

Isaiah Lesson 2 Article

2:3 — “ ... *He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths* ”

God designed a life of faith to be a community affair. He teaches *us* His ways, so that *we* can walk in His paths. If you're trying to go it alone in your faith, you'll never grow as God wants you to.

The prophet looked ahead to the time when God's righteous kingdom would be established and the temple would become the center for the worldwide worship of the Lord. In Isaiah's day, the Jews were adopting the false gods of the Gentiles; but the day would come when the Gentiles would abandon their idols and worship the true God of Israel. The nations would also lay down their weapons and stop warring. These promises must not be “spiritualized” and applied to the church, for they describe a literal kingdom of righteousness and peace. The Jewish temple will be rebuilt, and the Word of God will go forth from Jerusalem to govern the nations of the world.

In the light of the future glory of God's temple, Isaiah appealed to the people to “walk in the light of the Lord” (v. 5). Christians today have a similar motivation as we await the return of Christ for His church (1 John 2:28–3:3).¹

2:17 — *The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day*

A day is coming when human pride and arrogance will be smashed forever, and the entire world will acknowledge that God alone rules. As followers of Christ, we can anticipate that day by willingly humbling ourselves.²

Isaiah predicted the coming of a day when all the sinful pretensions of man would be humbled. The Lord alone would be exalted in that day. Every symbol and object of man's pride would be laid low. The idols would totally disappear (2:10–18). Whether Isaiah was describing the forthcoming judgment upon Judah, or the final judgment is a matter of debate. The prophets apparently regarded every temporal judgment as a day of the Lord which betokened that final day when God's judgment will be poured out on the entire world.

In that day the Lord would arise to shake the earth. From his dreadful majesty men would flee to the caverns in the rocks. So as not to be impeded in their flight, they would cast away their worthless idols. From God's awesome judgment, however, no escape would be possible. The caves of the mountains and holes in the ground would afford no protection. Since those idols could not avert God's judgment, trusting in them was senseless. Likewise, putting trust in mortal man makes no sense.³

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Comforted* (p. 23). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Is 2:3–17). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.

³ Smith, J. E. (1992). *The Major Prophets* (Is 2:10–22). Joplin, MO: College Press.