

Scripture Summer School 2020

5. "In days to come ...": God's glorious future

Isaiah 2:2-5

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the
mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the
LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
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.

Micah 4:1-5

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the
mountains,

and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

² and many nations shall come and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the
LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³ He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations
far away;

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;

⁴ but they shall all sit under their own vines
and under their own fig trees,

and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has
spoken.

⁵ For all the peoples walk,

each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our
God

forever and ever.

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Walter Wink's Quote (again)

“Not that I believe in progress. I do not see things getting better. Some things do get better; more, it seems, get worse. I merely report these flickers of light in the darkness so that we are clear that the darkness has not and cannot overcome them. We are not part of a movement that is inexorably bringing in a better society. We only have these occasional moments of grace and must trust the final outcome. Not that God intervenes only occasionally – God is the constant pressure for transformation in every situation. But God needs our response. These moments of grace, then, are epiphanies of the true meaning of the universe, theophanies that manifest God in the burning bushes of human affairs.”

(Walter Wink, “Standing on the Rock of the impossible,” *Church and Society* (1995): 3-9, 9.)

Questions to think about:

1. What element of the ‘glorious future’ resonates with me most strongly?
2. What practical step could we take *now* in the light of that future?