

He Will Rule and Reign

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[0 : 00] Take your Bibles if you would and turn with me to Isaiah chapter 2. Isaiah chapter 2. You are in for a blessing because I want you to know that Jesus has it all under control.

You might not know this, but the God of heaven is at work and will be at work. Look at Isaiah chapter 2 and verse 1. He is talking to the nation of Judah and the city of Jerusalem.

Mark that in your Bible. Always know who he's talking to. But here's the beautiful thing. Here's what's happening. The nation of Judah, Israel also, but he's talking to Judah right now.

They have forgotten their God. They have forgotten their purpose. They're totally off track. They have lost the focus that the gospel was supposed to be so powerful in Jerusalem and among the Jewish people that would have spread to the entire world.

They've forgotten that. So in these three chapters that we're going to look at, 2, 3, and 4, that we're going to look at today, here's what's going to happen. The first thing is God's going to make it real clear things aren't over.

[1 : 01] The world's not out of control. God's still in charge. And he is going to raise Jerusalem. He's going to put his temple above all the other mountains, above all the other gods. He is going to say there's only one God.

He's the real God. And Jerusalem is going to become the center of the universe. And then he's going to say, but you guys aren't ready for that. To get ready for that, he is going to have to clean you up.

You are not his people. You don't live like his people. You don't honor him like you're his people. So God is going to put them through a purging, and he's going to shake them until they get right and can be used like that.

And then after that, he's going to take and knock away everything they trust. Before the chapters are over tonight, they will have nothing they can lean on, nothing they can trust because you can't get saved until you get to the bottom.

Because you can't get saved until you realize you don't have the power. You're not good enough, and you can't bring it about. And then the branch will show up, and the branch is Jesus. That old stump left there that looks like it's dead of Israel and Judah, it looks like God's plan has failed.

[2 : 05] It looks like God's got to clean out and start over. But when he chops it down, a branch will come up out of that, and that branch is Jesus. So you're in the book of Isaiah, and you're looking and studying about Jesus.

In verse 1, you marked it, I'm sure, Judah and Jerusalem. He's speaking to Judah and Jerusalem. But this sure works for us because we realize that God told his people he's in charge.

We realize that God said, I still have a plan. I'm still working my plan. You don't have to worry. Things are going to happen. Read with me, if you would, Isaiah chapter 2 and verse 2. Get in your Bible, Isaiah chapter 2 and verse 2.

This is the future of the house of God, the temple. Look at what it says. 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.

Now, here's what you need to do. Get your Bible out. You need a paper Bible. You need to make some notes. You need to kind of study this stuff. Underline the last days. In verse 2, we're in the last days.

[3 : 07] By the way, we're in those last days. The Bible said, when Peter stood on the day of Pentecost, he said, we're there. So we've been there about 2,000 years. So we're in the last of the last days. And he said, in the last days, here's what God was going to do.

In the Bible terms, the gods are in the mountains. It's like God's high and lifted up. And so there's a term. It's not a literal mountain here because Israel's not got that high mountains there.

But the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, exalted above all the hills. And I want you to know, as all nations shall flow unto it. All nations shall flow unto it.

All of a sudden, and it's an interesting word, they're going to flow to it. It's on the top of a hill. It's on the top of a mountain. Things don't flow uphill. But when you've got Almighty God attracting, he can pull people from anywhere and everywhere, and they're coming to him.

Look, if you went in Isaiah chapter 2 and verse 3. Things are drastically changing in this picture. And many people shall go and say, come, let's go to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob.

[4 : 09] He will teach us, and we will walk in his ways. All of a sudden, these Jews that haven't been going out and telling the truth, and if you recall back over in the book of Revelation, 144,000 young men are going to be called to carry the gospel around the world, and they're going to be getting everything ready to set up this very kingdom we're talking about.

They're going to go out and say, come on, you can be taught. And then it says, out of Zion shall go forth the law. You should learn that. Out of Zion, all of a sudden, Jerusalem will be used again, and the word of the Lord will go out of Jerusalem.

The war will be over. When this happens, it's the end of the tribulation period. We're moving into the millennial kingdom. And look what it says in chapter 2 and verse 4. And he, that's Jesus, shall judge among the nations and shall rebuke many people, and they will beat their swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, and nations shall not lift up sword against the nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Now, that's nothing that happened since I've been alive. Since I've been alive, we've been in one war to another war. We're always talking about war, and if we're in a war, we're talking about getting out of that war, so we can get in another war to talk about getting out of. And that's what's going on, but there's coming a time when Jesus will rule and reign, and when they will learn war no more.

This is the establishment of God's kingdom. So you understand Jesus died on the cross. Jesus was buried. Jesus ascended and rose from the dead and then ascended into heaven. And we've been around here about 2,000 years teaching and preaching the gospel and the grace, and we are not going to get the job done as a church.

[5 : 39] We're going to do the best job we can. We won't get the job done. And Jesus is going to pull us out of the way. He's going to take us up into heaven. He's going to wake up the nation of Israel, and the nation of Israel is going to become the craziest, greatest soul winning force you've ever seen.

Book of Revelation, 144,000 of them are going to spread across the globe. People are going to be getting saved. Jerusalem will have the temple rebuilt, and God will raise the temple up so that everybody knows you don't go to Buddha, you don't go to Islam, you go to Jerusalem, because that's where the God of heaven is at work, and they're going to go there.

The evangelists are going everywhere. What I want you to take away from these first verses, man, you can know this. God's still in charge. Can I get an amen right there? The world may reject him, but he has a plan, and he is working his plan, and we get to know what it is.

Isn't that amazing? In 2018, sitting here where there's no temple and there's no big thing about Jerusalem, and the world doesn't seem to be doing that, I got the book of Isaiah. God's telling me what he's doing.

But in chapter 1, remember how mean he was? He said, I'm going to judge sin. Well, Israel's not ready for that to happen. Israel's not ready for Jesus.

[6 : 45] Israel's not ready to be the center of the world. Jerusalem's not ready to be lifted up like that. And they need to know it's not them and their goodness. It's God. And so what's he going to do? He's going to purge them.

He is going to prepare the nation of Israel. Look at chapter 2 and verse 12. You got your Bible, chapter 2 and verse 12. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon everyone that's proud and lofty, and upon everyone that's lifted up, and he shall be brought low.

And on the day of the Lord, day of the Lord. See, there's a day coming when he's going to say, boom, last day is the day of the Lord. Jesus will rule and reign. It's not over with him at all.

And look at this. Proud, you believe you're somebody. You believe you can do something. You lift yourself up. And he's talking to Israel here. He's talking to Judah here. He's talking to Jerusalem. But I think we've still got that same problem.

And everybody's going to find out it's only Jesus. You can only believe in Jesus, and you can only trust him. Look at chapter 2 and verse 6, if you would. God's going to judge them, and he tells them why. Look at chapter 2 and verse 6.

[7 : 43] Circle the word because in verse 6. Thou hast forsaken thy people. God turned his back on Jacob. Now, see, right now it appears that God's not really blessing Israel very much.

And it's not at work amongst him. And in the day of Isaiah, he said that's what's already going on. And he tells them why. Because they are replenished from the east. Look at that. They're looking to eastern Asian or, you know, religions.

They're looking to false gods. They are soothsayers. They like their Ouija board. They like their horoscopes. They like to talk to mediums and demons, and they like to do all of that. And they please themselves with the children of strangers.

They're like, is there a foreigner here that knows about another god that's not our god? Tell me about the false god. I like to study religion. Well, God's people are never supposed to like to study religion. God's people are supposed to study Jesus.

God's people are supposed to study what the word of God says. They should walk in the light. Chapter 2, verse 5. Look at it. O house of Jacob, come. Let us walk in the light of the Lord. But instead, they're going everywhere else.

[8 : 44] So God's going to destroy their idols. Look, if you would, at chapter 2, verse 17. Chapter 2, verse 17. Could I get you, if you have your Bible open, underline, circle this, the Lord alone.

You do know that we tend to not believe in salvation by grace, so we talk about it. We tend to somewhere get a hold of the idea, since I don't cuss, smoke, drink, dance, and go within the dew, since I'm better than other people.

Jesus made me holy, and all of a sudden, I begin to think about what I do. And I begin to get haughty and proud and think I'm better than my neighbor. That's what happened with Israel. They had God's laws. It made them a special people.

They felt lifted up. And you know what he says? Look at the verse right here. He said, the loftiness of man shall be bowed down. And the haughtiness, the proud, arrogant actions will be brought down. And your idols, buddy, they're out of here.

Because God hates pride. Sad thing to say, but Christians get proud. We're proud of not being like lost people. We're proud of being better than other people.

[9 : 55] We really are kind of like the Pharisee that went to the temple and said, Father, I thank you. I'm not like the rest of these people. I don't do this, and I don't do that, and I'm better than them, and I'm better than them. I mean, check me out. You are lucky to have me.

And God's like, no, no, no, no. It's me and me alone. Stop it. You're not big stuff. I am. They're proud of their riches. In chapter 2 and verse 7, they're full of silver and gold.

They have no end to their treasure, no end to their horses, no end to their chariots. They worship what they make. Look at chapter 2 and verse 8. Their land is full of idols. They worship the work of their hands.

Their own fingers made their gods. And that's who they're worshiping. But there's a day coming when only the true God will be exalted. Verse 11. The lofty looks of men shall be humbled.

The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down. And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. Wouldn't it be right for me and you to say, I'm going to already exalt him?

[10 : 52] I'm going to already lift him up. I'm going to already brag on him. I'm already going to know him. And that day they'll find that their false gods are of no value. All of a sudden, the world is about to be shaken. And the whole world is going to go through the great tribulation period that you know about from other parts of your Bible.

The whole world is going to get shaken. Everybody's going to be running and saying they're going to check out Buddha and they're going to check out every other 300 million gods. They're going to be all around the world looking at their gods and they're going to find out no God is able to save them.

No God is able to handle this. No God can be trusted. Look what the Bible says in verse 20. 220. In that day, in that day, a man shall cast his idols of silver and gold that he made for himself to worship to the moles and the bats.

God's going to get up and say, this ain't going to work with a flip. And he's going to toss it out the window because it doesn't work. He will go to the clefts of the rocks. He will hide among the jagged rocks. He will be afraid of the Lord for the glory of his majesty when God shakes the earth terribly.

There's a day coming when God's going to really come down and go to work. In a tribulation period, things are going to get shaken up. Preparation means causing everyone to see their need. You do realize what happens.

[12 : 02] The more you're around Christianity, the more you're around Judaism, the more you start keeping all the rules, the more you start looking like a Christian on the outside, though nothing might have changed on the inside. You know how to dress.

You know how to talk. You know how to walk. You know what to say. You know what to do. You start feeling like you're a pretty good guy. You start getting lifted up in who you are. And God needs us to realize it's not about what you can do.

It's not about how your actions are. It's not about your money. It's not about your goodness. It's about me. And so he's going to bring strong conviction and break them up and wake them up.

Go with me to Isaiah chapter 3 now. Next thing he's going to do is he's going to take away everything they lean on. You see, first thing I lean on is me and my gods. First thing I lean on is me and my stuff.

The first thing I lean on is that. And now God says, I'm taking away everything. In chapter 3, he's basically going to leave them poverty stricken. He is going to break the bank.

[12 : 58] Chapter 3, verse 1. Behold the Lord. The Lord of hosts does take away from Jerusalem and Judah the stay and the staff.

Underline that. The stay and the staff. The whole stay of bread. The whole everything you need for eating and drinking. God's taking it away. And he's saying, and all the guys y'all look to and all the guys you think ought to save you.

You're calling to Washington asking the president to come out and help you. You're calling to your religious leaders asking him. No man will help you. Look, if you would, at chapter 2 and verse 22. Cease from men whose breath is in their nostrils.

A man can't help you. There's not a man on the planet that can help you. There's only one that can help, and his name is God. Chapter 3 and verse 7. They have to admit their weakness.

That's where salvation comes. Salvation comes when I get to the end of myself and I realize I can't and only God can. In chapter 3 and verse 7. Listen to me. There's chaos everywhere. This is probably tribulation period stuff.

[13 : 56] The whole world is falling apart. Their gods are worthless. The earth is being shaken. They're throwing their gods out the window. Now they've run out of bread. They've run out of water. Everything's falling apart in their life.

And there's this one guy who seems to always be successful. He's the guy in the church that everybody looks to. And they run to his house and they say, can I get a little help? Look what he says in verse 7. Chapter 3, verse 7. In that day shall he swear, saying, I will not be a healer.

For I have no bread or water myself. I have no clothes myself. So don't make me a ruler. Don't make me a leader. Look at it. Jerusalem is ruined. Judah is fallen.

Why in the world is it so bad? It is falling slap apart. Because their tongue and their doings are against the Lord to provoke the eyes of his glory.

God is so tired. You see, 2,000 years ago they killed Jesus. 2,000 years ago they chose a man over Jesus.

[14 : 58] Barabbas over Jesus. 2,000 years ago they chose religion over Jesus. 2,000 years he's been showing mercy and grace. And there's coming a day when he's going to say, I've had it. Up to here and I'll take no more.

I will shake the earth. I will purge you. I am going to win. I will win. But to do that I'll have to take out a few of you. That's what he's saying here. Go home and read the chapters.

I'll be more than happy to sit and talk with you. The wicked finally get what they deserve. Verse 11, 311. Woe to the wicked. It shall be ill with him. For the reward of his hands shall be given him.

You will get what you deserve. You've been getting away with it. You haven't been caught. But you will be. He's talking to Judah and Jerusalem.

He's talking about future events. I still think it has a lot to say about us. I think you can see it without me telling you. Verse 18. Here comes that phrase. In that day. In that day. The Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet and their calls and their round tires like the moon.

[16 : 04] I left out these verses. But basically he lists all the stuff women wear to look pretty and men wear to look pretty. He lists their necklaces and their piercings and their bracelets and the things they wear around their legs and the things they wear around their toes.

And they got all this stuff. He said, you're losing every bit of it. You're so focused on making yourself look pretty on the outside. But you stink on the inside. And I'm going to show you that.

And in chapter 4 and verse 1. It has now gotten so bad. Everybody's alone. Everybody needs help. Look at chapter 4 and verse 1. In that day seven women will take a hold of one man.

And they'll say, look, I'll get my own food. I'll get my own clothes. I'll do whatever I need to do. I just need to be married. So seven women will take on one man because they don't want to be embarrassed that there are no men for them.

The whole place has fallen apart. Here's what you started with. I got one more point to finish this. But here's what you started with. Jesus said, my day's coming. I'm going to build my temple.

[17 : 15] I'm going to lift it high above everything. All over the world, they're going to know about the glory of God. And we're going to be able to teach the world about Jesus. But to do that, I'm going to have to wipe out some of you sinners that refuse to follow me.

I'm going to have to shake your country up. I'm going to have to take everything away from you. Because as long as you trust you, you can't trust me. And that's what he's going to do. And now he's removed everything they can lean on. There's nothing left.

They're unable. There's no money, no power, no beauty, no ability. All they have left is they'll need to go to God. And then, here's the beautiful thing.

You've got to see Bible. Judah and Israel. They're basically gone now. Jerusalem is over there. But it's not this Jerusalem.

It's not the Jerusalem that's going to be lifted up. God's still working. And sometime out here in the future, and I don't know whether it starts today or tomorrow, or a few dozen years from now, Jesus is going to take us out of the way, and he's going to shake this world.

[18 : 15] He's going to wake this world up and say, wake up and face me. And he's going to build a temple. He's going to purge the nation of Israel. And he's going to set up a thousand-year kingdom on the earth. Chapter 4, verse 2.

You need to underline the branch of the Lord. And he will be beautiful and glorious.

And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely, beautiful for them that are escaped of Israel. So some, you remember that remnant in chapter 1?

He's always got a few. Out of all the crowds, he's always got some that love him. And out of those that are going into the tribulation period, people are going to be saved, and things are going to be happening. And out of that, some are going to make it through.

And so he says in chapter 4 and verse 3, And it shall come to pass that he that's left in Zion, he that remains in Jerusalem, that guy will be called holy for everyone that's written among the living in Jerusalem.

[19 : 14] And he will have cleansed them. It's always God. Salvation is a God thing. So look if you would at verse 4, Isaiah 4, 4. The Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters.

You should underline, he washes away the filth. Amen. That's how I got saved. He washed away the filth. He washes away the filth. And he purged the blood of Jerusalem. And how do you do it? By the spirit of judgment, by the spirit of burning.

And then God will go to work and he's going to build Jerusalem. And it's going to be magnificent. And it's going to be wonderful. Look at chapter 4 and verse 5. The Lord will create upon every dwelling place of Mount Zion and upon her assemblies a cloud and smoke by day.

You remember how back in the book of Exodus as they walked around they had a cloud and had a pillar of fire? We're back to it. We're getting back to where God's with his people. We're getting back to where Jerusalem is enjoying all God meant for her to enjoy all the way back before she did wrong.

There will be a tabernacle, a refuge, a covert from the storm and from the rain. Now I need you to know who the root is before I close. Who's this branch?

[20 : 16] Who's this root? Go with me to Romans chapter 15 and verse 12. The branch is Jesus. You're in the book of Isaiah and you're finding out about Jesus. You're in the book of Isaiah and you're finding out about Jesus.

You're finding out that God's got big plans. But to get to the big plan, he's got to break them down and get them away from everything else so they can only look to the branch. By the way, that's exactly what he has for you.

He has great plans for you. He wants you to enjoy eternal life. He wants you to be saved. But you can't do it as long as you trust you. You can't do it as long as you trust anything else. He breaks you down. And when you're broken down, you can trust Jesus.

Look at Romans 15, 12. And again, Isaiah said, there shall be a root of Jesse. Underline that. A root of Jesse. See, the tree gets cut down.

See, Israel, that magnificent plant is gone. And you would think, Israel, God was going to use you. It looks like it all fell apart.

[21 : 12] The tree's cut down. Everything's done. There's no Jerusalem. There's no Israel. Nothing like in the Bible days. But all of a sudden, a root. All of a sudden, a branch comes to life. The root of Jesse, the father of David, the king.

He shall reign over the Gentiles. And him shall the Gentiles trust. Look at Isaiah chapter 11 and verse 1. God's setting up his kingdom on earth. Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done. As it is in heaven, I want to be done that way in earth. Chapter 11, verse 1. And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse. A branch shall grow out of the roots.

I know some of you have probably bought into the liberal agenda and the politics of the day. And you tend to think we read the Bible and it's not really true.

And we're just hanging on to the old ways. And we don't know. No, this is really true. But here's what the Bible said. Oh, yes, it is. And God has not given up. And God has not quit. And everything may look like it's falling apart.

[22 : 11] But he already told you it was going to happen. And he shall bring forth a root. A stem of Jesse. A branch shall grow out of his roots. Look on, if you would, in Isaiah chapter 11 and verse 2.

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him. The spirit of wisdom and understanding. The spirit of counsel and might. The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. God will bring back Jesus.

He came that first time to die on a cross. He's coming back the next time to sit on a throne. The world won't end anytime soon. I can promise you that. God has a plan. The fact is, when he sits on that throne, some crazy stuff.

Just skip down to verse 6. Isaiah chapter 11 and verse 6. If you don't read the book of Isaiah, you might think things are kind of winding down. They're not winding down, buddy. They're winding up. Things are about to take off.

In Isaiah chapter 11 and verse 6. The wolf, the lamb, the leopard, the kid, the calf, the young lion, the fatling. The young child will lead them around. The cow and the bear shall feed. The young ones will lay down together.

[23 : 11] And lions will eat straw like the ox. That's in verse 7. And the little kid will play with snakes and wasps and other things and won't get hurt. For the earth shall be full, verse 9, of the knowledge of the Lord.

And the root. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand as an enzyme assigned to the people. And to that root shall the Gentiles seek.

And his rest shall be glorious. I think I ought to say that to you in New Testament terms because I think maybe you don't know New Testament. How does that work here? Philippians chapter 2, verse 9.

Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess. See, God has highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name and every knee and every tongue.

Men have gotten away a long time. It's pretty easy to think, eh, it's just emotionalism at the church. And Austin gets all excited and, you know, and he's trying to keep us in the old ways.

[24 : 12] He's trying to keep us looking back to what Jesus did on the cross. Well, I'm all for keeping you looking back for the cross. But I'm telling you, he's still got plans out that way too. He is still at work. He hadn't given up. He hasn't lost. And things are going to come around and you're going to see great and mighty things.

So how does that apply to us? How does that apply to us? In Isaiah chapter 2 and verse 5, the prophet said, O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. I want you to look at one other verse before I close.

1 John 2, 28. Look at this little set of verses. Listen to me. Listen to what I'm telling you. No matter what you believe or what you think, here's what the word of God says. Jesus is coming soon.

Jesus will set up a kingdom. Jesus will rule and reign. There is a millennial kingdom coming. And there is a time of great shaking going to come on the earth. That's called a tribulation period for those of us who study the Bible.

God's got big plans. You know what we do when we hear all that? Listen to what the Bible says in 1 John 2, 28. And now, little children, you all abide in him. He saved you.

[25 : 15] Live in him. Walk in him. Pray to him. Think about him. Abide in him. And when he shall appear, we may have confidence. And not be ashamed. Not be embarrassed before he's coming.

One day, Jesus is coming back. I want to be waiting on him. I want to be ready. I want to be living like I believed it. Amen. You know, if Jesus comes again, I want to be like the shepherds were when he came the first time.

Jesus comes again. I want to be like some people that knew he was coming. I want to be in him. Look at verse 29. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone that doth righteousness is born of him.

You see, I'm saved, and I wanted to write because he saved me. Chapter 3, verse 1. Guys, you don't have any idea what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that he would call us.

We are the sons of God. I'm talking to the children of God this afternoon. The children of God. You belong to him. He saved you. And guys, in verse 2, we don't know what's going to happen.

[26 : 13] But when he appears, we will be like him. For we shall see him as he is. So you know what we do when we know what Isaiah says, when we believe it?

Verse 3. Every man that's expecting to see Jesus, every man that believes he's really in charge, every man that believes he's really coming back, purifies himself.

Every man that has this hope in him purifies himself because our God is pure. When I was a boy, we were country people. We had towels you could see through we used.

And we took a bath in a tub on the back porch. But when family was coming, that rich family, my mama got out towels that only got seen when visitors were there. And our towels were put out, and you would have come in our house and thought, man, they got nice towels.

If we were told you touch them, you're dead. Because we got to get ready for company to come. We cleaned the house because we was poor white trash, and we had to clean the house, make it look like we were at least clean poor white trash.

[27 : 13] Here's what you better know. Jesus is coming soon. And you're the children of God. And he's still in charge. Don't be messing around. Holiness. We love Jesus. We want to be pure like he's pure.

We want to be looking for him to come. We fully expect him to do exactly what he said he was going to do. We want to be looking for him to come.