

## **Exalt the LORD alone**

*The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.*

*Isaiah 2:11*

This chapter begins with Isaiah's first positive description of the last days, when many people from all nations shall go to the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, to learn His ways and walk in His paths. His reign over the nations in that day will preclude war among them, as His judgment of the nations will cause them to beat their swords into plowshares and spears into pruninghooks. What is described in the beginning of the chapter has not yet been observed in any of the history of Israel. Instead, after an exhortation to Israel to walk in the light of the LORD that was just described, Isaiah describes how the people and the land of Israel were influenced by their neighbors and enemies to worship idols, the works of their own hands. He goes on to speak of how all the earthly things that mankind has looked to worship, or has made unto themselves to exalt their own names for worship, will be brought low. In the midst of this condemnation, our text appears and is repeated in verse 17. Men cannot receive the benefits of the sovereign LORD until they understand and acknowledge that He alone should be exalted.

This chapter is doubtless looking toward both aspects of the coming of the LORD in judgment and to reign in righteousness prophesied by John in the Revelation. Verses 10 and 19-21, "when He arises to shake terribly the earth," are reflected in Revelation 6:15-17. The aspects of His benevolent kingdom spoken of earlier are reflected in His millennial reign prophesied in Revelation 20:4-6. The same order is illustrated in these fulfillments, as the LORD will bring low the pride of men before blessing them with the glory of His majesty.

James echoes this timeless truth when he reminds his readers to "humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10). As recipients of the records of the prior prophecies of Isaiah to Israel as well as the latter prophecy of John to all, let us understand the current admonition from James to humble ourselves and exalt the LORD alone, and let Him take care of the rest.