**“God’s Word to the World”**

Isaiah 2:1-4

(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Sean Hoisington, Hayden Bible Church, 2/26/23)

 God has determined to build a Great House, His Kingdom, to glorify His name. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone, on which the whole structure rests. (Q1) The stones used in this house are living stones- US!!! We are placed there to give Him glory.

 Our scripture today changes the metaphor from a house to a mountain. Not Mt. Sinai of the old covenant, but Mt. Zion of the new covenant through Jesus Christ. The covenant with Abraham pointed to this Messiah, a Savior for all people (Gen. 12:3). The book of Isaiah warns Israel not to be a covenant breaking people. There are blessings for obedience, and curses for disobedience. (Q2) Israel’s purpose, and our purpose, is to carry God’s glory to all the peoples of the earth: God’s Word to the World.

 Isaiah was looking forward into the future. The old Mosaic covenant was coming to an end. The new covenant in Christ’s blood was on the horizon. The old covenant was but a shadow, pointing to Jesus. In the new covenant, God would write His law upon our hearts. In the new covenant, Gentiles could be grafted in. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Acts 2:21). (Q3) This new covenant will endure forever (Dan.2:44). The Kingdom brought about by this new covenant is starting now and will come to final fruition when Jesus returns to take us home (Matt. 3:2). As this Kingdom is established, all nations will stream to it, both Jew and Gentile (Gen. 12:3). Salvation will be possible for “the whole world,” all who repent and believe the Gospel (1John 2:2). Their righteousness will be “through the righteousness of faith” (Rom. 4:13). (Q4)

 You are an ambassador for Jesus Christ. His Spirit living in you affects your values, words, demeanor, and decision-making, all so that we can bring the message of the Gospel to our neighbors (Rom. 14:19). Don’t hoard this truth… SHARE IT! Wave others in with inviting words and an inviting spirit (Rev. 22:17; Matt. 28:18-20). Where the spirit-enlivened Word goes, the Kingdom expands. As the Word is spread, the Kingdom grows. Where should the Word go? Library boards, city councils, school boards, retirement homes, times around the dinner table, fishing trips, calls with loved ones… Are you getting the idea? Our neighbors are in DESPERATE need of the flow of LIFE that the river of God’s Word brings by His Spirit. Your training in the Word can bear fruit, bringing life, as you participate in the many ways of serving. YOU ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, OUR KING! The Kingdom of Heaven will endure forever. This amazing house is built for His great name, for the glory of Jesus (Phil. 2:9-11). He took our sins away at a tremendous cost to Him. Let’s share that good news with our words, our actions, and our acts of service as we do the good works He has called us to do. Amen. (Q5) (Q6)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Explain why Christ is the cornerstone of our faith.
2. Are there still blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience? Explain.
3. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Acts 2:21). Explain what all is entailed in that call.
4. Explain where your righteousness comes from.
5. When we sang “The Power of the Cross” (Townend and Getty) my thankfulness erupted into giving God glory. Besides thankfulness, what else causes you to glorify His name?
6. Sharing the gospel with my neighbor starts with praying for my neighbor. Share the name of someone who needs the nudge of the Holy Spirit. As a group, stop and pray for those dear people.

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (Watts)

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.