**Hope For Change**

 *The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

***2****“It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,* ***3****and 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 the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.* ***4****He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*

***5****O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.” (Isaiah 2:1-5, ESV)*

 God has given us the hope of change through the embodiment of his Word, through the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Greetings dearly beloved as we begin today to get ready for the celebration of our Lord’s birth, as we talk about hope in his Advent season. God has given each person hope if he or she will accept it. In the context of the Scripture reading, the people of God were not in good straits, neither in faith nor politically. God was using the prophet Isaiah to wake them up and simultaneously tell them about the Lord’s good vision for them. So, today we’re going to talk about that good vision of God, which is the Word of God become Flesh Himself, who comes out of Zion and rebukes and invites his people to walk in God’s light. Let’s talk about this hope which manifested and continues to remain very real, the hope of Jesus Christ’s arrival through his birth.

 There is only one hope for this world, and it is Jesus Christ, the Word become flesh, who came to judge and to invite the world into his life. As I said, this vision of the prophet was both for giving the people a hope as well as to invite them out of their situation toward God. It was a call to the Israelites to come out of their spiritual coma because they had been declining as a nation both spiritually and politically, and they were about to lose their blessed lives. The Assyrian Empire had grown stronger in those years, and although Isaiah had been prophesying for quite some time, even with these kinds of positive visions, the people of God were by and large constantly unfaithful toward God, beginning from the kings and on down to the people.

 In effect, God was saying the following through Isaiah: “*In the days after this season, even the heathen peoples are going to stream towards the mountain of the Lord (where the temple of God was). These pagans were going to come and enter the House of the God of Jacob and walk in His lifestyle. This would happen because God’s Law would come forth from the Temple and go and judge and discipline all the nations. And so, all the nations would be changed and begin to work for peace instead of war.”* This was a vision about God’s Word who would change the entire world through the spread of His influence. That Word, however, was going to invite the pagans also to God, and beginning from Jerusalem, His influence and transformative power would spread all over. It was an encouraging vision – one in which God was inviting His own people to walk in light and to snap out of their weakened spiritual status.

 Sometimes, in order to have hope, there needs to be a return to the original blueprint of the plan in question. There are times when a company is functioning tired and needs to collectively remember the grand vision of the original founder at the beginning. At times, when a church begins to experience ministry fatigue or feel collectively let down, it becomes necessary to come back to her first Love, her Lord and Savior who put the mission plan of salvation for the whole world to be effected through her. Often the vision of the end goal helps the worker who is stuck in the middle of the process or journey to not quit because of fatigue and to continue the work or the journey.

 Today we find ourselves in such times that we are forced to return to and to reexamine the blueprint and the Words of the Founder of our spiritual life (Jesus Christ). We find our hope in our Savior’s Presence, which all of Israel was awaiting at that time, and whose arrival is awaited by the Israel of God today, the people of His Messiah, the Church worldwide. So, in this Advent season, we await the celebration of Jesus’ birth, but also His Final and Second Coming, His Final Judgment.[[1]](#footnote-1)

 Therefore, as Jesus’ Nativity celebration nears, let us renew our hope and remember once again the Lord’s coming and birth within our own lives. May God cause this hope within us to be a source of joy and a renewing of our devotion to Him, and may the Lord Jesus be glorified in this Advent season as we await both the Nativity and the Second Coming simultaneously.

 God has given us the hope of change through the embodiment of his Word, through the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Bless you all. Amen.

1. Which is our heart’s cry, and not a terror-producing event, given that we belong to Him as His People. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)