Isaiah 2 - The dangers of pride and the strength of humility

**Experiencing freedom from pride**

**Monday**

Read Isaiah 2:1-5, Zechariah 4:10, Revelations 20, Zechariah 8

It’s good to be small. If you are, God will use you for big purposes. **Journalize** how Jesus will rule the world from the small nation of Israel.

**Tuesday**

Read Isaiah 2:6-8, Colossians 3:1-17

If you treasure the things of this world, you forfeit much more valuable spiritual gifts and treasures. **Ask** God to show you what idolatry is.

**Wednesday**

Read Isaiah 2:9-21, James 4:6, Romans 6:14, Psalms 103

You can only experience God’s benefits (His grace) if you are humble. **Meditate** on Psalms 103.

**Thursday**

Read Genesis 37, 39-41

**Allow** life’s circumstances to humble you, so you can live with God’s favor and grace.

**Friday**

Read Isaiah 2:22, Psalm 20

Trusting in God is the ultimate anti-pride (humble) thing to do. **Journalize** how you can trust God more.

Isaiah 2 - The dangers of pride and the strength of humility

Isaiah 2

**2**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.

You’ll find that prophetic books will frequently switch between the present, the near future, the distant future and the end of the world

Also in Micah 4 but expanded upon. Micah and Isaiah ministered at the same time (Micah it seems a little shorter period of time). Mentions the reigns of the Kings Judah so it would seem that he was in Judah as well. The inspired word of God came to both of them.

Anytime the Bible repeats the word of God, we need to pay attention to it.

The millennial reign of Christ.

Revelations 20

Isaiah 11

Zechariah 8

There are democrats, republicans, independents…and then there are Christians waiting for the day when our Lord and King is enthroned in Jerusalem to rule the world for a 1000 years.

Cool thought:

Jerusalem will be the highest of mountains and exalted above the hills.

Geographically, the hills Jerusalem is on are not big at all. The mount of olives, just outside of Jerusalem is 2,710 feet. The temple mount in Jerusalem is 2,428 feet. Franklin mountain prominence is 3300 feet high. Mount of Olives prominence is 300 hundred feet from the highest point in Jerusalem.

God is going to take the small hill of Jerusalem and make it so powerful, it will be referred to as the highest of mountains!

*You may feel really small, but God chooses small things and makes them have a huge impact in this world, a massive influence to promote God’s holy reputation.*

Zechariah 4:10

**10**“Who dares despise the day of small things

*It’s good to be small. If you are, God will use you for big purposes.*

**The Day of the Lord**

**6**

You, Lord, have abandoned your people,

    the descendants of Jacob.

What would it take for the Lord to abandon His church?

Does God ever abandon churches?

Revelation 2:4-5 (church at Ephesus)

**4**Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. **5**Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Revelation 3:15-17 (church at Laodicea)

**15**I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! **16**So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. **17**You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

Self-centeredness (pride) separates you from God.

Here is why the Lord was abandoning His people in Isaiah’s time:

They are full of superstitions from the East;

    they practice divination like the Philistines

    and embrace pagan customs.

**7**

Their land is full of silver and gold;

    there is no end to their treasures.

Their land is full of horses;

    there is no end to their chariots.

(Valuing these things instead of their relationship with God)

St. Thomas Aquinas was a theologian and philosopher in the 13th century, whose theology and philosophy greatly influenced the Roman Catholic Church.

Entering the presence of Innocent II., before whom a large sum of money was spread out, the Pope observed, “You see, the Church is no longer in that age in which she said, ‘Silver and gold have I none.’”—“True, holy father,” replied Thomas Aquinas; “neither can she any longer say to the lame, ‘Rise up and walk.’”

*If you treasure the things of this world, you forfeit much more valuable spiritual gifts and treasures.*

**8**

Their land is full of idols;

    they bow down to the work of their hands,

    to what their fingers have made.

(Jobs, positions, accomplishments, materialism)

Colossians 3:5

**5**Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

**9**

So people will be brought low

    and everyone humbled—

    do not forgive them.

**10**

Go into the rocks, hide in the ground

    from the fearful presence of the Lord

    and the splendor of his majesty!

Who does the presence of the Lord cause fear? Those who don’t have a relationship with Him.

They don’t know Him! They don’t know Jesus who says:

Matthew 11:28-30

**28**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30**For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

**11**

The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled

    and human pride brought low;

the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

**12**

The Lord Almighty has a day in store

    for all the proud and lofty,

for all that is exalted

    (and they will be humbled),

**13**

for all the cedars of Lebanon, tall and lofty,

    and all the oaks of Bashan,

**14**

for all the towering mountains

    and all the high hills,

**15**

for every lofty tower

    and every fortified wall,

**16**

for every trading ship

    and every stately vessel.

**17**

The arrogance of man will be brought low

    and human pride humbled;

the Lord alone will be exalted in that day,

**18**

    and the idols will totally disappear.

With pride comes idolatry. With idolatry comes bondage to sin.

(Pride is self-worship)

**19**

People will flee to caves in the rocks

    and to holes in the ground

from the fearful presence of the Lord

    and the splendor of his majesty,

    when he rises to shake the earth.

**20**

In that day people will throw away

    to the moles and bats

their idols of silver and idols of gold,

    which they made to worship.

**21**

They will flee to caverns in the rocks

    and to the overhanging crags

from the fearful presence of the Lord

    and the splendor of his majesty,

    when he rises to shake the earth.

James 4:6 English Standard Version

**6**… “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Where does God’s grace end? When someone is proud.

God’s grace is what makes you excel in life…His favor in your life gets you past your spiritual obstacles, frees you from the sins you can’t get rid of yourself, gives you physical benefits, makes things fall into place for you. You want God’s grace!

**Psalm 103**

**1**

Praise the Lord, my soul;

    all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**2**

Praise the Lord, my soul,

    and forget not all his benefits—

**3**

who forgives all your sins

    and heals all your diseases,

**4**

who redeems your life from the pit

    and crowns you with love and compassion,

**5**

who satisfies your desires with good things

    so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Romans 6:14

**14**For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Let life’s circumstances humble you, so you can live with God’s grace.

How do you know if you are prideful?

* You don’t take advice
* You take things personally (The 4 Agreements)
	+ - You get your feelings hurt easily
* Don’t not listen to your critics
* You don’t make time for people less fortunate than yourself (giving money to a cause shows generosity but not necessarily humility…get involved to make this world a better place)
* You are unwilling to re-explain something to someone
* You think you can only learn from those more advanced than you (be a sponge and learn from everyone you come into contact with)
* You always need someone to give you the credit for accomplishment

**22**

**Stop trusting in mere humans,**

**who have but a breath in their nostrils.**

**Why hold them in esteem?**

Isaiah 2:22 Expanded Bible

**22**

Stop trusting in people to save you [Cease from man/people],

    ·because people are only human [whose breath is in his nostrils];

·they aren’t able to help you [what good are they; *or* why do you esteem them?].

Trusting in God is the ultimate anti-pride thing to do.