Great the founder of the Roman Byzantine Empire. All of these were and are cheap imitations of the "New World Order" God has in mind.

Isaiah prophetically envisions this New World Order for the Jews, and Gentiles together, where God reigns supreme in the hearts of men.

Longfellow could well have been envisioning this prophecy when he said: "Humanity with all its fears, With all the hopes of future years, Is hanging breathless on thy fate!" ... for truly humanity has no hope and no dream aside from the Kingdom of God pictured by Isaiah.

In the first 4 verses of Isaiah 2 speaks of the proclamation of the Kingdom of God from Mount Zion by God Himself in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

What is the history of your Church or denomination? How long has it been since some man or group of men came up with the idea that established your Church? The Church and the Kingdom of God was established in 30 AD and if yours wasn't established until later when some man or group of men came up with the idea that they could improve upon God's plan ... I'm afraid the train has already left the station almost 2,000 years ago. You need to get on the right track! Prove it preacher – No Problem!

Isaiah 2:1-4 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 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. 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 pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither

This is one of the most important passages in the Word of God, so important, in fact, that God gave the same message through two different prophets.

There is a great hoax among critical non-believing guessers, and doodlers, who call themselves scholars and commentators in this era of Biblical exegesis to engage in scholarly guessing ... they guess who copied whom, whenever very similar, or identical passages are encountered. They claim one copied the other or both copied a lost ? Micah's almost identical prophecy to Isaiah 2 is as follows:

Micah 4:1-3 But in the last days it shall come to pass, [that] the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. 2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

To us as Christians, such scholarly doodling's are ridiculous! All such allegations are founded on the incredible iodic proposition that God could never have given the same message to more than one prophet. Where is any authority for a stupid edict like that? Jesus gave identical, or nearly identical, teachings on many occasions, as witnessed by the two records of the Lord's prayer in Matthew and in Luke. The Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7 compared to the Sermon on the Plain Luke 6:17 ff. Also Jesus repeated prophecies of his Passion.

An example of the critical comment offered on passages like this, we cite the words of Rawlinson:

"The resemblance of this prophecy to Micah 4:1-3 is so close as to necessitate the conclusion that either one of the two prophets copied from the other or that both copied from an earlier document."

The tremendous importance of these passages in Micah and Isaiah is such that there cannot possibly be any wonder that God gave the same message twice.

Isaiah 2:1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

God Himself actually revealed this prophecy to Isaiah as is plainly stated in the first verse, and no believer has a right to understand it any other way. The prophecy will be fulfilled in Jerusalem which was then in the territory of Judah. "concerning Judah" the Messiah was promised to be born through Judah Genesis 49:10-11 is fulfilled in cf: Matthew 1:1-3 & Luke 3:33.

"Concerning Judah & Jerusalem" the proclamation of the Kingdom is to go forth from "Jerusalem" Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8.

Isaiah 2:2 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.

"... it shall come to pass in the last days ..." Whenever the "last days" are mentioned in Scripture, the times of the Messiah are always meant Nothing could be more plain, clear and certain.

Act 2:16-17 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Peter said Pentecost in 30 AD began the Last Days, prove it again?

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

So, God "hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son"

"... the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established ..." This is not a reference to the Jewish temple, but to the Church of Jesus Christ.

The word "mountain" is used metaphorically representing a Kingdom note all nations shall figuratively flow like a river up the mountain.

Jeremiah 51: 24-25 And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD. 25 Behold, I [am] against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

Daniel 2:28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of a great image explained as representing: The Kingdom of Babylon as the head of gold, breast & arms of silver representing the Med-o-Persian empire, his belly & thighs of brass representing the Greek empire under Alexander the Great; and his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay representing the Roman empire.

Daniel 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone (metaphor for Christ) that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

The stone which is a metaphor for Christ, will set up His Kingdom during "the days of these kings" which is the Roman empire.

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

So the Kingdom of God had to be set up between 63BC and 325 AD.

"mountain of the Lord's house ..." The Lord's House Is The Kingdom of God also known as the Churches of Christ ... you & I & all Christians

I Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Hebrews 3: 6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

"All Nations shall flow into it." All nations are Gentiles too ... flow is figurative language rivers do not flow up mountains.

Isaiah 2:2 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.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, Io, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Gospel is universal for all people and nations and every creature.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Isaiah 2:3 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. He will teach us that we have a Divine teacher – Jesus. A New World Order begins with the word of God. Isaiah proclaims the reason for coming to the house of God, He will educate us in His ways, so that we may walk in his paths." Seeking God's paths is the only way to discover peace.

Peace comes as we are educated in His ways and find God in our brokenness, in the midst of heartache, in the rough and tumble of a family crisis or a shameful failure. It is during these times we find God working through us in spite of us. Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the result of the presence of God.

John 6:44-45 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Isaiah 54:13 And all thy children *shall be* taught of the LORD; and great *shall be* the peace of thy children.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [*his*] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

We have a God who speaks to us in these Last Days by His Son in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and He also speaks through the Apostles and prophets who wrote the rest of the New Testament.

Isaiah 2:3 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. "... Zion" What is Zion? America is Not Zion. England is Not Zion. The modern Nation state of Israel is Not mount Zion.

What is the Christian's Zion and the results of the Gospel going forth?

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

The Christian Zion is pictured as a city and the Heavenly Jerusalem.

The New World Order pictured by God is found as Revelation speaks in beautiful poetic figurative language which is not literal.

Revelation 21:1-2 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband

Revelation 21: 9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

How do you picture a City for a Bride? Both metaphors are correct the picture is figurative and not literal. Jesus is not a literal lamb ...

Revelation 21:16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. This is 1,377 miles four square. This is not literal it is figurative. God is telling us so many people in all of history are going to be saved, if you gave them all God's Little Acre the heavenly Jerusalem would be that big. And there is room for everybody.

"... Zion shall go forth the Law " What New Testament Law? Grace?

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

This royal law was given by Jesus on Mount Zion where He was standing while teaching:

Matthew 22:36-40 Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

We see the Word of the Lord going forth from Jerusalem

Isaiah 2:3 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.

Jerusalem is the earthly center from which the true authority would be issued. Jerusalem, and Not Rome, Not Constantinople , Not Salt Lake City, Not Boston, or any other place or "source" of true religion. Luke 24:44-49 44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

God's vision of His "New World Order" must capture our imagination. God's plan throughout the Old Testament was to bring all men and nations to Himself through the seed of Abraham. Many of the Old Testament prophets preached to the nations. God's dream wasn't exclusive for the Jews. Isaiah's vision held out a great dream for Israel, the dream needs to become a reality for each of us today.

Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Dispensationalists and millennialist would have us believe these verses are literal. That the Church throughout history for 1,800 years has always got it wrong. Dispensationalism is distinct in two primary ways: 1) a consistently literal interpretation of Scripture, especially Bible prophecy, and 2) a view of that Israel is separate from the Church in God's program. Classical dispensationalism identifies seven dispensations in God's plan for humanity.

What a beautiful New World Order God envisions. There is only one problem. How do you get all the peoples of the world to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks? These very words are enshrined upon the walls of the United Nations Building ... but there has been constant war since the U.N.'s founding in 1945 after WW II ... Man's New World Order can't be the way –

Today men have great visions of what the New World Order ought to be, and what the church ought to be ... We look to men to find peace. We devise human plans to make it happen. On a national scale we look to the courts, the government, capitalism, many to Socialism, human philosophies, political ideologies, all human ideals. Internationally, we look to the United Nations.

Isaiah focused on restoring God's paths to lead us to such a world.

1."... he shall judge among the nations ..."

Hebrew 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

2. "... shall rebuke many people ..."

Matthew 25:41-46 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did [*if*] not to one of the least of these, ye did [*it*] not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Isaiah's vision is reminiscent of the lost paradise of Eden.

Isaiah 51: 3 For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Throughout Isaiah's prophecies he envisions a New World Order for the Jews. An order brought about by the reign of God through the Messiah over the hearts of the peoples of the earth.

God's New World Order shows the Peaceful Nature of the Kingdom of God and the Churches of Christ only ... no worldly "New World Order" will measure up.

We as Christians will not conquer the world with the sword.

Canaan land was pictured as a land that "flowed with milk and honey" but in God's New World Order, called the Church: milk and honey will flow in the hearts of men ... as summed up in the high points of the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:3-16 Blessed [are] the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed [are] they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed [are] the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed [are] the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed [are] the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9 Blessed [are] the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10 Blessed [are] they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when [men] shall revile you, and persecute [you], and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great [is] your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. 13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5: 42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. 43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Isaiah's vision can only be realized as men and nations combine God's vision with faith. Isaiah prophesied what life would be like if God fully reigned upon the earth. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, He taught them to pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. This is the essence of Isaiah's vision. It is the essence of Christianity. This is the goal of the gospel message. It is the essence of my life. It is not only something to be hoped for in the future. It must begin now.

The portion of this prophecy which speaks of beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, which is often misunderstood by the dispensationalists to teach that on earth war shall pass away among nations as an instrument of national policy and that universal peace on earth shall prevail. This is totally in error. Christ himself taught that "there shall be wars and rumors of wars" throughout the current dispensation"

Matthew 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

What we actually have, therefore, is a statement of the way it will be among the citizens of the kingdom of God, or the churches of Christ.

Here the prophet is speaking of all nations and many peoples who will come to the LORD's house. He is describing the citizens of the new kingdom of God known as the Churches of Christ.

The fulfillment of this prophecy is seen historically in the general practice of most believers in all generations. Swords, spears and implements of war will be changed into agricultural tools for good.

Except for the example of the apostate Roman Medieval church's acceptance of war, Crusades and Inquisition has never been approved as an instrument to be used to further evangelism. Christians do not murder each other ... in spite of what those called themselves who fought the 30 year war between protestants and Catholics ... in spite of Northern Ireland ... let all those killers re-examine their faith.

Otherwise God's people have consistently rejected war as an instrument of evangelism or for any other purpose. This is a sure indication that denies authenticity to the followers of Mohammed.

Homer Hailey's writing on the subject of the swords and plowshares is by far the best that we have encountered on this subject. The new kingdom would not be extended or defended by the weapons of carnal warfare' because the apostle Paul gave us a list of our spiritual weapons:

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints:

"Nation shall not lift up sword against nation"

Christ established a "nation" the Kingdom of God & Churches of Christ ... Not a Religion !

I 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

Another most important teaching of these verses is the call of the Gentiles to be co-members with the old Israel in the new kingdom of God which was announced by John the Baptist in Matthew 3.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse give the true picture of this Millennium. The White Horse indeed continually goes forth conquering and to conquer in the preaching of the Gospel; but he was followed by the Red Horse of war and carnal conflict. Contrary to the popular current myth, the sacred prophecy did not depict that Red Horse as disappearing from history, but as going all the way to the end, followed by the Black Horse of famine and the Pale Horse of death.

Christ is not returning to reign on David's throne. He reigns on David's throne now and has for 2,000 years cf:

Acts 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; Humanity with all its fears, With all the hopes of future years Is hanging breathless on thy fate!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, Coffman, Davis Commentaries