

# **‘We shall beat our swords’ is misleading**

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**By Lenny Cacchio**

LEES SUMMIT, Mo.—“We shall beat our swords into plowshares” appears on a sculpture at the UN building. It’s a wonderful aspiration, and it bears a striking resemblance to a prophecy in Isaiah:

“Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’

“The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.

“They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”

## **Subtle but significant**

Notice the difference, subtle but significant, between the biblical quote and the UN version.

“We shall,” according to the United Nations. “They shall,” in the biblical version, because the Lord “will teach us his ways” and because “he will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples.”

The UN mantra implies that “we” can bring peace and prosperity. The 65 years of UN mandates gives more than a clue about their ability or lack thereof to get it done.

“We” can’t even achieve peace in our own neighborhoods, let alone in the world as a whole. A critical something is missing, a something that the UN won’t acknowledge.

“He will teach us his ways.” “The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” “He will judge . . . and settle disputes.”

## Talking serpent

When human beings take the serpent's words for truth ("Ye shall be as gods"), they must conclude that they can bring the Millennium to earth through their own efforts. In relying solely on their own wisdom, they reject the only source who can truly bring peace, the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah again: "No one calls for justice. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil . . . Their deeds are evil deeds and acts of violence . . .

"Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are evil thoughts; ruin and destruction mark their ways. The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths.

"They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks in them will know peace" (Isaiah 59).

We shall beat our swords into plowshares, but first we have to learn how.