

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

Reading Isaiah 2:1-4

- Psalm 73:28
- O Great God
 - A prayer of Jerome
- 459, I need Thee every hour
 - Prayer cont.
- 426, Nearer, my God to Thee
 - Prayer cont.
- He will hold me fast

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

God sends His fore-runner of Christ, John the Baptist

Pt-4, Stunning expectations in the kingdom of God

Isaiah 2:1-4

Sending prayer

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

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love. truth. grace.

We are identified with Jesus Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating.



- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

God sends His fore-runner of Christ, John the Baptist

Pt-4, Stunning expectations in the kingdom of God

Isaiah 2:1-4

- January 21st, 2024 -

God sends His fore-runner of Christ, John the Baptist

Pt-4, Stunning expectations in the kingdom of God

Isaiah 2:1-4

As we consider the theme of God's heavenly rule coming down to establish its reign and glory on the earth in the kingdom preached by both John the Baptist and Jesus, we turn to the OT and discover that the this promised kingdom is a dominant one there! Once can count at least 15 streams, 15 main streams flowing into the theme of God's kingdom coming to earth in the person and office and rule of the Messiah, the Son of David. In fact, the issue is so dominant that one has to say that a central theme of God's revelation in the OT is a kingdom, centered in and fulfilling God's promises to Israel, under the reign of Jesus Christ, spreading to all the earth from there, and that kingdom wiping all the defective and deficient political kingdoms of this earth away, along with the curse that God placed on the ground due to Adam's fall. So profound is the kingdom message in the OT that we can only scratch the surface of it today to examine its wonders!

We call the first part or expression of this kingdom, "The Millennial Kingdom" from the references to it's duration in Rev 20: 1,000 years. But that is just the first part of the kingdom on earth. Daniel the prophet tells us that it is a kingdom without chronological end – it is eternal. The Kingdom coming down from the God of heaven will destroy the preceding human kingdoms, but will itself endure forever. Daniel 2:44. The Son of Man will be given a world-wide kingdom that will never end. Daniel 7:14. The power and control of all kingdoms of secular man will be given to the holy people of the Most High, Who will rule all people eternally. Daniel 7:27

Let's get an introductory glimpse via Isaiah 2:1-4 First, in the Millennium there will be God's place of rule and worship will be exalted:

Second, there will be a temple, "the Lord's house." It will be where it has always been, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The first and second temples were destroyed. A future temple will exist during the Tribulation. There will also be one during the Millennium.

Third, there will be nations. The Tribulation survivors will enter the Millennium in natural bodies and will have children and grandchildren. They will form the nations. Christians from the church

age will rule in immortal and glorious bodies, in different capacities over these nations.

Fourth, there will be worship. The gentile nations go to the temple to worship

Fifth, there will be teaching and learning. People will have things to learn, especially about God and His ways. (I suspect people will be learning about everything—science, culture, and the arts will all need to be developed).

Sixth, there will be judgment and rebuke. That means there will be some sin, though mitigated. The descendants of the Tribulation survivors will need to be evangelized and discipled. They will have fallen natures and be capable of sinning. Hence, the need for judgment and rebuke.

Seventh, there will be political peace. While the Tribulation was war-torn, the Millennium will be peaceful. However, the nations, the natural descendants of Tribulation survivors, will have to learn peace. It won't come naturally to them. But we do have the promise that the ugly art of war will never be taught again.

Isaiah 11:6-9 Eighth, there will be animals. God loves animals. He created them before He created people. It seems their nature will be changed.

Ninth, there will be children and child-rearing. These are the children of Tribulation survivors.

Tenth, all creatures will be full of the knowledge of the Lord. Biblical truth will not be something that is hard to find. The earth will be filled with it (see #4).

Let's now get another glimpse of that kingdom from Matthew 17. Jesus takes a few of his disciples forward into the kingdom.