

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

Competing High Places: God vs. Man

Isaiah 2:1-22

Since the beginning of the church, Christians have speculated about the end times... about the end of the world

In Acts 1:6, after Jesus' resurrection, they asked this question:

Acts 1:6-7 "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

It was a question of the end of the world, a Jewish paradise

These questions have continued on... frequently tied to events of the day

Perhaps no more poignant moment in history for this question occurred on August 24, 410. That was the day when Rome at last fell to barbarian troops, the Visigoths, under Alaric, who stormed the streets of Rome and occupied what was called "The Eternal City." Rome had never been occupied by a foreign power in 800 years of its history

St. Jerome, in his cave at Bethlehem, wept on receiving the news of the fall of Rome, and said, "The world is rushing to ruin. The glorious city, the capital of the Roman Empire, has been swallowed up in one conflagration." He thought the end of the world was imminent.

St. Augustine, the great bishop of Hippo in North Africa, took a very different view of the fall of Rome. After Rome fell, he penned his masterpiece *The City of God* as a defense for Christianity against paganism.

He saw in history two different cities battling each other on infinitely unequal terms: the City of Man, represented by Rome... and the City of God, represented by the true Christian church. At the core of the City of Man is one driving spirit... love of self extending to the contempt of God; at the core of the City of God is an opposite driving spirit... love of God extending to contempt of self

The story of history is this: two cities battling for glory... the city of God and the city of Man; love of God vs. love of self

The outcome of that struggle is the topic of Isaiah 2

I. Peace: The Mountain of the Lord's Temple Exalted (vs. 1-5)

A. The Last Days

Isaiah 2:2 “In the last days...”

1. Constant fascination with the end of the world
2. *Left Behind* series, Jerry Jenkins and Tim LaHaye... series has sold more than 65 million copies!! Website, leftbehind.com receives over 50,000 hits DAILY
3. Constant question: “Are we in the last days? Are these the ‘end times?’”
4. Bible’s answer to the question is clear : YES!!

1 John 2:18 Dear children, this is the last hour

Hebrews 1:2 ... in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

5. BUT... are we the final generation? Different question
6. Bible’s answer: signs of the times

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

7. Isaiah gives us a different sign: the exaltation of the mountain of the Lord and the streaming of the nations

Isaiah 2:2 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

B. The Exaltation of the Mountain of the Lord

1. Mountains frequently associated with religion, with the gods; they are holy mountains
 - Mt. Olympus & Zeus
 - Mt. Meru in Hinduism is the spiritual origin of all the dieties, and their ultimate destination
 - Chomolungma, “Goddess Mother of the World”...Mt. Everest
2. The is the “Mountain of the Lord’s Temple”
 - a. Not Mount Sinai, where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments
 - b. Go back further into Jewish history: Genesis 22, Mount Moriah, where Abraham was led by God to offer Isaac as a sacrifice

Genesis 22:14 *“On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”* [The sacrifice for sin]

- c. Later, God led David to conquer the Jebusite city of Jerusalem; it was on a mountain and very difficult to conquer... but David did it
- d. It came to be known as Mount Zion... the city of the Great King

2 Samuel 5:7 *“David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David.”*

- e. David made plans to build the temple on Mount Moriah... exactly where Jerusalem was
- f. On that same mountain, Christ died for our sins... shedding his blood
- g. BUT the temple of the Lord itself was a mere shadow and copy of the heavenly reality; thus Jerusalem itself is a mere shadow and copy of the heavenly Zion, the heavenly sanctuary
- h. Jesus predicted to the Samaritan woman that the need for a PHYSICAL temple would soon be at an end... she brought up the controversy between the Jews and Samaritans over the MOUNTAIN on which they should worship

John 4:21-24 *“Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

- i. When Jesus died, the curtain of the temple was torn in two... the time for the Old Covenant was over
- j. After Jesus’ death, He ascended into heaven and presented His blood at the TRUE sanctuary, the heavenly one
- k. The need for the earthly sanctuary was finished forever
- l. Thus the author of Hebrews speaks of a heavenly Mount Zion

Hebrews 12:18, 22-24 *“You have not come to a mountain that can be touched...²² But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.*

Conclusion: The Mountain of the Lord’s Temple is the spiritual temple established by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ... On this mountain, God provided a sacrifice for sins through Christ’s blood; on this mountain, the Lord heard the prayer of your great high priest and the plague for sin was stopped; on this mountain, God spread out a banquet for all nations by swallowing up death forever...

- 3. Jerusalem was the physical starting place for the Gospel

Luke 24:47 repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

4. FROM the physical Mount Zion the word of the Lord would spread to the ends of the earth

Isaiah 2:3 The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

5. In this way, the Mountain of the Lord's Temple is established as CHIEF among all the spiritual high places on earth

C. The Amazing Streaming of the Nations... Uphill?

Isaiah 2:2-3 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ 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.

1. Note the astonishing sight... water flowing UPHILL!!

Continental divide: the place where water either flows eastward toward the Atlantic or westward toward the Pacific

It runs from the Seward Peninsula in Alaska, through western Canada along the crest of the Rocky Mountains to New Mexico.

BUT no water flows UPWARD from the Pacific to the Rockies!!

2. The streaming of the nations is a parade of people coming to Jerusalem
3. Two ways to interpret this:
 - a. Either fulfilled literally and physically, during a millennial reign of Christ on earth; millennial teaching states that Christ will reign physically on earth in Jerusalem, and people from every nation on earth will stream to see him, to learn from Him, to be ruled by Him
 - b. OR spiritually: the advance of the gospel to the ends of the earth results in people from every nation on earth believing in Jesus and trusting in him, and becoming focused on the heavenly Jerusalem, as in Hebrews 12
 - c. Either way is a reputable Christian position
 - d. It has been a GLORIOUS stream of the nations for 2000 years, of one tribe after another being won to the gospel message
 - i) They repent, they believe in Christ
 - ii) They receive the indwelling Spirit

iii) Then they start to obey Christ's law...

“Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”

“The Law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem”

e. The millennial view: Christ will rule from a literal throne and will decide disputes and rule by law and receive emissaries for 1000 years

D. “Come and Say Come”

Vs. 3 “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...”

1. This speaks of the exponential spread of the gospel
2. The very people who are on a journey to the heavenly Zion are the same ones saying “COME” to those who have not yet begun the journey
3. We begin life as targets for evangelistic work; we should end life as evangelists inviting others to come to Christ

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

E. The Law of the Lord: He Will Teach Us of His Ways

Isaiah 2:3 He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

1. The gospel is meant to have a transforming effect on every area of life
2. Christ's law of love comes and drives out strife between former enemies
3. Christ's law of holiness comes and causes us to put sin to death
4. Christ's law of obedience comes and causes us to walk in the works of the Father

F. Lasting Peace: Not Man-Made, God-Made!!

Isaiah 2:4 He will judge between the nations and will 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.

1. The result of this: something five thousand years of human history has never been able to produce: lasting peace between nations

- a. WWI: called “The war to end all wars”; 37.5 million casualties; League of Nations established under President Woodrow Wilson’s leadership; BUT WWII followed a mere 21 years later and was even worse
- b. WWII: total estimated cost in human life, 72 million, the single deadliest conflict the world has ever seen; United Nations established October 24, 1945; top priority was stated: “To keep peace throughout the world.” But since it was established,

One military analyst says there have been 148 wars in the world since World War II. Among these were wars in the Sudan, Somalia, Cambodia, Georgia, Burundi, Afghanistan, Rwanda, and many others. Most of these were what can be called "population wars."

- c. Lasting peace is IMPOSSIBLE in this world because of the wickedness of human hearts

Isaiah 57:20-21 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. ²¹ "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

2. Hammer and Sickle: symbol of peace turned into a symbol of terror

- a. Amazingly, in 1959, the Soviet Union donated a large bronze statue called “We shall beat our swords into plowshares” to the United Nations; it was placed in the North Garden of the UN building complex in New York and is there to this day
- b. That same year, the Soviet Union and United States concluded negotiations on a framework agreement for world peace and cooperation called the McCloy-Zorin Agreed Principles;

First goal: “That disarmament is general and complete and war is no longer an instrument for settling international problems”

- c. these principles for world peace were adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly, **but the Cuban Missile crisis ruined any chance of their implementation!!!**
- d. Reminds me of the Munich Accord signed by Neville Chamberlain and Adolph Hitler:

After signing the Munich Accord selling Czechoslovakia up the river to the Nazis, Chamberlain and Hitler also signed a meaningless little letter which said:

“We regard the agreement signed last night and the Anglo-German Naval Agreement as Symbolic of the desire of our two peoples **never to go to war with one another again.**”

Less than twelve months later, WWII began.

Bottom line:

- e. True lasting peace comes only in one way: the saving work of Jesus Christ on the wicked, selfish, angry, prideful, murderous, covetous, power-hungry human heart

3. Jesus Christ ALONE can bring about world peace

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

**Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
his reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

Isaiah 2:1-4 is a clear prediction of the END of human conflict and of the enjoyment of eternal peace through the gospel of Jesus Christ

At the end of that glorious prophecy comes a simple exhortation from the prophet Isaiah to His own people:

Isaiah 2:5 Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

SADLY: the tragedy of Jewish history is that they REFUSED to walk in the light of the Lord... they refused to obey His prophets, then rejected Christ Himself

II. Shame: Jacob Full of Things, Empty of God (vs. 6-9)

A. Jacob Abandoned to Idols

Isaiah 2:8 Their land is full of idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their fingers have made.

1. Isaiah laments the abandoning of Israel by God
2. This abandoning he readily admits is justified because of Jacob's great sin
3. Israel committed two great sins, according to Jeremiah

Jeremiah 2:13 My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

John Piper identifies this as the shocking two-fold root of all sin: the forsaking of God and the desire to find ultimate satisfaction in created things:

“Tell me, what is evil? The definition of evil, that which appalls the universe, that causes the angels of God to say, ‘No! It can't be!’...what is it? It is looking at God, the fountain of all-satisfying, living water, and saying ‘No thank you,’ and turning to the television, sex, parties, booze, money, prestige, a house in the suburbs, a vacation, a new computer program, and saying ‘Yes!’ That's insane! And it causes all heaven to be appalled, according to Jeremiah 2:12.”

4. We were created empty, dependent, made to be full by God
5. Three times in this section, Isaiah says Israel is FULL of something, but NOT the Lord

B. Full of Superstitions, Not of True Religion

Vs. 6 They are full of superstitions from the East; they practice divination like the Philistines and clasp hands with pagans.

1. Created to have minds full of true religion, based on the revelation of God in Scripture, the Jews turned away to superstitions from the East
2. False religions, mystery gods and goddesses, orgies, pleasure-filled revelries

C. Full of Silver and Gold, Not of True Wealth

Vs. 7 Their land is full of silver and gold; there is no end to their treasures.

1. God commanded that no King multiply earthly treasures

Deuteronomy 17:17-19 He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

Rather, the king was to make a copy of the Law of God and read from it every day, to focus his heart on God as his true treasure

2. BUT Solomon filled the land with silver and gold, and so also all the kings sought to do so afterward
3. Eventually the hearts of his own people and of the surrounding nations lusted after this wealth
4. This is the idolatry of greed... of materialism... a lust for wealth, for the pleasure of ownership

D. Full of Horses and Chariots, Not of True Power

Isaiah 2:7 Their land is full of horses; there is no end to their chariots.

1. Just as bad was the Jews accumulation of horses and chariots

Deuteronomy 17:16 The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them

1 Kings 10:26 Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses

2. Reliance on their own military prowess, a GREAT temptation to Israel
3. Over and over, Jewish kings would rely on Assyria or Egypt or some other pagan nation for help in a military crisis
4. Great temptation for USA as well
 - a. 2006, 1.1 trillion dollars spent by world governments on the military
 - b. US spent 48% of that!! More than the next ten countries combined
 - c. US spends close to 650 billion dollars a year on military
 - d. It is easy then for our nation to look to military power as our real “National Security”
 - e. Israel in the Bible found that there was only one true “National Security”... hearing and obeying the word of God
5. The most powerful force in the universe is God...

Isaiah 40:15 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

6. Israel had abandoned the true power and settled for military power

Psalm 33:16-21 No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. ¹⁷ A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. ¹⁸ But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, ¹⁹ to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. ²⁰ We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. ²¹ In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

E. Full of Idols, Not of the Lord

Isaiah 2:8-9 Their land is full of idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their fingers have made. ⁹ So man will be brought low and mankind humbled-- do not forgive them.

1. Anything you look to for ultimate peace, ultimate significance, ultimate security, or ultimate happiness OTHER THAN the LORD is an idol
2. But Israel went ahead and made idols as well

3. This was incredible arrogance...
 - a. to think that we could worship the true God by crafting something from our own imagination and saying that it represents all that God is
 - b. OR to worship OTHER gods, who really are no gods at all
4. In the end, all idolatry is really a form of arrogant self-worship, and Isaiah goes on to prove in the later chapters... rich in irony, he attacks the root of idolatry, which is HUMAN SELF-WORSHIP

Isaiah 44:13 The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that it may dwell in a shrine.

5. Note: the land FULL of idols
 - a. One is never enough
 - b. If you need one idol, then soon you will need many

Jeremiah 2:27-28 you have as many gods as you have towns, O Judah.

For all of these reasons, God had abandoned His people to judgment

That judgment Isaiah now seeks to describe

The simple description is this: every high place made by human beings will be cast down, everything lofty that competes with God's glory will be leveled, and the Lord alone will be exalted

III. Terror: The Loftiness of Created Things Humbled (vs. 12-21)

A. The Day of the Lord Proclaimed (vs. 12)

Isaiah 2:12 The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled)

1. Simply: "The Lord has a day"
2. Now is the day of rebellion, now the day of sin, now the day of arrogance, now the day of MAN
3. Then it will be the day of the Lord

B. The Day of the Lord Described: Lofty Things Humbled

1. The purpose of the day of the Lord: justice

- a. For anything else in God's universe to compete with Him is ABHORRENT! And it is ABSURD
 - b. Rebellion against Him is insanity
2. The day is described here especially as a leveling of all lofty things
 3. Specifically: God fights against human arrogance and pride
 4. Pride is THE root sin... it is what motivated Satan to rebel originally

Isaiah 14:

Isaiah 14:13-14 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

5. Height represents MAJESTY

- a. Isaiah 6

Isaiah 6:1-3 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

- b. Psalm 97

Psalm 97:9 For you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

6. Human arrogance depicted in efforts toward HEIGHT

- a. Tower of Babel: symbol of human pride

- b. Cities with skyscrapers reaching to the sky

- c. Kings build statues to themselves

- i) King Saul built a monument to himself in 1 Samuel 15

- ii) Nebuchadnezzar built an image of gold 90 feet high, representing the greatness and majesty of his own reign

Statues toppled when regime is toppled

During Communist era in Eastern Europe, in downtown Budapest the Hungarian Communist party erected The Stalin Monument, completed in December 1951 as a gift for Josef Stalin from the Hungarian People on his seventieth birthday (December 21, 1949). It

was torn down on October 23, 1956 during Hungary's October Revolution. The statue was over 75 feet high! As high as a seven story building... the people pulled it down

"[The demonstrators] placed [...] a thick steel rope around the neck of the 25-metre tall Stalin's statue while other people, arriving in trucks with oxygen cylinders and metal cutting blowpipes, were setting to work on the statue's bronze shoes. [...] An hour later the statue fell down from its pedestal."

Second Gulf War, unforgettable photos and video of the pulling down of Saddam Hussein's statue

d. Here in Isaiah 2: a series of LOFTY THINGS, all of them representing human arrogance

Isaiah 2:12-18 The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled),¹³ for all the cedars of Lebanon, tall and lofty, and all the oaks of Bashan,¹⁴ for all the towering mountains and all the high hills,¹⁵ for every lofty tower and every fortified wall,¹⁶ for every trading ship and every stately vessel.¹⁷ The arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled

Naturally lofty things: cedars of Lebanon, oaks of Bashan, towering mountains, high hills

Man-made lofty things: every lofty tower and every fortified wall (military pride); trading ships (commerce) stately vessels (pleasure vehicles)

All lofty things set up against the knowledge of God... all His rivals

Since 9/11, we know that human structures—even those a quarter of a mile high—can come down in minutes

Ultimate end of the “City of Man”: the Fall of Babylon

Revelation 18:10 "Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!"

C. The Lord Alone Exalted

Isaiah 2:11 The eyes of the arrogant man will be humbled and the pride of men brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 2:17-18 The arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,¹⁸ and the idols will totally disappear.

D. The Result: Fleeing in Sheer Terror (vs. 10-11, 19-21)

Isaiah 2:10 Go into the rocks, hide in the ground from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty!

Isaiah 2:19-21 Men will flee to caves in the rocks and to holes in the ground from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to shake the earth. ²⁰ In that day men will throw away to the rodents and bats their idols of silver and idols of gold, which they made to worship. ²¹ They will flee to caverns in the rocks and to the overhanging crags from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to shake the earth.

1. Notice the dual effect: mankind abandons their useless idols AND mankind flees and tries to hide
2. The idols are revealed to be worthless when the Lord rises to shake the earth
3. The idols are nothing, so they are thrown away to the rodents and bats
4. People try to hide from the Lord... these words quoted again concerning the end of the world and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in Judgment

After the Sixth Seal is opened and the sky turns black and the stars fall from the sky and every mountain and island is moved from its place:

Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face 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 can stand?"

5. But such efforts to hide are useless:

Jeremiah 23:23-24 Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away? ²⁴ Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

Summary: God takes on all human arrogance and pride and utterly smashes it;

The LORD ALONE will be exalted in that day, and idols will totally disappear forever!!

IV. Invitation: Stop and Come (vs. 22, 5)

A. Stop Trusting in Man

Isaiah 2:22 Stop trusting in man, who has but a breath in his nostrils. Of what account is he?

1. Stop trusting in your own righteousness, your religious works and efforts to save you from sin
2. Stop trusting in your own efforts to keep yourself healthy and safe, whether by healthy living, exercise, medicine... or by military expenditures

3. Stop trusting in human wealth: money, possessions,
4. Stop trusting in human pleasures: entertainment, food, clothing, music, movies, amusement parks, material pleasures

B. Come, Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord

Isaiah 2:5 Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

1. That comes immediately after the prophecy of the exaltation of Christ in the gospel
2. Walking in the light of the Lord means to come to Christ, to trust in Him, to follow Him to heaven

C. Come and Say "Come"

1. Two infinite journeys... internal journey of sanctification, external journey of worldwide gospel advance... evangelism and missions
2. Come = sanctification... keep making progress in walking in the light of the Lord... put sin to death, follow the Spirit in obeying God's laws
3. Say "Come" = evangelize!!
 - a. Open your mouth and speak of the new life in Christ
 - b. Example: John on the plane... Brazilian hand doctor

George Whitefield: "God forbid that I should travel with anybody a quarter of an hour without speaking of Christ to them."

Speak Christ's words: **"COME UNTO ME... all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"**

"If anyone is thirsty let him COME TO ME and drink"

"Come and say 'Come'"

D. See and Savor the Exaltation of God

1. The contest between God's glory and man's will soon be over, and it will be proven to be NO contest
2. God alone will be exalted in that day
3. Let God alone be exalted in your own mind and heart

Remove idols now... saturate your mind in the scriptures and in the greatness

4. Meditate on what Christ accomplished in one brief lifetime on earth, and one even briefer afternoon on the cross...
 - a. No other human achievement in history compares with Christ at the cross
 - b. Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place, and before him ALL HUMAN BEINGS WILL KNEEL
5. How can any human achievement compare?
 - a. Shrink all the Olympic Gold Medals
 - b. Shrink all the Nobel prizes
 - c. Shrink the Fortune 500 list
 - d. Shrink the World Series and Super Bowl champions
 - e. Shrink the mighty emperors, all of them: Alexander, Caesar, Genghis Khan, Napoleon
 - f. Shrink all the ridiculous Oscar and Emmy winners
 - g. Shrink them all
 - h. Shrink every human achievement

THE LORD ALONE WILL BE EXALTED SOMEDAY

Therefore, why not exalt Him NOW??