

# GOD WITH US IN HOPE

ISAIAH 2:1-5

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## A Tale of Two Visions



- Isaiah: prophet in the 8th century BCE, great political turmoil
- Warning and judgment
- The future Messiah
- Also hope

## A Tale of Two Visions



- Isaiah 1: a grave vision
- v.1: “The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of...” a bunch of kings
- Violence, bribery, unfaithfulness, desolation, rebellion
- Trampling of the poor, orphans, and widows rebellion
- Jerusalem: No civil justice, corrupt leaders
- War ravaged, vulnerable to outsiders, idol worship

## A Tale of Two Visions



- Isaiah 2: a hopeful vision
- “This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days...” (v.1-2a)
- “In the days to come” - sometime in the future this will be happen

## A Tale of Two Visions



- Isaiah 2: a hopeful vision
  - v.2: “the mountain of the Lord’s temple” being established and how it sits on the “highest of the mountains”
  - Mountains are thin spaces between heavens and earth
  - The highest mountain is where Yahweh’s temple is established: “it will be exalted above the hills” (v.2)

## A Tale of Two Visions



- Isaiah 2: a hopeful vision
  - “the nations will stream up to” (v.2) the mountain

## A Tale of Two Visions



- Isaiah 2: a hopeful vision
  - V.3: “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.”
  - He will teach us his **ways**... so that we may walk in his **paths**... the **law** will go out... the **word** of the LORD...

## A Tale of Two Visions



- Law - Torah, first five books of the Old Testament
- Word - *dābār* (Hebrew), anything God says
- Ways, Path - God’s direction



## A Tale of Two Visions



- Isaiah 2: a hopeful vision
  - V.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.”
- First: God arbitrates and settles disputes
- Second: People unlearn the art of war

## Swords into Plows



- What would happen if this imagery and idea was applied today and the resources in the world that are used for the purpose for war were instead used to feed people?
- Global military spending in 2024: \$2.7 trillion
- To end world hunger: \$40 billion
  - That’s only 1.48% of military spending

## Swords into Plows

- “Let Us Beat Swords Into Ploughshares”
- by Evgeniy Vuchetich



## A Tale of Two Visions



- Isaiah 2: a hopeful vision
  - V.5: “Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.”
- light - *’ôr* (Hebrew); law - *tôrâ* (Hebrew)
- Universal - for all nations
- Gather and then scatter
  - “I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6 NRSVUE)

## Down by the Riverside



*Gonna lay down my burden,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside;  
gonna lay down my burden,  
down by the riverside,  
down by the riverside*

## Down by the Riverside



*I ain't gonna study war no more.  
ain't gonna study war no more,  
ain't gonna study war no more,  
I ain't gonna study war no more,  
ain't gonna study war no more,  
ain't gonna study war no more.*

## Down by the Riverside



- “I ain’t gonna study war no more” is a quote from Isaiah 2:4: “Neither shall they learn war any more” (KJV)
- African American spiritual
  - Civil Rights Movement (1950-60s)
    - nonviolent resistance and peaceful protests
- “I’m gonna talk with the Prince of Peace” - personal relation with Jesus

## Down by the Riverside



- “I’m gonna talk with the Prince of Peace” - personal relationship with Jesus
- his dwelling became among us
  - John 1: 14: Jesus “moved into the neighbourhood” (MSG)
- This is what we yearn for at Advent - “Please Lord, come and save us.”



## Down by the Riverside



- “I’m gonna try on my starry crown” - hope for eternity
- Hope beyond our present circumstances
- This vision of nations coming together, of peace and justice, of war being unlearned and people being fed can happen in these days

## As we wait...



- it is incumbent upon us commit to walk in the light of the LORD
- commit to beating our swords into plowshares and choosing paths of non-violence
- commit to learning God’s ways so we continue to walk his paths
- commit to extending welcome to all people and all nations.