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## Double Vision – Seeing the Last Day(s) – Is 2 p686

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We are still in the introduction to Is, namely chs 1-5.

Ch 1 – massive problem:- God’s children have rebelled against him

The solution: for those who turn back to God – a rescue, with justice. Salvation!

How can this be? The rest of the book will answer that question.

But disaster for those who refuse to change. In chs 2-5 Is expands on the twin themes of salvation & disaster.

[pray]

Cover your left eye with this & tell me what you can see, said the doctor.

I could see nothing, not even the top letter.

The only way I was going to know what was on that eye chart was if someone told me.

So it is with God’s revelation – we would not see it unless he told us.

2:1 – this is what Isaiah saw (lit = the word he saw) – what God revealed him to about the future.

Two days come into sharp focus.

The Last Days & the Last Day. V2,12

One the stuff of dreams, the other the stuff of nightmares.

As Is prepares us for the rest of his book, he gives away the ending before he has barely begun!

He wants us to see two things – to have a double vision.

### 1. GLORIOUS VISION OF THE FUTURE – THE LAST DAYS

#### V2-4 – DAYS OF REJOICING

V2 In Isaiah’s day, people thought the gods lived on the top of mountains.

A time is coming, says Isaiah, when the Lord’s house (not temple) will be top mountain.

So that people from all nations will stream up it.

Why? V3,4

A supernatural magnet will draw people to the temple in Jerusalem.

The Lord’s teaching will spread from Jerusalem & the Lord himself will establish international peace.

Weapons of war will be turned into garden tools.

The means (swords into ploughshares), the practice of war (will not take up the sword) & the mentality of war (not train for war) will be gone.

Does all this sound like our world? Not the last bit!

Yet we now live in the last days.

The NT describes the whole period between the first & second coming of Christ as the last days.

Christ’s coming has begun to fulfil Is’ prophecy in a remarkable way.

Hebs 12:22-24a (p1211)

Christ is the mediator of a new constitution in which he is the new temple.

Believers in Christ have already come to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.

Can you see it? This requires spiritual sight.

The vision of Isaiah has been partially fulfilled. The end of war awaits the return of Christ.

The last day when Christ will return in glory & all eyes will see him & all wars will stop.

Meantime, the nations are streaming to Christ. Every day thousands of people around the world turn to Christ for the first time.

In the last 10-20 years the number of Muslims who have trusted in the Lord Jesus may be in the millions.

In Africa & Asia thousands turn to Christ every day.

As Is paints this glorious picture of the future, he then turns to his listeners & issues a challenge V5

Maybe part of Is’ challenge is to say, look, many from the rest of the world are being attracted to walk in the paths of the Lord, to search out his teaching, to find the path of peace.

They want to join God’s people. You already are supposed to be God’s people. Are you making that way attractive?

An attractive church community is a great tool in evangelism!

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How can we walk in the light of the Lord? As Christians.

Remember that Jesus is the Lord. The light of Jesus is his presence by His Spirit, his provision for all our needs, his favour for us because of his death for us, & his teaching that is a lamp to our feet & a light to our paths.

The challenge is to walk in these – consciously to reflect on these in the challenges we face in life, in the family, at work, with ourselves & our world.

Keep the vision fresh – take eye drops of regular doses of Scripture promise like this one.

We are living in the last days. Are we ready for the last day?

Hand in hand with A Glorious Vision of the Future – the Last days, is a

### 2. FEARFUL VISION OF THE FUTURE – THE LAST DAY

2:6-22 – A DAY OF RECKONING

V12 The Lord has a day in store – what kind of a day?

A day when human pride will be humbled. V9,11,17 A day when the Lord alone will be exalted. V11,17

There is some shocking advice – v10 Advice that will be followed - v19-21

What is the point of all this?

V20 – realise that on that last day people will throw away all their man-made idols, so

V22 – stop trusting in man & what he can do –

We are back to Is' big question: where does your confidence lie?

The danger is that people who claim to be the people of God are no different from their pagan neighbours.

V6 – 8 For...

Tim Keller defines an idol as something that if you took it away life would not be worth living.

What do you have that you cannot live without?

Career, new kitchen, your spouse (real or imagined, your own or somebody else's), your

Xbox/iPhone/laptop, the success of your children, holiday home

What will they count for on the Last Day?

“We each need to enter that humiliating moment when we know that our house, career, bank balance, charm... will have no currency in the gaze of the living God.”

We can fill our lives with stuff from on-line shopping, but it is worthless on the day of judgement.

God has a habit of picking up our cherished idols & asking how we would feel if he took them away...

V22 Stop trusting in man & his idols.

The heart of the problem is human pride. V11,17

We love to be self-sufficient. To have enough money & other assets to be secure – v7

But in the light of the coming day of reckoning, these things are worthless.

V18 idols will totally disappear on that day V20 people will throw them to the rats & bats

But do we see it? Is our vision clear?

As we observe the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 & the Twin Towers, we reflect on the twin themes of salvation & disaster.

Imagine you knew the planes were coming a couple of hours before they hit. And you had access to the PA system for the entire Twin Towers. You would have told people, right? And you would have dropped everything to reach safety?

Hebs 12:25-29 (p1211)

These are the last days - days of rejoicing if we are living in the light of the Lord.

The last day is approaching - a day of reckoning that should colour everything – can we see the writing on the wall?

This vision should make us let go of our idols & place our trust in the Lord alone.

Can we see it? We need Double Vision to see the last days in which we live & the last day fast approaching & grace to live in the light of the Lord.