

# Palm Sunday – March 27/28, 2021 – Reflection

It was a time of alienation and exile, a time of hopelessness and violence. The Prophet Isaiah had a dream, a vision of a Peaceable Kingdom:

"A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,

And a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

The wolf shall live with the lamb ...

The cow and the bear shall graze,

Their young shall lie down together;

And the baby play by the adder's lair.

He shall judge between the nations,

Arbitrate for many peoples;

They shall beat their swords into plowshares,

And their spears into pruning hooks,

There shall be no harm or ruin on all God's holy mountain."

Now on Calvary's mountain, Jesus, the Prince of Peace hangs on a Cross. He sees a Kingdom of new relationships, not sealed in the blood of genetics but in His Blood, where His Mother and His friend become

family, where future generations of believers become His sisters and brothers in the family of mother Church. He dreams of a New Creation, a new heaven and a new earth, where the swords of hatred are crushed into the plowshares to feed the world on the bread of life. That was the dream of Jesus as He hung between heaven and earth, racked with pain and agony, as He drifted in and out of consciousness on that dark, dark Good Friday.

The world two thousand years later is still as violent as ever:

Cain still kills his brother Abel;

Herod still wipes out innocent babies;

Grocery stores and schoolrooms are riddled with bullets;

Young people are kidnapped and sold as slaves;

Despots fire missiles into the skies;

Nations stockpile tools of destruction;

And there is no peace.

Is the dream of Jesus fruitless, swallowed up in the nightmare of division and hatred?

There are many crosses raised all over the world. There are many statues of Christ in the most unlikely spots on earth.

"When Chile and Argentina were about to go to war, it was the suggestion of a woman that the cannon of the two nations be melted, made into a statue of Christ and placed in the Andes at the border of each and be called 'The Christ of the Andes.' And it bears this inscription: 'sooner shall these mountains crumble than this pact of

peace, entered into at the feet of Christ between these two nations, shall be broken.' And that pact has never been broken!"

(Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen)

Someday, some of us will stop being fools and begin to dream the dream of Christ ... "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Then there shall at last be a "new heaven and a new earth" and "there shall be no harm or ruin on all God's holy mountain."