

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

November 27, 2022

The Mountain of the Lord

Advent

[Isaiah 2.1-5](#)

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

REFLECTION

Each Sunday through Advent, we will focus on the lectionary text from the book of Isaiah. To give us context for this journey, let's look at how God utilized individuals to mediate and guide the moral and religious lives of the people before the prophets: 1) **Moses and Aaron**: mediators in the wilderness, communed with God in the tent of meeting when disputes and questions arose; 2) **Judges**: presided over each of the 12 tribes of Israel, communed with God over disputes and questions; 3) **King and the Temple**: dual system of leadership to discern for the people how to follow the Torah. When this system and establishment became too corrupt, God began to speak through the prophets.

The prophets have a dual role of both **admonishing** and **declaring** God's faithfulness. It's important to look for both every time we read the prophets, or else things get really dreary! **In verses 2 and 4, how does Isaiah declare God's faithfulness, and give us a glimpse of how things will end? How does his use of the word "shall" (v.4) reassure you with certainty about what awaits us?**

The candle of hope that we lit on Sunday burns for the sadness, disappointment, and despair in each of our lives. However, we are called to more than merely waiting for the Lord to make all things right. Isaiah's words in v. 3 invite us to learn God's ways, and actively participate in building his kingdom. **Where in your life do you need to "go to the mountain of the Lord" and align with God's path for you in all aspects of your life (parenting, marriage, relationships, work, community)?**

Though we don't know the details, the knowledge of this hope should cause us to live differently. **Practice living out this "top of the staircase" hope, praying to see how God works through you.**