

Isaiah Lesson 26

Isaiah Chapter 26

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

E-mail: mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com

Introduction: Last week, chapter 25 presented the glories of the Millennium, particularly from a Jewish perspective.

This next chapter is a psalm of praise. The occasion clearly is Israel in the Millennium, looking back at all that God has done for them. The chapter concludes by returning to a prophetic mode. There, God through the prophet warns Israel of the impending hardships of the Tribulation.

I. You Keep Him in Perfect Peace

Isa 26:1 In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

Isa 26:2 Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

Though Isaiah is a prophetic book, this chapter is largely a psalm (song) of praise to God. The introduction of “in that day” clearly identifies the time as the Day of the Lord. As the text will unfold, the perspective is of redeemed Israel in the Millennium looking back at the wonders which God had done for them.

The strong city undoubtedly is a reference to the millennial Jerusalem. In that day, God will truly appoint salvation for the capital city of Israel. The keynote in that day will be the salvation which God has given to Israel, both spiritually as well as militarily.

God gave Israel miraculous deliverance during the terrible days of the Tribulation and the dreadful persecution of the antichrist. By this time, Israel has turned to Christ and is now rejoicing at how God had delivered them. They therefore cry out in joy to open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. The righteous nation keeping the truth is first Israel.

Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Isa 26:4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

The prophet then speaks a profound promise of God.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

What a wonderful promise. There is perfect peace of heart and mind when our mind is stayed on the Lord. The idea is of one resting or ‘leaning’ on upon the Lord. Lest there is any question, the prophet makes clear, “because he trusteth in thee.” To trust Him is to lean upon Him, rest upon Him, and be stayed upon Him. The result is perfect peace.

In the Hebrew text, the word perfect is not there. Rather, the literal rendering is ‘peace peace.’ The thought is ‘peace of peace’ or ‘complete peace.’ ‘Perfect peace’ is an exact translation. The greater thought is that when we trust the Lord altogether, there comes a peace which passeth understanding. Truly, one of the benefits of living by faith is perfect peace.

Therefore, the prophet admonishes, “Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.” His everlasting strength is a source of comfort. His strength never diminishes or fades over time. God gave His Word; He can and will keep His Word. God never changes, Gods Word never changes.

Isa 26:5 For he bringeth down them that dwell on high; the lofty city, he layeth it low; he layeth it low, even to the ground; he bringeth it even to the dust.

Isa 26:6 The foot shall tread it down, even the feet of the poor, and the steps of the needy.

God had destroyed the arrogant enemies of Israel. Now, Israel is looking back at God’s deliverance of them at the end of the Tribulation. The lofty city may refer to the end time manifestation of Babylon. This may be Rome as noted in Revelation 17 and/or the political, commercial manifestation of Babylon. With victorious joy, the prophet foretells how Israel in that day will sing of how God had so thoroughly destroyed the arrogant enemies of Israel that their feet would trod upon their enemies. Again, the context is of God’s miraculous deliverance of Israel in the Day of the Lord.

Isa 26:7 The way of the just is uprightness: thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just.

Isa 26:8 Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee.

The prophet pauses to utter a godly proverb. Twin thoughts are at hand.

(1) The way of the just (i.e., a righteous man) is to do what is right. We that believe certainly have been justified thru Christ. Now, it is incumbent upon us to live uprightly. The latter follows from the former. Those who would consider themselves as just must live their lives by doing what is right.

(2) God who is “most upright” will in fact weigh (i.e., ponder or consider) the path taken by the just. God will evaluate our lives. Therefore, we must not merely profess to be just, but to live in such a way as to please God.

The prophet continues to build upon the proverb and additional truths are presented. The prophet foretells how Israel, in that day, will profess their faithfulness to wait upon the Lord. The mention of “thy judgments” undoubtedly refers to God’s Word as is noted frequently in the book of Psalms.

Israel in that day will be able to testify before God and to others that they had waited upon Him in their hour of crisis (the Tribulation). In like fashion, Israel in that day will proclaim, the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. Israel had only given lip service to God for many centuries. Many of them had not even done that. In that day, they will long for Him and His remembrance.

II. Isaiah Sought God with All His Spirit

Isa 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Isa 26:10 Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD.

Isa 26:11 LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.

With additional detail, the prophet records how Israel in that day will cry out to God. In that day, Israel will yearn for her God, even in the night. They will be

diligent in seeking the Lord early. Come the Millennium, the judgments of God (i.e., His Word) will be in the all the earth. In that day, the entire world will know of true righteousness.

In verse 10, the nature of the psalm changes. The prophet, speaking of Israel in that day, now turns his attention to the wicked. Though God may allow goodness to come to the wicked, they remain self-willed and ignorant of God's righteousness. Even when the Lord Jesus Christ rules during the millennium, where His majesty is so visible and the truth in His words are so evident. The greater thought is how sinful men will continue in their wickedness if allowed to do so.

The wicked are oblivious to God's dealings. Yet, the time will come when they eventually realize their folly, but it will be too late. God will destroy them in His due season. In the greater context, the thought is of the wicked during the Tribulation and of their final fate.

Isa 26:12 LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.

Isa 26:13 O LORD our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name.

Isa 26:14 They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish.

In contrast, the prophet speaking on behalf of Israel in the Day of the Lord cries out, "LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us." In that day, Israel will acknowledge how that the Lord has given them peace and blessed them. For centuries from the time of Isaiah to the Day of the Lord, Israel certainly has had other lords ruling over them.

From the time of Daniel until 1948, Israel was not a sovereign nation on the face of the earth. Even at present, there are literally hundreds of thousands, if not more, Arabs living throughout their land. During the Tribulation, gentile commanders will cruelly rule over them. As redeemed Israel looks back from the Millennium, they acknowledge that "by thee only will we make mention of thy name." In that day, Jehovah God will be their God in spirit and in truth. Their faith is strong. They refer to their enemies both past and present as "dead" knowing that God will fulfill His promise to deliver them.

At the end of the Tribulation, the numerous enemies of Israel will have been destroyed, never to rise again. So thoroughly will God deliver His people, that even the memory of their enemies will perish.

III. God Increased the Nation of Israel

Isa 26:15 Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou hast increased the nation: thou art glorified: thou hadst removed it far unto all the ends of the earth.

Isa 26:16 LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.

As Israel looks at their millennial blessing, they cry out glorifying God for increasing their nation. Indeed, Israel will be increased in that day, and they will glorify God to that end. God had scattered them in the diaspora, now He will fully restore them to their land. During the Tribulation, Israel will finally turn to their God and visit Him in prayer. In the Millennium, they will fully understand that God used that chastening to get their attention.

Isa 26:17 Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD.

Isa 26:18 We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.

Isaiah likens Israel in the Tribulation to a woman in labor. There are parallels here to that of Isaiah 66:7-8 as well as to Revelation 12:4-6. Though Israel will face travail in the Tribulation, their man child has already been brought forth. That was at Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. During the Tribulation, Israel seems to face hopeless odds. Their trouble seems to avail nothing and their foes seem to prevail.

Isa 26:19 Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

Isa 26:20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

Isa 26:21 For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the

inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Isaiah (like Ezekiel) foresaw the national resurrection of Israel. As Ezekiel saw a national resurrection and reconstituting of Israel in the future (Ezekiel 37:1-14), Isaiah sees the same. The day is coming when Israel will not only be restored to her land altogether, but her righteous dead will be raised in the land. Isaiah therefore calls upon these to awake and sing upon their resurrection. In that day, “the earth shall cast out the dead” even as dew on the ground causes the herb to spring forth. This resurrection will evidently take place at the beginning of the Millennium.

In verse 20, with this glorious future ahead, God now speaks directly through the prophet to His people. He warns them of the Tribulation through which they must endure. Throughout the Tribulation, Jewish people the world around will turn to Christ. Yet, they will face that day of wrath. No doubt, these converted Jews will turn to the Christ. Recorded here, as well as in other places, speaks directly of their situation. This, no doubt, is to encourage those newly redeemed sons of Jacob.

Moreover, there very well may be reference here to the place in the wilderness which God has prepared to protect redeemed Israel in that day. See Revelation 12:14-16.

Rev 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Rev 12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Rev 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

That place will remain a secret until that day lest the dragon finds out to pursue them there. God summarizes to redeemed Israel in that day the purpose of the Tribulation. Come the Day of the Lord, God will come from heaven to punish the human race for their sin. In that day, the innocent blood shed through the ages will be revealed and the earth will no longer be a covering for such wickedness. The day of sin will end with the Tribulation.

KJV Bible Studies are prepared and distributed free of charge. The lessons may not be sold without consent. If you have questions or wish to discuss the lessons, or possibly need help in finding Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior, contact us at the email below

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

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

E-mail: mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com

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