

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 2 — The Lord's Mountain and the Pride of Man

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 2 presents two dramatically different pictures.

The first is glorious.

The second is terrifying.

The chapter begins with a vision of the future reign of God.

The mountain of the Lord's house is exalted.

The nations come.

They seek God's instruction.

They learn His ways.

They walk in His paths.

Weapons of war are transformed into tools of cultivation.

Nations no longer train for war.

Peace comes because God reigns in righteousness.

Then the chapter changes.

Isaiah turns from what God's kingdom will become to what Judah has become.

Instead of trusting God, the people have filled the land with:

Foreign spiritual practices.

Fortune-tellers.

Silver.

Gold.

Horses.

Chariots.

Idols.

Human pride.

They have replaced confidence in God with confidence in:

Wealth.

Military power.

Human achievement.

False religion.

The result is judgment.

Isaiah repeatedly declares that human pride will be brought low.

The central statement appears twice:

“The Lord alone will be exalted in that day.”

Everything humanity has raised against God will eventually fall.

Tall trees.

High mountains.

Fortified towers.

Trading ships.

Beautiful vessels.

Idols.

Human greatness itself.

The chapter ends with a simple command:

“Stop trusting in man.”

Human beings are temporary.

Our breath is fragile.

Our power is limited.

God alone is worthy of ultimate trust.

The central truth of Isaiah 2 is:

God’s kingdom will ultimately be exalted above every human power, His righteous rule will bring true peace, and every form of pride, idolatry, wealth, military strength, and human self-confidence will be humbled before His majesty.

I. ISAIAH RECEIVES ANOTHER WORD CONCERNING JUDAH

Isaiah 2:1 — God Speaks to Judah and Jerusalem

“This is the word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.”

Isaiah again identifies his message.

The word concerns:

Judah.

Jerusalem.

The message is prophetic.

Isaiah does not merely hear words.

He “sees” the message.

Prophecy reveals God’s perspective on both:

The present.

The future.

Cross References

Micah 1:1

The word of the Lord came to Micah concerning Samaria and Jerusalem during the reigns of the kings of Judah.

Amos 1:1

Amos received words concerning Israel during the days of the kings of Judah and Israel, before a significant earthquake.

Habakkuk 1:1

The prophet Habakkuk received a prophetic burden and vision from God concerning what would come.

Spiritual Principle

God reveals reality from His perspective, not merely from human appearance.

II. THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD WILL BE EXALTED

Isaiah 2:2 — All Nations Will Flow to It

“In the last days, the mountain of the Lord’s house will be established as the highest of the mountains, lifted above the hills. All nations will flow to it.”

Isaiah looks ahead.

The phrase:

“the last days”

points to God’s future purposes.

The mountain of the Lord’s house represents the place of God’s rule and worship.

It will be:

Established.

Exalted.

Recognized.

The nations will come.

God’s kingdom will not remain hidden.

Cross References

Micah 4:1

In the last days, the mountain associated with the Lord’s house will be established above other mountains, and peoples from many nations will come toward it.

Hebrews 12:22

Believers are described as coming to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and the joyful gathering of countless angels.

Zechariah 8:3

The Lord promises to return to Zion, and Jerusalem will be known as the City of Truth while the mountain of the Lord will be called holy.

Spiritual Principle

God’s kingdom will ultimately stand above every competing kingdom.

Key Truth

What the world overlooks today will one day be recognized universally.

III. THE NATIONS WILL SEEK GOD’S TEACHING

Isaiah 2:3 — “He Will Teach Us His Ways”

“Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths.’ For the law will go out from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”

The nations are not merely coming to admire Jerusalem.

They come to:

Learn.

Listen.

Obey.

Notice the order:

God teaches.

People walk.

True learning produces changed conduct.

Cross References

Micah 4:2

Many nations will encourage one another to go up to the Lord’s mountain so that He may teach them His ways and they may walk in His paths.

Luke 24:47

Jesus declared that repentance and forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Psalms 110:2

The Lord extends the authority of His Messiah from Zion so that His rule reaches into the midst of opposition.

Spiritual Principle

The purpose of learning God’s Word is walking in God’s ways.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Truth has not completed its work when it reaches the mind.

It should reach the life.

IV. GOD WILL BRING TRUE PEACE

Isaiah 2:4 — Swords into Plowshares

“He will judge between the nations and settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”

Peace comes because God judges rightly.

Human peace efforts are often temporary because:

Sin remains.

Pride remains.

Injustice remains.

But under God’s rule, disputes are settled righteously.

Weapons become farming tools.

Swords become plowshares.

Spears become pruning hooks.

Resources once used to destroy life are redirected toward sustaining life.

Cross References

Micah 4:3

God will judge disputes among nations, and people will turn their weapons into agricultural tools because warfare will no longer dominate their lives.

Joel 3:10

Joel reverses the picture during a time of judgment, telling nations to prepare weapons for conflict and divine reckoning.

Psalms 46:9

God brings wars to an end, breaks weapons, destroys instruments of violence, and demonstrates His supreme authority.

Spiritual Principle

True peace comes through righteous rule.

Key Truth

Humanity will not finally achieve lasting peace by power alone.

Peace comes when God reigns.

V. JUDAH IS CALLED TO WALK IN GOD'S LIGHT NOW

Isaiah 2:5 — “Come, Let Us Walk”

“House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.”

Isaiah has just described the future.

Now he applies it to the present.

If nations will one day walk in God's ways:

Judah should walk in them now.

Future hope should produce present obedience.

Cross References

Micah 4:5

Though other peoples may walk in the names of their gods, God's people declare that they will walk in the name of the Lord forever.

John 8:12

Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not continue walking in darkness but will possess the light of life.”

1 John 1:7

If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and cleansing through Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Principle

Do not merely admire the future kingdom.

Live according to its light now.

VI. JUDAH HAS EMBRACED OCCULT PRACTICES

Isaiah 2:6 — Filled with Practices from the East

“Lord, You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob, because they are filled with practices from the East and follow fortune-tellers like the Philistines. They make deals with foreigners.”

Judah has absorbed surrounding pagan practices.

Instead of looking to God for direction, they seek:

Omens.

Fortune-telling.

Foreign spiritual practices.

This violates God’s commands.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 18:10

God forbids His people from practicing divination, sorcery, interpreting omens, or engaging in occult practices.

Deuteronomy 18:11

God also forbids spells, consulting mediums, spiritists, or attempting to communicate with the dead.

2 Kings 21:6

King Manasseh practiced sorcery, divination, and consultation with mediums, provoking the Lord through persistent evil.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual curiosity becomes rebellion when it seeks guidance from sources God has forbidden.

VII. JUDAH TRUSTS IN WEALTH AND MILITARY POWER

Isaiah 2:7 — Silver, Gold, Horses, and Chariots

“Their land is full of silver and gold; there is no end to their treasures. Their land is full of horses; there is no end to their chariots.”

Prosperity itself is not condemned.

The problem is misplaced trust.

Their security rests in:

Money.

Treasures.

Military power.

Horses.

Chariots.

What God gave has become what they trust instead of God.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 17:16

Israel's king was warned not to multiply horses for himself or return to Egypt to build military strength in disobedient dependence.

Deuteronomy 17:17

The king was also warned not to multiply wives or accumulate excessive silver and gold in ways that would turn his heart away from God.

Hosea 8:4

Israel established rulers without seeking God's will and used silver and gold to make idols that would eventually lead to destruction.

Spiritual Principle

A blessing becomes an idol when confidence shifts from the Giver to the gift.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Possessing wealth is not the same as trusting wealth.

God condemns the trust.

VIII. THEIR LAND IS FULL OF IDOLS

Isaiah 2:8 — Worshiping Their Own Work

“Their land is full of idols; they bow down to the work of their own hands, to what their own fingers have made.”

The absurdity of idolatry is exposed.

People create an object.

Then bow before it.

The maker worships what he made.

Cross References

Psalm 115:4

The idols of the nations are made from silver and gold by human hands.

Habakkuk 2:18

An idol cannot teach truth because it is only a human-made image, and those who trust it depend upon something speechless and false.

Jeremiah 10:3

The religious customs of the nations are empty because people cut down wood and shape it into objects through human craftsmanship.

Spiritual Principle

Anything created by people is unworthy of the worship owed to the Creator.

IX. HUMANITY WILL BE BROUGHT LOW

Isaiah 2:9 — Pride Ends in Humiliation

“So people will be brought low, and mankind humbled—do not forgive them!”

The people chose:

Idols.

Wealth.

Occult practices.

Pride.

The result:

Humbling.

Human self-exaltation always moves toward collapse when it competes with God.

Cross References

Psalm 62:9

Ordinary people and powerful people alike are temporary and lighter than breath when weighed against ultimate reality.

Jeremiah 5:9

God asks whether such rebellion should escape judgment and whether He should not hold a sinful nation accountable.

Micah 6:16

Because the people followed corrupt practices and sinful leadership, God declares that judgment and shame will follow.

Spiritual Principle

Pride promises elevation.

God says it ends in humiliation.

X. PEOPLE WILL TRY TO HIDE FROM GOD'S MAJESTY

Isaiah 2:10 — Hide in the Rocks

“Go into the rocks, hide in the dust from the fear of the Lord and the splendor of His majesty.”

Human pride seems strong until God reveals His glory.

Then people hide.

The issue is not that God becomes majestic.

He already is.

The difference is:

Humanity finally sees it.

Cross References

Revelation 6:15

Kings, rulers, military leaders, wealthy people, powerful people, and everyone else hide themselves in caves and among the rocks.

Revelation 6:16

They call for the mountains and rocks to hide them from the presence of the One on the throne and from coming judgment.

Hosea 10:8

During judgment, people will cry out for mountains and hills to cover them because they cannot escape God's reckoning.

Spiritual Principle

The glory people ignore today will not be ignorable forever.

XI. THE LORD ALONE WILL BE EXALTED

Isaiah 2:11 — Human Pride Brought Low

“The proud eyes of man will be humbled, and human pride brought low. The Lord alone will be exalted in that day.”

This is one of the central declarations of the chapter.

Human pride falls.

God remains exalted.

No person shares His ultimate glory.

Cross References

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit prepares the way for a fall.

Luke 18:14

Jesus taught that everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, while the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

1 Peter 5:5

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble, so believers are called to clothe themselves with humility.

Spiritual Principle

There is room for only one ultimate throne.

Key Truth

Either we humble ourselves before God now, or pride will eventually be humbled by God.

XII. THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL CONFRONT ALL PRIDE

Isaiah 2:12 — Everything Lifted Up Will Fall

“For the Lord Almighty has a day in store against all the proud and arrogant, against all who are lifted up—and they will be brought low.”

The “day of the Lord” refers to decisive divine intervention in judgment.

Nothing arrogant escapes.

No:

Status.

Wealth.

Military power.

Culture.

Institution.

Will remain above God.

Cross References

Zephaniah 1:14

The great day of the Lord is near and approaching quickly, bringing a fearful reckoning.

Zephaniah 1:15

That day is described as a day of wrath, distress, devastation, darkness, and judgment.

Malachi 4:1

A coming day will burn against the arrogant and wicked, exposing and consuming human rebellion.

Spiritual Principle

God has appointed an end to human arrogance.

XIII. THE TALLEST TREES WILL BE BROUGHT LOW

Isaiah 2:13 — Cedars and Oaks

“Against all the tall and lofty cedars of Lebanon, and all the oaks of Bashan.”

Tall trees become symbols of:

Height.

Strength.

Pride.

Splendor.

Even the most impressive things in creation are small before God.

Cross References

Ezekiel 31:3

A powerful kingdom is compared to a great cedar of Lebanon, impressive in height, branches, and appearance.

Zechariah 11:1

Lebanon is told to open its doors so that fire may consume its cedars.

Zechariah 11:2

The mighty trees are told to mourn because the great cedars fall and what seemed strong is brought down.

Spiritual Principle

Height is not the same as permanence.

XIV. EVEN MOUNTAINS CANNOT COMPETE WITH GOD

Isaiah 2:14 — Every High Hill

“Against all the towering mountains, and all the high hills.”

Mountains represent:

Permanence.

Power.

Height.

Yet before God:

They are not ultimate.

Cross References

Ezekiel 6:3

God announces judgment against mountains, hills, valleys, and places associated with idolatrous worship.

Jeremiah 49:16

A nation may live high among cliffs and imagine itself secure, but pride cannot prevent God from bringing it down.

Obadiah 1:3

Pride deceives those who live in high places and imagine that no one can bring them down.

Spiritual Principle

No position is high enough to escape God.

XV. HUMAN DEFENSES WILL FAIL

Isaiah 2:15 — Towers and Walls

“Against every lofty tower, and every fortified wall.”

Humans build walls because we want security.

But physical defenses cannot protect against divine judgment.

Cross References

Ezekiel 26:4

God declares that enemy forces will destroy fortified structures and reduce proud defenses.

Proverbs 18:11

The wealthy imagine their possessions are like a strong fortified city and protective wall.

Deuteronomy 28:52

God warned Israel that rebellion could lead to siege until even fortified walls they trusted were brought down.

Spiritual Principle

Human defenses are useful but never ultimate.

XVI. COMMERCIAL POWER WILL ALSO BE HUMBLLED

Isaiah 2:16 — Ships of Tarshish

“Against every trading ship of Tarshish, and against every beautiful vessel.”

Ships represented:

Commerce.

Wealth.

International trade.

Luxury.

Human achievement.

God’s judgment reaches economic pride as well as military pride.

Cross References

1 Kings 10:22

Solomon maintained trading ships that returned periodically carrying valuable goods, luxury items, and exotic products.

Ezekiel 27:25

The trading ships of Tarshish carried merchandise and contributed to the wealth and commercial pride of great trading cities.

Jonah 1:3

Jonah found a ship traveling toward Tarshish and boarded it while attempting to flee from the Lord’s command.

Spiritual Principle

Economic success does not create independence from God.

XVII. HUMAN ARROGANCE WILL COLLAPSE

Isaiah 2:17 — God Alone Exalted

“The arrogance of man will be brought low, and human pride humbled. The Lord alone will be exalted in that day.”

Isaiah repeats the great statement.

Why repeat it?

Because this is the main point.

Human glory passes.

God's glory remains.

Cross References

Philippians 2:9

God highly exalted Jesus and gave Him the name above every name.

Proverbs 29:23

A person's pride will bring him low, but humility leads toward honor.

Job 40:11

God challenges Job to pour out righteous anger against pride and bring every arrogant person low.

Spiritual Principle

God does not compete with human pride.

He ultimately ends it.

XVIII. IDOLS WILL DISAPPEAR

Isaiah 2:18 — False Gods Cannot Survive God's Presence

"And the idols will totally disappear."

This verse is short.

But powerful.

Everything people worship instead of God will ultimately vanish.

The idols cannot:

Save.

Speak.

Protect.

Survive judgment.

Cross References

Zechariah 13:2

God promises to remove idolatry from the land so that false worship is no longer remembered.

Micah 5:13

God declares that carved images and religious monuments will be destroyed so His people no longer worship what their hands have made.

Ezekiel 30:13

God promises judgment against false gods and idols, exposing their inability to deliver.

Spiritual Principle

Every substitute for God has an expiration date.

XIX. HUMANITY WILL FLEE INTO CAVES

Isaiah 2:19 — God Rises to Shake the Earth

“People will flee to caves in the rocks and to holes in the ground from the fear of the Lord and the splendor of His majesty, when He rises to shake the earth.”

Again, humans hide.

Why?

God’s majesty has become undeniable.

Human confidence disappears.

Cross References

Revelation 6:15

People from every social rank hide in caves and among the rocks during divine judgment.

Hebrews 12:26

God promises another shaking, not only of the earth but of the created order, revealing what is truly unshakable.

Judges 6:2

During oppression, Israel hid in mountain dens, caves, and fortified places for survival.

Spiritual Principle

The earth may shake, but God does not.

XX. PEOPLE WILL THROW AWAY THEIR IDOLS

Isaiah 2:20 — Silver and Gold Become Worthless

“In that day people will throw away their idols of silver and gold, which they made to worship, to the moles and bats.”

Earlier, the idols seemed valuable.

They were made from:

Silver.

Gold.

Now they are thrown into dark places.

Judgment exposes their true worthlessness.

Cross References

Ezekiel 7:19

People will throw away silver and gold because wealth will be unable to rescue them in the day of divine judgment.

Habakkuk 2:19

Woe to the person who speaks to wood and stone as though idols could wake, teach, or give guidance, though they have no life within them.

Hosea 8:6

Israel's idol came from human craftsmanship rather than from God and therefore would ultimately be broken.

Spiritual Principle

Judgment changes the value people assign to idols.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What seems priceless in rebellion may look worthless when eternity becomes clear.

XXI. AGAIN PEOPLE HIDE FROM GOD

Isaiah 2:21 — No Cave Is Deep Enough

“They will go into caverns in the rocks and to the clefts in the cliffs, from the fear of the Lord and the splendor of His majesty, when He rises to shake the earth.”

Isaiah repeats the scene.

People flee.

But hiding cannot remove accountability.

Rocks cannot protect from the Creator of rocks.

Cross References

Jeremiah 4:29

When judgment approaches, people flee into thickets, climb among rocks, and abandon cities in terror.

Revelation 6:16

People cry for mountains and rocks to fall upon them and hide them from the presence of God and coming judgment.

1 Samuel 13:6

When Israel saw danger, the people hid in caves, rocks, pits, and other places because they were afraid.

Spiritual Principle

You can hide from people.

You cannot hide from God.

XXII. STOP TRUSTING IN MAN

Isaiah 2:22 — Human Life Is Only a Breath

“Stop trusting in man, who has only breath in his nostrils. Why hold him in such high esteem?”

The chapter ends with one of its clearest commands.

Stop placing ultimate confidence in human beings.

Why?

Humans are:

Mortal.

Temporary.

Limited.

Dependent upon breath.

Isaiah is not saying people have no value.

He is saying they are not God.

Cross References

Psalms 146:3

Do not place ultimate trust in rulers or human beings because they cannot provide final salvation.

Psalms 146:4

When a person's breath leaves, the body returns to the earth, and that person's earthly plans end.

Jeremiah 17:5

The Lord warns against placing ultimate confidence in human strength while turning the heart away from Him.

Spiritual Principle

Respect people.

Love people.

Learn from people.

But worship and ultimately trust God alone.

Key Truth

Anyone whose life depends upon breath is too limited to occupy God's place.

XXIII. EIGHT GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 2

1. God's Kingdom Will Be Exalted

The Lord's mountain will rise above every competing authority.

Principle:

God's kingdom is not one kingdom among many; it is ultimately supreme.

2. God's Word Will Reach the Nations

People will come wanting to learn His ways.

Principle:

God's truth is intended to transform peoples and nations.

3. True Peace Comes Through God's Rule

Weapons become agricultural tools.

Principle:

Lasting peace depends upon righteous judgment.

4. God Calls His People to Walk in the Light Now

Future hope requires present obedience.

Principle:

Do not wait for tomorrow's kingdom to begin obeying today's King.

5. Wealth and Military Strength Can Become Idols

Silver, gold, horses, and chariots filled the land.

Principle:

Anything trusted more than God can become an idol.

6. Pride Will Be Humbled

Human greatness cannot stand against God's majesty.

Principle:

God opposes self-exaltation.

7. Idols Will Ultimately Disappear

People eventually throw them away.

Principle:

Everything worshiped instead of God will fail.

8. God Alone Deserves Ultimate Trust

Humans possess only temporary breath.

Principle:

Confidence belongs finally in the eternal God, not temporary humanity.

XXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 2 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM

God's kingdom is presented as:

Universal.

Righteous.

Authoritative.

Peace-producing.

Instruction-giving.

The nations come willingly to learn.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's kingdom does not merely change government.

It changes how people:

Think.

Learn.

Walk.

Relate.

XXV. WHAT ISAIAH 2 TEACHES ABOUT PEACE

Isaiah's vision of peace is not sentimental.

It comes after God:

Judges.

Settles disputes.

Rules.

Only then are weapons transformed.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical peace is built upon righteousness, not denial of wrongdoing.

XXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 2 TEACHES ABOUT PRIDE

Pride fills much of the chapter.

Proud eyes.

Lofty trees.

High mountains.

Tall towers.

Powerful ships.

Everything elevated is brought low.

Key Truth

Pride is the attempt to occupy a height that belongs to God alone.

XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 2 TEACHES ABOUT WEALTH

The land is full of:

Silver.

Gold.

Treasure.

But wealth becomes dangerous when it becomes:

Security.

Identity.

Confidence.

An idol.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Money makes a useful servant.

It makes a terrible god.

XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 2 TEACHES ABOUT POWER

Judah trusted in:

Horses.

Chariots.

Fortifications.

Military ability.

Isaiah says all human power is limited.

Spiritual Principle

Use human means responsibly.

Never mistake them for ultimate security.

XXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 2 TEACHES ABOUT IDOLATRY

The idol is:

Made by human hands.

Worshiped by humans.

Then discarded by humans.

That is the tragedy of idolatry.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

An idol is anything beneath God that we elevate into God's place.

XXX. WHAT ISAIAH 2 TEACHES ABOUT THE DAY OF THE LORD

The day of the Lord is a day when:

Human arrogance collapses.

Idols disappear.

False security fails.

God's majesty becomes undeniable.

Key Truth

The day of the Lord reveals what was always true:

God alone is supreme.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 2 TEACHES ABOUT HUMANITY

The final verse puts humanity in perspective.

Man has:

Breath.

And that breath is temporary.

Human beings have value because God created them.

But humans do not possess divine permanence or authority.

Spiritual Principle

Never give a human being the trust, fear, worship, or dependence that belongs to God.

XXXII. THE MOUNTAIN AND THE CAVE

Isaiah 2 gives two locations.

At the beginning:

People go up to God's mountain willingly.

At the end:

People flee into caves fearfully.

That contrast is powerful.

One group says:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.”

Another group says in effect:

Hide us.

The question becomes:

How will we respond to God?

With:

Worship?

Or:

Fearful resistance?

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The safest place is not hiding from God.

It is walking with God.

XXXIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What does Isaiah see happening in the last days?

The Lord's mountain is exalted and nations come to learn God's ways.

Question 2

Why do the nations come?

They want God to teach them so they can walk in His paths.

Question 3

What happens to weapons under God's righteous rule?

Weapons of destruction are transformed into tools used for cultivation and life.

Question 4

What command does Isaiah give Judah in verse 5?

He calls them to walk in the light of the Lord.

Question 5

What sinful practices had Judah adopted?

They had embraced fortune-telling, occult practices, foreign customs, idols, and misplaced confidence.

Question 6

Why is the abundance of silver, gold, horses, and chariots criticized?

Because the people trusted these things rather than trusting God.

Question 7

What is the central message of verses 11 and 17?

Human pride will be humbled, and the Lord alone will be exalted.

Question 8

What does the day of the Lord accomplish?

It exposes and destroys human arrogance, idolatry, and false security.

Question 9

Why do people throw away their idols?

They finally recognize that those idols are powerless before God.

Question 10

Why do people hide in caves?

The revealed majesty and judgment of God terrify those who resisted Him.

Question 11

What does verse 22 command?

Stop placing ultimate confidence in human beings.

Question 12

What should Isaiah 2 change in us?

It should cause us to reject pride, idols, misplaced trust, and human self-sufficiency while choosing to walk in God's light.

XXXIV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 2 asks several searching questions.

Am I Walking in the Light?

Do my daily choices reflect God's truth?

What Do I Trust for Security?

Money?

Government?

Career?

Strength?

Relationships?

Possessions?

Or God?

Have I Allowed Cultural Practices to Shape Me More Than Scripture?

What beliefs have I adopted simply because society accepts them?

Are There Modern Idols in My Life?

What would devastate me to lose because it has become more important than God?

Is Pride Controlling Me?

Do I need:

Recognition?

Status?

Control?

Praise?

Do I Truly Believe God Alone Will Be Exalted?

Does my life reflect that belief?

Am I Trusting Too Much in People?

Have I placed expectations upon human beings that belong only to God?

XXXV. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Whatever You Exalt Above God Will Eventually Be Brought Down”

Isaiah lists:

Trees.

Mountains.

Towers.

Walls.

Ships.

Idols.

Human pride.

Each represents something impressive.

Each is humbled.

Principle:

God will not permanently share His throne with anything we choose to place above Him.

XXXVI. FROM SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES

Isaiah's picture of peace is beautiful.

Swords once designed to kill become:

Plowshares.

Spears become:

Pruning hooks.

Human creativity is redirected.

From:

Destruction.

To:

Cultivation.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom does not merely stop violence.

It redirects life toward fruitfulness.

XXXVII. WALK IN THE LIGHT NOW

It would be easy to read verses 2–4 and say:

“That will be wonderful someday.”

Isaiah immediately says:

“Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.”

Future prophecy should produce present faithfulness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If you believe God will rule tomorrow, live under His rule today.

XXXVIII. THE IDOL MADE BY HUMAN HANDS

The absurdity of idolatry is simple.

A person:

Mines the metal.

Shapes the metal.

Polishes the metal.

Carries the metal.

Then bows to it.

The created object cannot become greater than its maker.

And neither the maker nor the idol is greater than God.

Spiritual Principle

We often create our idols before our idols begin controlling us.

XXXIX. THE DANGER OF SUCCESS

Isaiah does not describe a poor nation.

He describes a land full of:

Wealth.

Treasures.

Military resources.

Success can produce a dangerous illusion:

“We do not need God.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Prosperity can test faith just as severely as hardship.

XL. THE LORD ALONE WILL BE EXALTED

This statement is repeated because it summarizes the chapter.

Not:

Kings.

Not:

Armies.

Not:

Wealth.

Not:

Culture.

Not:

Technology.

Not:

Human achievement.

The Lord alone.

Spiritual Principle

History is moving toward the universal recognition of God's supremacy.

XLI. STOP TRUSTING IN MAN

The final verse brings everything down to one question:

Who has your confidence?

Human beings:

Breathe.

Then stop breathing.

God:

Is eternal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never build eternal confidence on temporary breath.

XLII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 2 begins with a mountain.

It ends with a warning about man.

The contrast is deliberate.

At the beginning:

God is exalted.

The nations come.

They want to learn.

They walk in His ways.

Peace spreads.

Weapons disappear.

At the end:

Proud humanity is hiding in caves.

Idols are thrown away.

Human greatness collapses.

What changed?

Nothing about God.

God was always supreme.

What changed was humanity's recognition of that truth.

This chapter therefore asks us:

Why wait?

Why wait until judgment to recognize God's majesty?

Why wait until idols fail before abandoning them?

Why wait until wealth disappears before admitting it cannot save?

Why wait until human power collapses before trusting God?

Isaiah says:

"House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."

Walk now.

Trust now.

Humble yourself now.

Reject idols now.

Do not wait for the day when pride is forcibly brought low.

Choose humility.

Do not wait until false gods become worthless before throwing them away.

Reject them now.

Do not wait until human strength fails before realizing its limits.

Trust God now.

One day:

The Lord alone will be exalted.

Therefore, live today as though that is already true.

Because it is.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You alone are worthy to be exalted.

Forgive us for the many ways we place temporary things where only You belong.

Search our hearts.

Expose our idols.

Show us where we have trusted in:

Money.

Possessions.

Human power.

Government.

Achievement.

Relationships.

Reputation.

Our own abilities.

Father, teach us to walk in Your light.

Give us hearts that desire Your Word.

Teach us Your ways.

Help us walk in Your paths.

Bring Your truth into every area of our lives.

Where pride exists, humble us.

Protect us from believing we are:

Self-sufficient.

Untouchable.

Independent of You.

Remind us that every breath is a gift.

Father, keep us from occult practices, superstition, false spirituality, and every attempt to seek guidance apart from You.

Give us discernment.

Keep us anchored in Your truth.

Teach us to use money without worshiping it.

Use strength without trusting it.

Respect people without idolizing them.

Build without becoming proud of what we build.

Father, bring peace into our lives.

Turn our swords into plowshares.

Where we have used words to wound, teach us to build.

Where anger has ruled, teach us peace.

Where conflict has grown, bring righteousness and reconciliation.

And when we look toward the future, remind us that Your kingdom will stand.

Nations rise.

Nations fall.

Human glory fades.

But You remain.

Teach us to live now in the light of the day when:

You alone will be exalted.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“The proud eyes of man will be humbled, and human pride brought low. The Lord alone will be exalted in that day.” — Isaiah 2:11

Central Truth

God's kingdom will ultimately rise above every human power, His righteous rule will bring true peace, and every form of pride, idolatry, wealth, military confidence, and human self-exaltation will be humbled so that the Lord alone is recognized as supreme.

Isaiah 2 in One Sentence

Isaiah sees a future when the nations come to learn God's ways and enjoy His peace, while warning Judah that pride, idols, wealth, military strength, and human confidence will all be brought low when the majesty of the Lord is fully revealed.