

## Isaiah 2

Chapter one addressed the fallen state of affairs in Judah. Chapter two starts out with a view to where this is all ultimately leading in the future. We are fast-forwarding here to the ideal future state, which will be much like the Garden of Eden. People will be excited to sit and make an audience for God. People from all over the world will eagerly come to worship God. I do not see a lot of evidence of automation, mechanization or automobiles. Perhaps the tribulation is partially to strip us of our technologies.

**Read Isaiah 2:1-4:** This is a vision of the Millennial Kingdom. We are currently in the Church Age, which is followed by the seven-year tribulation. After the terrifying 7-year Tribulation, comes the ideal 1,000 year Millennial Age, When Jesus returns and restores the earth.

For starters, the post-tribulation topography of the earth, has changed. The tribulation period will have some cataclysmic earthquakes, literally knocking down mountains, creating valleys in fissures, and moving islands, etc...

*12 And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the eminent people, and the commanders and the wealthy and the strong, and every slave and free person hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they \*said to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the sight of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6)*

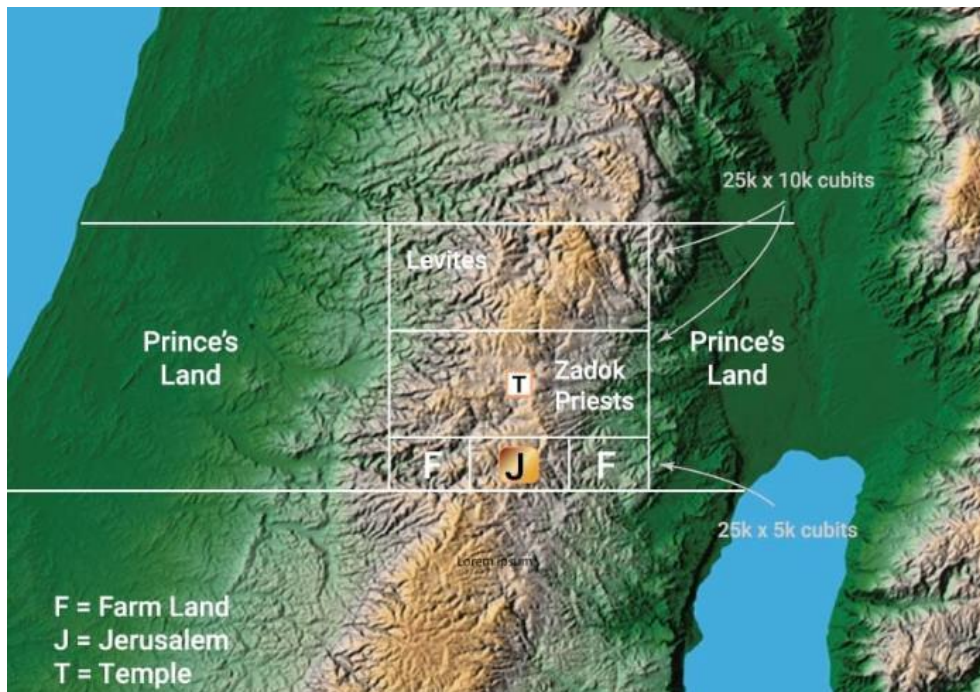
Jerusalem becomes the tallest mountain; and people will come from all over the world to pay homage to King Jesus; who will be known as *Jehovah Tsidknu (the LORD our Righteousness)*. It will become a new world order, run exclusively by Jesus, from Jerusalem, the new world capital. All nations will be required to come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. Terrorism and war will become a thing of the past. Jesus will hold the world court.

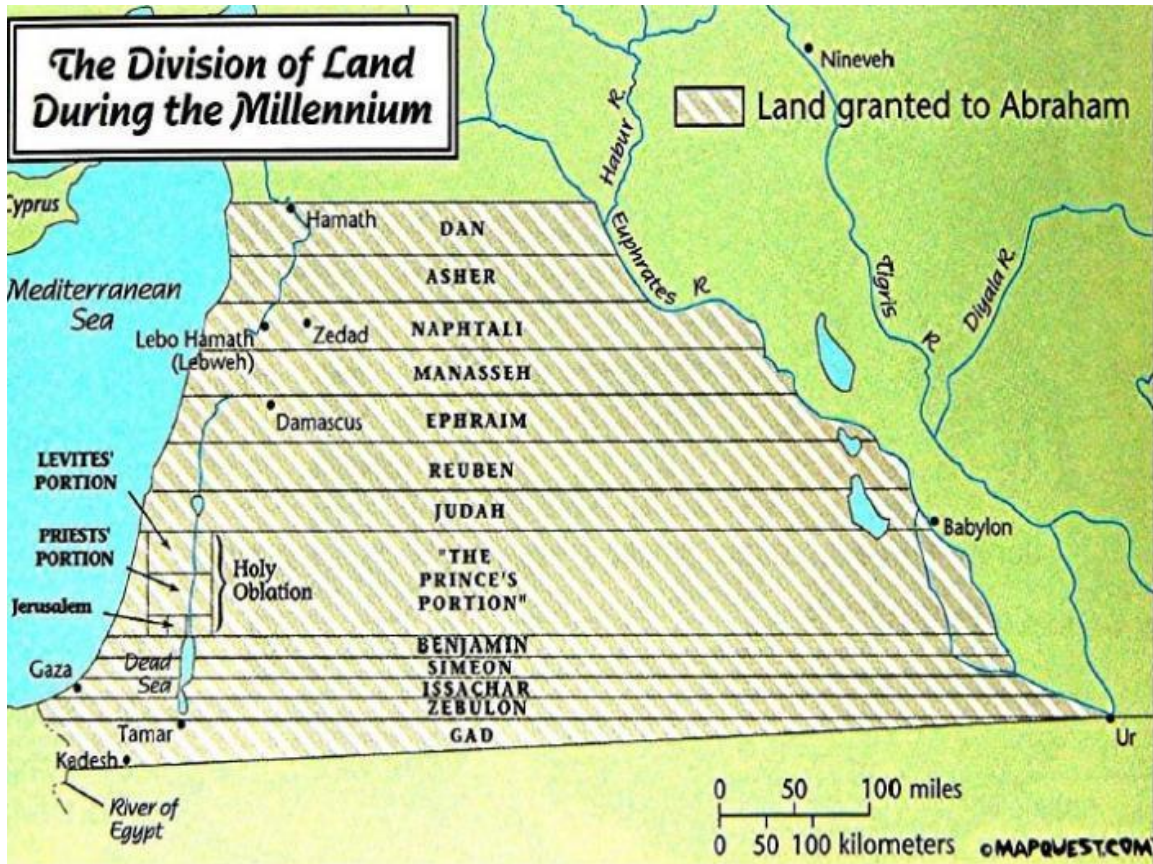
*And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the Lord Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills,*

*And the peoples will stream to it. <sup>2</sup> Many nations will come and say, “Come and let’s go up to the mountain of the Lord And to the house of the God of Jacob, So that He may teach us about His ways, And that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift a sword against nation, And never again will they train for war. <sup>4</sup> Instead, each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, Because the mouth of the Lord of armies has spoken. (Micah 4)*

The Jerusalem temple and fortress will be on a large plateau. The land of Israel will revert to its God-given further-reaching boundaries. The tribal and administrative boundaries will re-align in Israel as well.

*<sup>10</sup> All the land will change into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin’s Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s wine presses. <sup>11</sup> People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will live in security. (Zechariah 14)*





The highway to Jerusalem will be a well-traveled pilgrimage. People will be on foot (probably not driving). Egypt and Assyria will have a much better relationship with God.

*A highway will be there, a roadway, And it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, But it will be for the one who walks that way, And fools will not wander on it. <sup>9</sup> No lion will be there, Nor will any vicious animal go up on it; They will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, <sup>10</sup> And the redeemed of the Lord will return And come to Zion with joyful shouting, And everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away. (Isaiah 35)*

*<sup>18</sup> On that day five cities in the land of Egypt will be speaking the language of Canaan and swearing allegiance to the Lord of armies; one will be called the City of Destruction. <sup>19</sup> On that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a memorial stone to the Lord beside its border. <sup>20</sup> And it will become a sign and a witness to the Lord of armies in the land of Egypt; for they will cry out to the Lord because of oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Champion, and He will save them. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord on that day. They will even worship with sacrifice and offering, and will make a vow to the Lord and perform it. <sup>22</sup> And the Lord will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so they will return to the Lord, and He will respond to their pleas and heal them. <sup>23</sup> On that day there will be a road from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria; and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. <sup>24</sup> On that day Israel will be the third party to Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, <sup>25</sup> whom the Lord of armies has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." (Isaiah 19)*

Once you have spent time worshipping Jesus and gaining wisdom and associating with the saints in Jerusalem you can venture out to the east if you choose. There will be a stream that becomes a river, running out of the east side of the temple, from under its threshold. As it flows, it deepens and picks up strength. Along the banks of the river are awesome fruit trees, producing different fruits each month. The new river will reach the Dead Sea, and it will be teeming with all kinds of fish. In fact there will be awesome fishing along the banks of this river.

*Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar. <sup>2</sup> And he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate, by the way facing east. And behold, water was spurting out from the south side. <sup>3</sup> When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water; water reaching the ankles. <sup>4</sup> Again he measured a thousand and led me through the*

water, water reaching the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water; water reaching the hips. <sup>5</sup> Again he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not wade across, because the water had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be crossed by wading. <sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me back to the bank of the river. <sup>7</sup> Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there were very many trees on the one side and on the other. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. <sup>9</sup> And it will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. <sup>10</sup> And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. (Ezekiel 47)

What about beating swords into plowshares? In our current *specialized economy*, most people do not perform any blacksmithing or forging of steel. All indications are that our current *convenience and efficiency* economic model is not the best for our health and wellbeing. The Millennium will revert back to something more like the 1700's; where all of the family members work hard and provide their own food.



The world will be much more like the Garden of Eden.



**Read Isaiah 2:5-11:** This is good stuff for people of our current era to read. What it is saying is that these people had a lot of money, toys and culture, and exquisite taste, and spiritual experimentation, and trophy possessions, and all kinds of goodies that money can buy. They were successful and worldly wise. By world standards, they were living *the dream*. The problem is that this is not the dream that God has for us. He has something far better, without all of the bad aftertaste. They took the bucket list concept to an extreme, and now they have to give an accounting for how they honored or dishonored God and strangers. All of this stuff is not a substitute for the Millennial Life of joy and peace and satisfaction. It all had diminishing returns.

Given the glorious future for Israel, God is telling his people to walk according to their calling and purpose. Why keep gravitating towards the attractive pretty things that catch our eye. In reality, they are *cursed things*. He is telling them that their minds and hearts are focused on things that do not deliver:

- They have a Babylonian mindset. Being world-class big shots. Being pre-occupied with getting out of their one-horse town, and small-time lifestyle.
- The eastern idols were as exciting as driving down the Las Vegas strip at night; so much diversity and entertainment value. Flashy, sensual.
- The Jews wanted to be players in the big marketplace and trading houses.

- They also like the subtle attractions of personalized readings and mediums services. They are all into taking some social experimentation, the strange and internal journeys and exploring what is out there.
- Once they get a taste of world markets, the local economy won't do.
- The prestige and attraction of having the best horses will reconnect them with Egypt and Assyria and unholy places where exotic and precious collectibles can be had. Rare horses, gold, top-end tapestries, etc..
- They also want to be fabricators of worthy and recognized works.

The problem is that this is all an effort *be happy without including God*. It is a self-guided tour through life, with no rules. It is an effort to bypass the whole God standard. They will find out that God even creates and sustains all of these delicacies and opportunities and gifts of talent. To believe that there is happiness outside of God's influence is confusion of reality.

It is like Eve looking for happiness in the tree instead of God. It just cannot be extracted alone. You cannot extract an essence from one thing apart from its life source. By nature, we kind of want to be free of having to thank anyone. God did not make us for that role. It is like a huge sweet roll that makes you sick to your stomach. It is an illusion to think that we can be happy with isolated aspects of anything. It is all-inclusive.

People seem to go from having nothing to *having everything to lose*. There is something called *The Rule of Diminishing Returns* and the *Rule of Diminishing Marginal Utility*. God made us to do things with him and savor what we already have, more than to aspire to have more without involving him.

**Read Isaiah 2:12-22:** Prior to the 1,000-year millennium, the 7-year tribulation will humble the earth. It is called the *Time of Jacob's Trouble*. Like Israel and Judah, the whole world is heading for a necessary correction. Those who have risen above the fray and found a *high nest* will be brought *down to earth*. God did not create us to play God over others.

There are a number of things that can cause men to think too highly of themselves. Things such as wealth, accomplishments, and power. God wants us to all exist on a level playing field. Any other perception is self-induced. Idols are things that give us what we crave. It can be a pride of ownership, or a sense of being untouchable. God is showing all men that our good luck charms and shiny objects and castles are worthless.

Cedars and oaks were the tallest things in those days. The cedars of Lebanon represent the power center of the Phoenicians (Philistines). The oaks of Bashan

were representative of the Assyrian Empire. God was going to bring down the *big dogs* in the middle east when he corrected Judah.

In the tribulation, people will have nowhere to run. Everything will be wiped out. There will be warlords patrolling and pillaging, and looting.