

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Isaiah 2:1-5 (New American Standard Bible)

¹The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²Now it will come about that

In the last days

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.

³And many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let’s go up to the mountain of the Lord,

To the house of the God of Jacob;

So that He may teach us about His ways,

And that we may walk in His paths.”

For the law will go out from Zion

And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴And **He will judge between the nations,**

And will mediate for many peoples;

And they will **beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning knives.**

Nation will not lift up a sword against nation,

And **never again will they learn war.**

⁵Come, house of Jacob, and let’s walk in the light of the Lord.

Introduction

Begin with highlighting verse 4.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent according to the Church Calendar. The Church Calendar may vary depending on your denominations, but it always begins with the season of Advent (4 Sundays), Christmas (1 Sunday), Baptism of the Lord (1 Sunday), Epiphany (5 Sundays), Transfiguration (1 Sunday) Lent (5 Sundays), Palm Sunday (1 Sunday), Easter (7 Sundays), Trinity (1 Sunday), and Pentecost (26 Sundays). Then, it repeats. So, here we are, folks, on the first Sunday of Advent. The word, ‘Advent’ is from Latin which means ‘arrival’ or ‘coming.’ The arrival of Christ. Throughout the season of Advent, we await Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Content

Around this time of the year, we always long for peace in the world, don't we? Both in the Church and in the shopping centers, we sing and hear Christmas songs that promote peace in the world. We send out cards that says, "Peace on earth." Yes, we all long for peace, in our hearts, in our families, in our communities, and in the world, don't we? May the Lord bless and bring peace to everywhere and everyone. Amen?

A couple of times, I took my relatives to the UN building in NYC. In front of the UN building, there's collection of sculptures all donated by member nations. A couple of them got my attention. Both sculptures promote peace in the world.

One was a gun sculpture named "*Non-Violence, also known as The Knotted Gun, is a bronze sculpture by Swedish artist Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd of an oversized Colt Python .357 Magnum revolver with its muzzle tied in a knot*" (wikipedia). You get the meaning of it, right away.

The other sculpture I like is named: *Let us Beat Swords into Plowshares*. "*In 1959, a bronze statue promoting the slogan Let Us Beat Swords into Plowshares was donated by the Soviet Union to the United Nations. It was sculpted by Evgeniy Vuchetich to represent the human wish to end all wars by converting the weapons of death and destruction into peaceful and productive tools that are more beneficial to mankind*" (wikipedia). This one was based on the vision of Isaiah 2:4—today's text. Ironic that the Soviet Union the nation that destroyed the Bible sent the prophetic gift to the UN based on God's Word.

Speaking of peace and sustaining it in the world today, we humans don't have a stellar record, do we? Let's check it out. How many wars are there in today's world? "Currently, there are 94 wars going on, 3 of which are ongoing" (wikipedia). This includes all regional conflicts, big and small. Since the beginning of the 20th century, the USA was involved 40 times in conflicts, both worldwide and regional (31 times in the 20th century, 9 times so far in this century). America currently is involved in Iraq, Syria, and Somalia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_involving_the_United_States).

No wonder we are very skeptical about peace, let alone the lasting peace. What does it tell us, then? True and lasting peace don't come from humans. It only comes from the Lord God Almighty. We need God and the Prince of Peace to whom all nations will listen and obey. God will restore peace and keep it among nations forever and ever. That was Isaiah's vision in today's text.

Advent candle song says: Christ is coming, **Christ, the hope of the world**. Indeed, He is our hope for ourselves, our families, and our communities. He is the hope for our nation, and for the world. For the hope of the world, God speaks to us this morning: don't look afar.

You already have it. Christ. *Christ, the hope of the world* which the Bible confirms. For instance,

In Matthew 12:21, God's Word declares that "*AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE.*" In Christ's name, Gentiles will hope. Gentiles mean all nations and races. Therefore, in Christ's name, humanity will find hope and peace.

Here's another prophecy about Christ in Isaiah 42:1-4.

*42 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;
My chosen one in whom My soul delights.*

*I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justice to the nations.*

*² "He will not cry out or raise His voice,
Nor make His voice heard in the street.*

*³ "A bruised reed He will not break
**And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish;
He will faithfully bring forth justice.***

*⁴ "He will not be disheartened or crushed
Until He has established justice in the earth;
And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."*

In His name, we will find justice and peace.

Why Christ Alone? Why not others, you may ask. Here's why. To be the hope of the world, one must have an excellent qualification. After searching all the heroes in human history, I concluded that **this position is too big to be filled by any human being.** No matter how mighty or great they think they are, no human heroes can fill this shoe to be the hope of the world: no kings, no queens, no popes, no presidents, no politicians, no scientists, nor Marvel Studio superheroes! None other than God can fit this job.

Indeed, the Bible confirms what I just said. It doesn't impose such a heavy burden to any humans but God. Only God can do it. Thank God for that! God Himself is our hope (Jeremiah 14:8). Christ is the hope of the world, too (Matthew 12:21, 1 Timothy 1:1). Christ is *the hope of all nations. The hope of all races.* True hope for humanity is only found in Christ. Not in humanity themselves. Not in technology. Nor in military power (Psalm 33:17). Only in Christ.

Let's check out Christ's resume for peace. First, He is the Savior of the world who laid down His life for many (Mark 10:45). Next, He is the true and eternal life (1 John 5:20). Thirdly, He is the Light of the world (John 8:12, John 9:5). Fourthly, He is just (the fairest of all). Fifthly, He is gentle and kind ("*A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish*"—Isaiah 42:3). Sixthly, He is humble ("*for I am gentle and humble in heart*"—Matthew 11:29). Finally, His love, compassion, and patience surpass all others (Isaiah 42:1-4). No human being can fill that shoe but Christ.

Listen more. Isaiah 9:2-6 confirms more of His qualifications:

² *The people who walk in darkness will see a **great light**;*

*Those who live in a dark land, The light will **shine on them**.*

³ *You shall multiply the nation, You shall **increase their gladness**; They will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.*

⁴ *For You shall **break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor**, as at the battle of Midian.*

⁵ *For **every boot of the booted warrior** in the battle tumult, And **cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire**.*

⁶ *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;*

And the government will rest on His shoulders;

*And **His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace**.*

Did you get that? Christ is that Prince of Peace. That's why Christ is the only hope of the world. None other.

Conclusion

Christmas season is a good time for us to remember why we need Christ. We need peace in the world. We need the Prince of Peace. He is our hope, the hope for the entire humanity. In His name, all nations will hope. In Him, we will find the everlasting peace. Every day I pray to God to send Christ right away to our troubled world. We need Him right now. Although I know it is not up to me but to God when Christ will come again, I would pray every day, as John the Apostle said, *Come, Lord Jesus, Come. Quickly* (Revelation 22:20). Amen.