

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Unit I: Fulfilling Our Obligations to Neighbors

Subject: Understanding Leads to Peace

Printed Text: Isaiah 2: 2-4; Acts 17: 26-28

Key verse: Many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the GOD of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2: 3, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Many are Drawn to the High Holy Place (Isaiah 2: 2-3)
- 2) A Divine Weapon Exchange Program (Isaiah 2: 4)
- 3) The Commonality of Humanity (Acts 17: 26-28)

Introduction:

When there is war, the nations that starts the war usually is the one to fight first. Fighting for land, resources, and even religion often causes conflicts. But do know that wars are rarely contained. Why, because when fighting for resources, it affect other nations; and when other nations are drawn in; alliances, and treaties come into play; more countries gets involved. What may have started as a local war can quickly boomerang beyond its borders. Now, when this happens, alliances promises and treaties promises are broken by leaders; causing ordinary people to suffer most, families lose stability, communities fall apart, and fear fills their daily life. This only shows just how fragile human power is and how little we can rely on world security. Now, for Christians, these realities raise important questions, like: How do we live Faithfully when leaders break their word? What do we do when nations wage war unjustly? And where do we put our trust when governments collapse or conquest looms? There is and answer for Christians who are concerned; the Bible reminds us Christians to place our hope not in human rulers but in Jesus Christ who is GOD, the only One who keeps HIS promises. Even when we are in war, when betrayed, or in captivity, we can trust Jesus Christ who is GOD to sustain HIS people, and uphold HIS kingdom that lasts forever.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Many are Drawn to the High Holy Place (Isaiah 2: 2-3)

The tallest mountain in Israel is Mount Meron, standing about 4,000 feet high. Now Mount Hermon, on the Lebanon-Syria border, stands even higher, about 9,000 feet high. But, Isaiah referred to Mount Moriah not because of its height, but in history. This is where Abraham offered his son Isaac, placing him on the altar, only for GOD to spare him. This marked the place as holy, because of its testimony of obedience and deliverance. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it (Isaiah 2: 2). All nations shall come to the house of the LORD'S, that is,

the temple of Jerusalem, to the mountain of the LORD (Mount Moriah). Many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the GOD of Jacob; and he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2: 3). Now, we Christians, affirm that the only one worthy of worship is Jesus Christ, the LORD of all, for HE is GOD. Do know that this place the mountain of the LORD GOD represents revelation, refuge, and redemption.

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **A Divine Weapon Exchange Program (Isaiah 2: 4)**

Isaiah says that in the future people will turn weapons into tools. Why, because the people often trusted their armies more than GOD; Isaiah envisioned, GOD vision of a nation at peace. Isaiah said that the people swords would become plowshares, and their spears pruning hooks; this vision of Isaiah's was that when the people learn the ways of GOD, they will choose peace; by having a changed heart. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Isaiah 2: 4).

Lesson Pointer # 3

- **The Commonality of Humanity (Acts 17: 26-28)**

The Commonality of Humanity refers back to Adam. On Mars Hill, Paul addressed Epicureans (Ep-eye-cu-re-an), who believed life was random; while the stoics (Sto-ic), argued for order and design. Paul proclaimed that the LORD GOD created everything from nothing, and man kind from the dust of the ground, and the source were in the same original Creation as everyone else. The LORD GOD purpose for this Creation was to populate the planet (Acts 17: 26). Now the LORD GOD'S purpose in revealing HIMSELF in Creation and history is that people would seek HIM. Romans 1:19-20, says, "Because that which may be known of GOD is manifest in them; for GOD hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and GODHEAD; so that they are without excuse." This is for the people to seek the LORD GOD, and reach out unto HIM, though the LORD GOD be not far from them (Acts 17: 27). So, Paul made it plain by stating, "For in the LORD GOD we live, and move, and have our being; and for sure as your poets have said, for we are also HIS offspring (Acts 17: 28). The Commonality of Humanity is knowing that the LORD GOD made us in HIS own image and likeness, and that we all share a common humanity that is united in Christ Jesus.

Understanding Leads to Peace!

Nuggets of the Lesson:

- 1) **Isaiah envisioned the LORD GOD'S redemption on the LORD GOD'S holy mountain.**
- 2) **Isaiah saw where the people will put down their weapons to plows, and from fighting to building peace, and love one for another.**
- 3) **We all share a common humanity that is united in Christ Jesus.**