

The Knife Angel

Isaiah 2:1-4 (NLT)

1This is a vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all - the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. 3People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. 4The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

[ptents.com/s/Isa2.1-4](https://www.bible.com/bible/ptents.com/s/Isa2.1-4)

Insight

Against the backdrop of gross injustice, moral failure, and spiritual unfaithfulness, Isaiah warned a guilty Judah of God's judgment (Isaiah 1–12) through the Babylonian exile (39:6–7). Isaiah also prophesied of God's grace (chs. 40–55) and a future restoration for Judah (chs. 11, 56–66). In Isaiah 12, we're given a glimpse of Judah's glorious future. Jerusalem will become the world's most important city and in the midst of the city will be a magnificent temple. World peace will become a reality. Instead of fighting the Jews, the gentile nations will stream to Jerusalem to seek God. God's people will be "a light for the Gentiles, that [His] salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (49:6). Micah, a contemporary of Isaiah (735–725 BC), prophesied a similar vision in Micah 4:1–3.

When knife crime rose across the United Kingdom, the British Ironwork Centre came up with an idea. Working with local police forces, the Centre built and placed two hundred deposit boxes around the country and ran an amnesty campaign. One hundred thousand knives were anonymously surrendered, some still with blood on their blades. These were then shipped to artist Alfie Bradley, who blunted them, inscribed some with the names of young knife-crime victims, plus messages of regret from ex-offenders. All 100,000 weapons were then welded together to create the Knife Angel—a twenty-seven-foot-high angelic sculpture with shimmering steel wings.

When I stood before the Knife Angel, I wondered how many thousands of wounds had been prevented by its existence. I thought too of Isaiah's vision of the new heavens and earth (Isaiah 65:17), a place where children won't die young (v. 20) or grow up in crime-breeding poverty (vv. 22–23), a place where knife crime is no more because all swords have been reshaped and given more creative purposes (2:4).

That new world isn't yet here, but we are to pray and serve until its arrival (Matthew 6:10). In its own way, the Knife Angel gives us a glimpse of God's promised future. Swords become plow shares. Weapons become artworks. What other redemptive projects can we conjure up to glimpse that future a little more?

Reflect & Pray

What inspires you to combat evil? How can you work for peace in your community?

Jesus, we can't wait until the world is at peace under Your reign. Move us by Your Spirit to help see Your kingdom come in our communities.