

Isaiah Lesson 24

Isaiah Chapter 24

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Introduction: In chapter 23, we covered the prophesy concerning Tyre which was a city-state in Lebanon to the north. The prophet described the desolation and the restoration of Tyre.

The primary focus in Chapter 24 is upon the Day of the Lord. There is a clear revealing of the Tribulation as well as a glimpse of Israel therein. The chapter ends with a brief preview of Christ on His throne in the Millennium. **I.**

Judgment on the Whole Earth

Isa 24:1 Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

The chapter commences by announcing God's wrath against the earth during the Tribulation. Within the metaphor utilized by the prophet, a clear description of God's dealings with the world during the Tribulation is set forth. Even as one might shake out a rug empty a waste basket, God will deal with the earth in that day. The word translated as waste (qlb baw-lak') has the sense to make 'desolate.'

Isa 24:2 And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.

Isa 24:3 The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word.

The prophesy focuses on the judgment against Israel in that day. The thought at hand is simple. Regardless of one's position, God will judge all in that day. Whether it be 'clergy' or 'laity,' God will judge either in the same fashion. And so it will be with servants and masters, buyers and sellers, lenders and borrowers. Come the Day of the Lord, God will judge all.

It is noteworthy that the words earth and land found throughout this chapter are both translated from the same Hebrew word (Ura) eretz. Here the translators

chose to use 'land' which undoubtedly is the correct sense. Though the greater context is of the judgment during the Day of the Lord, there may also be hints of the impending Assyrian invasion. In either event, the land of Israel would be emptied and spoiled. During the Assyrian invasion, God chastened Judah and deported the northern kingdom. In the Day of the Lord, God will use the terrible events of the Tribulation to turn Israel to her Messiah.

Isa 24:4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.

Isa 24:5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

Isa 24:6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

In these verses both the earth as well as the land of Israel are likely in view. In the Day of the Lord, not only will the land of Israel be judged, but the entire earth will fade and languish. In particular, the haughty of the earth will be forcibly humbled. Not only has Israel ignored God's laws, but the world at large certainly has as well.

The earth has been defiled by the moral and spiritual pollution of its inhabitants. The same was true of Israel and remains so to this hour. All have transgressed God's laws. The word translated as changed (Plxkhaw-laf') also has the sense to 'transgress' or 'overstep.' Rebellious Israel as well as the godless world have transgressed God's ordinances.

Israel had broken the everlasting covenant which God had made with them. The gentiles the world around have flagrantly broken the basic moral laws of God. Whether the land of Israel or the entire earth is in view, God's judgment is coming. Though some have suggested that the curse here refers to the curse placed upon the earth following the fall in Eden, the context does not seem to support that. Rather, the curse of God's impending judgment is what is in view.

A foreshadow of God's judgement certainly took place during the Assyrian invasion of Judah, leaving it desolate, burned, and depleted in population. However, the greater context of the chapter remains eschatological. When God is through with the earth after the Tribulation in the Day of the Lord, the curse of His judgment certainly will have devoured the earth. The seal, vial, and trumpet judgments of Revelation will come to pass. The population of the earth will be radically reduced from the plagues, warfare, and judgment of the Tribulation. The fire of warfare and God's plagues will ravage the earth in that day. When all

is said and done, the population of the earth will be a fraction of what it was before.

II. Rejoicing to End

Isa 24:7 The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merryhearted do sigh.

Isa 24:8 The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth.

Isa 24:9 They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it.

Isa 24:10 The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in.

Isa 24:11 There is a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone.

Isa 24:12 In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction.

The focus here (though quite possibly worldwide) seems to be of Israel during the day of God's judgment. Wine (often unfermented) was a basic commodity of Israel. In that day, there will be little. Musical entertainment will cease. There will be no partying and even those given to drunkenness will find their drink bitter.

In the day of God's judgment, Jerusalem will be broken down. Houses will be shut because there are few men left. Those given to drink will cry out because there is none. Darkness of mood will prevail. All joy will vanish.

When God is through, Jerusalem will be destroyed. The primary reason that this chapter is likely eschatological is that the Assyrians never accomplished this chastening. The Babylonian captivity does not seem to be in view. As the chapter continues, so will the ultimate fulfillment of these events during the Tribulation.

Isa 24:13 When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done.

Isa 24:14 They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea.

Isa 24:15 Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea.

The prophet summarizes the forewarning of the judgment. In that day, Israel will be like an olive tree shaken to remove its fruit. Israel will be stripped as the vines of the grape harvest. Of interest is that both olive trees and grape vines are common biblical symbols of Israel. However, after having been chastened by their God, "in that day, they shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea."

Though this conceivably could refer to Israel after the Babylonian captivity, that does not seem to fit the context. There is little biblical record of Judah lifting up their voices to praise God in the restoration. It in fact was a time of difficulty from building, and battling. The ultimate fulfillment seems to be at the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennium. In that day, redeemed Israel will lift up their voices in praise even from the sea.

Israel will go through the fires of judgment during the Tribulation. Yet, they are enjoined to glorify God even from "the isles of the sea." The term "the isles of the sea" is a reference to the gentile world whence Israel was scattered in the diaspora. By the end of the Tribulation, even dispersed Israel will be redeemed. They also are directed to glorify Jehovah God in that day.

III. Treacherous Dealers To Experience Leanness

Isa 24:16 From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous. But I said, My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.

Isa 24:17 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth.

Isa 24:18 And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.

In that context, the prophet continues, from the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous. At the end of the Tribulation, redeemed Jews throughout the world will sing songs of glory to the righteous. The thought of Israel's leanness and those who dealt treacherously with them concern the hard times Israel has faced that began after the diaspora and will face during the Tribulation up to their redemption.

The thought in the word leanness is of hardship. Redeemed Jews in the waning days of the Tribulation will face treachery from either unconverted Jews or certainly anti-Semitic gentiles. The thought again turns to the terrible judgment

which will befall the earth during the Tribulation. The mention of the pit refers to the pit of death and hell thereafter.

Luk 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

Luk 21:26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

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Luk 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Verse 18 speaks of the turmoil and destruction in that day as invading armies destroy everything in their path.

Mat 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Mat 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

God's wrath will be poured out from the windows of heaven onto the earth causing its very foundations to shake.

Isa 24:19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.

Isa 24:20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

Though some have sought to apply this strictly to the land of Israel (because the word {Ura} eretz can be translated as either land or earth) the greater context clearly is of the earth in the Tribulation. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.

God's wrath in the Day of the Lord will be poured out to such an extent against the wicked of the world that even the earth itself will be shaken. See Revelation 6:14;16:17; Matthew 24:7- 8; and Isaiah 2:19-21.

Isa 2:19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Isa 2:20 In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

Isa 2:21 To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

This is part of the cataclysmic judgments even of the heavens which will have profound effects upon the earth. Recall from Revelation 8:12 how even the days of the Tribulation are shortened by one third. In Revelation 8:8-11, celestial bodies collide with the earth causing severe destabilization.

The astronomical implications of this are enormous. The very foundations of time, the calendar, and seasons are based upon the regularity and predictability of the earth in its relationship to other celestial bodies. The reason for such profound judgment is as simple as it is direct: The sin of the earth has provoked a holy God to judgment. Eventually, God will create new heavens and a new earth. This old sin-cursed earth will be replaced by one which is perfect, wherein righteousness will abound.

Isa 24:21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

Isa 24:22 And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

Isa 24:23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

Though there certainly will be God's wrath against the highest levels of human rule during the Tribulation, including the antichrist himself, even higher powers are in view here. When the Tribulation is complete, Satan and his evil empire—the principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, the spiritual wickedness in high places—will be bound for a thousand years. See Revelation 20:1-3.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

The very kings of the earth which rebelled against the Lord and Christ Himself will be slain in that day. See Acts 4:25-26 as well as Revelation 19:18-19. Verse

22 pertains to Satan and his demonic empire being bound for a thousand years in the bottomless pit as noted in Revelation 20:1-3. God in His infinite wisdom will allow the devil (and evidently his minions) to be released from his prison for a season after the thousand years is complete. See Revelation 20:7-8.

With the judgment of the Tribulation over, the glory of the Millennium is at hand. . In view is the glory of Jesus Christ upon His throne at Jerusalem during the Millennium. His brilliant glory will supersede even the sun and moon. See Matthew 24:29-30.

Mat 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mat 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Though apparently during the Millennium, the sun will provide heavenly light throughout the earth, it will not compare to Jesus Christ, the light of the world. He will bring peace and stability in the aftermath of the judgement of God. In the new heavens and new earth, particularly the New Jerusalem, the Lamb Himself is the light thereof.

Rev 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Rev 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.

