

Essay from the bold pastor #11 - The closing of Iraq war -

On December 18, 2011, the last American troop situated in Iraq crossed the boarder over to Kuwait and completed the withdrawal. President Obama declared "End of War" 4 days prior to this, and the Iraq War, which started on March 20, 2003, came to its close after 8 years and 9 months.

As a matter of fact, the U.S. declared "the End of War" twice before this event. First time was by President Bush on May 1, 2003 on the aircraft carrier ship in San Diego. The second declaration was by president Obama on August 31, 2008 in his office. These two declarations that didn't actually lead to the end of the war resulted from the U.S. leaders' desperation to finish the war as soon as possible. Colin Powell, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Persian Gulf War, frequently said, "It is easy to star a war but it is difficult to end it." There is a famous inscription in front of The United Nations Headquarters.

"They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they learn war anymore. "
Isaiah

This quotation, however, is only the second part of the scripture verse Isaiah 2:4. The verse begins with "*He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes from many people.*" Therefore, the entire verse will be the following.

"He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes from many people. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they learn war anymore."
Isaiah 2:4

This means that as a result of God's judgment on nations, there will be no wars and peace will be bestowed. No wonder that the inscription ends with just "Isaiah" instead of "Isaiah 2:4" because this was quoted out of context. It is easy to imagine that those who set up this inscription believed that people could make peace without God. The U.S. leaders that gave "false declarations of the end of war" and we, who are baffled by family and work troubles, are no exceptions. Peace is impossible without Christ, Prince of Peace.

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