

Isaiah 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Analysis

Universal peace under Messiah's reign reverses the curse of human violence since Cain. The transformation of weapons into farming implements (swords to plowshares, spears to pruninghooks) symbolizes the end of warfare and beginning of prosperity. Christ's righteous judgment resolves international disputes, making military preparation obsolete. This eschatological vision awaits the second coming, not gradual human progress.

Historical Context

In an era of constant warfare and Assyrian aggression, this vision offered hope beyond contemporary politics. Ancient agricultural tools being fashioned from weapons shows complete paradigm shift from violence to productivity.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this vision of Christ's peaceful reign comfort you amid global violence and conflict?
2. In what ways should the future hope of Christ's kingdom inform Christian perspectives on war and peace today?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁפֵט	בְּ יוֹם	גוֹי	וְהוֹכִיחַ	לְעַמִּים	רַבִּים
And he shall judge	H996	against nation	and shall rebuke	people	many
H8199		H1471	H3198	H5971	H7227
וְכָתַבּוּ	חֶרֶב	לְאַתֵּי	וְחִנִּיתוּתֵיהֶם	לְמִזְמָר	זֹת
and they shall beat	sword	into plowshares	and their spears	into pruninghooks	
H3807	H2719	H855	H2595	H4211	
לֹא	יִשָּׂא	גוֹי	אֶל	גוֹי	חֶרֶב
H3808	shall not lift up	against nation	H413	against nation	sword
	H5375	H1471	H1471	H2719	H3808
וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּ	מִלְחָמָה:	עוֹד			
neither shall they learn	H5750	war			
H3925		H4421			

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 2:18 (Word): And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

Micah 4:3 (Judgment): And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Zechariah 9:10 (Parallel theme): And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Isaiah 32:18 (Parallel theme): And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

Isaiah 9:7 (Judgment): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Psalms 46:9 (Parallel theme): He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

Joel 3:10 (Word): Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

Psalms 82:8 (Judgment): Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.

1 Samuel 2:10 (Judgment): The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

Revelation 19:11 (Judgment): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.