

Let's Meet On the Lord's Mountain**1. And Worship****2. And Learn****3. And Find Peace***Isaiah – the 5th Gospel*

- OT book Isa often called 5th Gospel (after M,M,L,&J) because incredibly rich Gospel content, prophecies re Jesus. And Isa lived ~700 yrs before Jesus even born. Yet God allowed Isa to see with remarkable clarity specific details re Savior's birth, life, death, resurrection, and return on Last Day. Why beg today (months), your pastors preaching sermons from Isa – series, "Gospel acc to Isaiah."
- Today Isa 2; shows things yet to come. Entirely appropriate: today begin new church year with season of Advent = to come. We prepare for Jesus to come as baby in Bethlehem, but also on Last Day as judge of mankind. That's how Advent starts, with urgent warning to get ready for Jesus' 2nd coming. In today's Gospel, Jesus: **"You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him"** (Mt 24:44). Isa speaks w/ same urgency; different picture.

Let's Meet On the Lord's Mountain – and Worship

- **Vs. 1.** So what saw, vision of things to come. **Vs. 2.** I've seen mnt of Lord's temple. In Jan 2009 (few months before pastor), I visited city of Jerusalem with several classmates; saw mnt on which Lord's temple once stood. Although temple long destroyed, now replaced with big, golden mosque, the Lord's temple in city of Jerusalem once stood as symbol of God's grace for his people. Here, Isa sees that mnt raised up in glory, high above all other mnts; people from all over world meeting together to worship Lord on that mnt. What **vs. 2** means. Now, of course, prophetic vision; not like literal Mt. Zion in Jerusalem someday jut up into sky, be taller than Mt. Everest. No: picture, vision of God's people from every nation on earth gathering together in one awesome place to worship Lord.
- So when happen? Little tricky to answer; want to explain something; see this many times as go through Isaiah. Sometimes Isa gives prophesy re future that has two fulfillments: one in time, one in eternity (or earth/heaven). What have here. Today (in time; on earth), what is it that brings people from every nation on earth together to worship Lord on mnt (or in Church)? Only Jesus does that! When Jesus came 1st time (saw birth, life, death, res), Jesus introduced us to himself as Savior of world; instituted Christianity as God's message of full, free forgiveness for all sins through his death on cross, res to new life. That message brings people together! There are Christians in every country, continent on this planet. Think of Pent; think of nationalities that came to faith that day. Ever since, Gospel has been spreading, growing, so that there are Christians everywhere.
- So 1st fulfillment happens in time, in our history. But this prophecy will someday be fulfilled in 2nd, greater way, when Jesus comes back 2nd time – because on Judgment Day, when separates sheep from goats, brings to his side in heaven all believers who've ever lived, and when all those multitudes of Christians join together to worship the Lord as HCC finally, forever united, then this prophecy will be fully fulfilled: **vs. 2.** Happening now; someday in heaven. We want be part now, so be part in heaven. Right now, when gather for worship, little foreshadowing of heaven. When we sit next to other people in church, reminds us that someday we'll be shoulder to shoulder with countless Christians in heaven. When take Communion with brothers, sister in Christ here, foretaste of heavenly banquet to come. When hear God's Word preached in this church, prequel to hearing God's Word in heaven from God himself. Today we see God's mnt (Church) raised up in glory; countless Christians are gathered there. Today, Isa: Come, let's meet on Lord's mnt, and worship!

Let's Meet On the Lord's Mountain – and Learn

- Continues: **vs. 3...** "paths." People are excited about God's mnt. Can't wait to get there. Encouraging each other: "let's go; where need to be; where we meet God; where worship; where learn from him." Can hear passion in voices; important to them; want to learn God's ways; want others to learn God's

ways. So say: **“Come, let us...his paths,”** because they know: vs. 3b. Here law doesn't mean shows sin; means all God's Word, heart, love, desire to save sinners. So passage says: God's word of forgiveness, grace emanates from Lord's mnt (Church); there God teaches his people. Why Christians so passionate about being there. They want God's Word; learn it!

- So why sometimes seem like we at SJ so complacent?! Why our worship, SS, Bible study numbers here at SJ seem dropping? Are we still passionate about ~vs. 3? Our stats show worship attendance here is lower than in years. Glad you're here; but we've got to fill sanctuary. Re SS: have hundreds of children in church; less than dozen come to SS. Really excuse, “Get it all week long in school”? This is Gospel! Re Sunday adult Bible class: only small fraction of adult members ever come. Someone: “Pastor, what want for Christmas?” What should have said: worship so full, folding chairs in narthex every service; SS so full kids, school hallway as busy on Sunday as on weekdays; want Sunday adult Bible class so packed, mtg room too small, have in church. That's what I'd like for Christmas, for this cong. Isn't to call into question motives of anyone's heart. But maybe do double check on your heart, ask self if have same passion as ~vs. 3. Today, Isa: Come, let's meet on Lord's mnt, and learn!

Let's Meet On the Lord's Mountain – and Find Peace

- Finally, Isa: vs. 4. Picture of peace, perfect peace. Mankind yearning for peace ever since fall into sin. We've even established organization called United Nations, which seeks to secure peace in world. At UN Plaza in NYC, where UN headquarters building stands, these very words of Scripture are engraved into park monument for all to see: **“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” (KJV)**. At UN headquarters, also statue of man with big hammer right hand, literally beating sword into farming tool. We long for worldwide peace; here Isa sees vision of peace.
- But didn't Jesus once say: **“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars... Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom... And then the end will come” (Mt 24:6-7, 14)**? Yes did, because knew this vision of Isa could never be perfectly fulfilled here on earth. Here, always be bloodshed, war, hatred, sin, everything opposite of peace. But Isaiah's peace, “peace on earth, goodwill toward men” angels sang re at Christmas, is peace Jesus brings: comes from knowing Christ as Savior, who died on cross to forgive our sins, who rose from dead to bring us to heaven, where enjoy eternal peace. Isaiah's peace is peace we have right now through faith in Jesus, which unites us with the Church gathered on mnt. So have peace right now; someday that peace will be made perfect, eternal, when Jesus comes again, brings us all to heaven. So today, Isa: Come, let's meet on Lord's mnt, and find peace!

Conclusion

- Dear fellow believers, Isa 2 says vs. 2a... **“mnts.”** This mnt is God's Church; last days are right now. God bless you this Advent season as you prepare for Jesus' 1st coming Bethlehem, and for 2nd coming on Last Day. God bless you these next several months as together we grow in faith through this sermon series on Isa. And God bless us all as together we meet on the Lord's mnt, to worship the Lord, learn from him, and find peace in his Son JC.

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ² In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. ⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.