



Last Sunday we began our Advent sermon series in Isaiah. As we wait for Christmas we're not focusing on the typical prophecies of the birth of Jesus from Isaiah but rather we will be learning how to wait for the second coming of Christ and looking at passages which speak about this. Last week was Isaiah 2 and the promise of a future city of God.

Isaiah opens with an account of how Israel and Judah have both drifted far from God and live in rebellion to him. In Chapter 2 Isaiah prophesies a future city which represents what Israel should look like now.

The future city

This city is a place high and exalted; lifted up in power and authority. Mount Zion is where the temple sat and where the presence of God was. In the future this mountain will be where God himself rules from and all the nations will stream to it to hear the Word of the Lord. From this city the Word of God will go out and God's judgement will result in obedience. There will be no more war and people will use their weapons for good purposes.

The Fulfilment

Most of what we read in verses has not been fulfilled yet. We don't live in a world where Christ rules physically on earth and where people stream to hear his Word. We don't live in a world where there is obedience to his judgements and peace between nations. In fact we live in a time where we see the very opposite. However

throughout history we see glimpses of how the Word of the Lord has gone out and changed lives and sometimes whole communities.

Our response

Verse 5 calls us, in response, to walk in the light of the Lord. We should live in obedience to the Word of God because all that is prophesied will come true. God keeps his promises and obedience to the Word of the Lord makes a difference people's lives are really changed.

Some questions to create discussion and application ...

Why don't people like waiting? What are you waiting for at the moment?

Isaiah begins his ministry at the end of King Uzziah's life, read/scan 2 Chronicles 26 to see what kind of king he was like?

Have a scan through the chapters either side of Isaiah 2, what is the context that Isaiah is writing into? What is the state of God's people? How should they be living?

What do verses 1-4 tell us about this future city? How do you understand this metaphorical language? How do you feel when you read of such a wonderful city? Can you imagine a world with no war and no armies/police?

How is this picture different from what Judah was like in Isaiah's day? How is it different from what we see and experience today in the world?

What are people's attitudes to the Word of God?

In what ways do we see glimpses of these promises being fulfilled? How does Pentecost give us a preview of the power of the gospel for the world? Can you think of examples of how the gospel has transformed lives & communities?

Do you believe this day will come? What may make you doubt? How can believing and trusting in God's promises help you wait for the Lord?

What does it mean to walk in the light of the Lord? (Ephesians 5:1-21) How has living for Christ made a difference to people near you?