

The Book of Isaiah
Chapters 24-27

Introduction: This section before us now (24-27) turns from specific and particular aspects of God's judgment to a more general message of God's control over time and space.

- Chapter 24 is fundamental to 25-27
 - No reference to particular nations or specific historic events
 - Judgments not even restricted to the earth
 - Goes beyond judgment of 12-23
- A. These chapters focus on the end of time—called “Isaiah’s Apocalypse”
1. Compared to Daniel, Revelation not apocalyptic
 2. No fantastic imagery, color, numerology
 3. Clearly eschatological—maybe pre-apocalyptic
- B. Two recurrences that run through four chapters
1. Songs and singing
 - a. Silenced songs of ruthless
 - b. Jubilant songs of the redeemed
 2. City
 - a. City of ruthless—destroyed
 - b. City of God (mountain)
- C. Chapter 24 is a bridge
1. Summarizes 13-23
 2. Springboard to 24-27

I. Isaiah Twenty-Four

A. The earth destroyed (24:1-13)

1. Earth appears 16 times in this section
2. Clear the Lord brings the destruction (24:1, 3, 21)
3. All will be subject—none exempt (24:2)—(gender, rank, function, didn't matter)
4. Reason for this destruction (24:5)
5. How can Gentiles be held responsible for laws they never received? (about whole world)

IMPLICIT TRUTH (Romans 1)—Common standards of behavior expected—Laws written on human conscience.

6. Destruction is coming because humanity has violated terms of their creation (24:6).
7. Drying up of land, joy, and fulfillment is gone (24:7-13)

B. Bittersweet acknowledgment (14-18a)

1. Rejoicing of earth that God is bringing judgment and revealing His majesty (14, 15; Psalm 97)
2. Yet Isaiah is saddened that the world has come to this (16-18)

C. Revelation of divine judgment (18b-23)

1. Reminiscent of flood (18b-20)
2. The real weight is human guilt (20)
 - a. Human rebellion
 - b. Refusal to bow to God
3. Judgment expands to all creation (21-23)
4. Only ONE is sovereign over the universe—only ONE can claim Lordship, only ONE can call themselves King!

D. Summarizing

1. World has gone desperately awry from the divine intention.
 - a. It is very good
 - b. Everyone does what is right in their own eyes
 - c. None righteous, no not one

2. All without excuse—moral law
3. God will judge—but He waits

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Matthew 13:24-30 NKJV

But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." Genesis 15:16 NKJV

4. How much longer can it go?
5. What will sins of the next generation look like?
6. This chapter reminds us that this world is NOT all there is.
7. We must be ready when He returns.

II. Isaiah Twenty-Five

A. A return of judgment/hope motif

1. Judgment and destruction are never God's intended last words.
2. Intends for judgment to give way to hope and redemption.

B. Hope and redemption are not reserved for Israel alone (25:1-5)—see v. 3

C. All people (universal) invited to His feast (25:6-8)—picture—King having feast to make big announcement.

D. Trustworthiness of God (25:9)

1. If nation of unclean lips is to bear a message of hope—they must, like the prophet, have a revelation of God's trustworthiness.
2. This is the Lord. We have trusted Him.
3. Why trust the nations that are subject to God anyway?

E. Yet, still a warning of judgment (10-12)

1. Why such a harsh word?
2. Similar to Exodus 34:6-7
3. God's salvation is available to all people of all nations.
4. But must abandon self-trust and pride (11)

F. The end of time will be a great feast

1. Blessings to all announced
2. Judgment to those who refuse to turn
3. Judgment is not His intended last word but we can make it that

GREAT LESSON: We are all created for life, not death—Resurrection of Christ~

1. We are sanctified
2. Regardless of what culture says

III. Isaiah Twenty-Six

NOTE: 26 and 27 both labeled songs

26—focus on the way the glorious city perceives itself and its rule

27—promise of return and restoration from Israel

A. Gratitude for divine deliverance (1-6)

1. City of God for the righteous (1, 2) vs. fallen city of v.5
2. Open gates of confident security (2) not fearing attack
3. Only open to righteous who seek truth
4. Complete inner integrity (shalom) known by those who trust Him
5. Trust in the Lord NOT the nations (Picture of New Jerusalem)

B. Anticipation while we wait (7-19)

1. People of God are waiting for that day that has not yet come (7-9)
 - a. Righteous want to live lives in a way pleasing to God
 - b. Judgment=mispatim
 - c. God's honor and reputation is the focus of the righteous
 - d. Longing for evidence of God's mispatim in the earth—world righteousness
2. Grace without repentance may be counter-productive (10, 11)

NOTE: How true is that of the world today—does not see the grace or the majesty of God. Takes judgment to get their attention.

v. 11—hand lifted up ready to judge but they are oblivious

3. God has done all for His people and they recognize it (12)—salvation belongs to the Lord (see 25:9)
4. Recounting the breadth of salvation (13-15)
5. Helplessness without God (16-18)
 - a. Called out to God when nations were disciplining them as extension of God
 - b. Longing for deliverance
 - c. Unable to accomplish without God

NOTE: Israel to be a blessing to all nations

6. Life of faith is not in vain—resurrection will come (19)

C. Promise worth waiting for (20, 21)

Summary:

- Perseverance in spite of hardship and uncertainty
- Have known little of this in Assyria until recently
- More and more marginalized
- How shall we respond?
- End Times fascination (escapism)

Called to:

1. Trust God

You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. Isaiah 26:3 NKJV

2. Honor God's name alone

O Lord our God, masters besides You Have had dominion over us; But by You only we make mention of Your name. Isaiah 26:13 NKJV

3. Believe God can do what we cannot

Lord, when Your hand is lifted up, they will not see. But they will see and be ashamed For their envy of people; Yes, the fire of Your enemies shall devour them. Isaiah 26:11 NKJV

Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. 21 For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain. Isaiah 26:20-21 NKJV

Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name. 17 "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." 18 Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him. Malachi 3:16-18 NKJV

4. Hold fast to resurrection

IV. Isaiah Twenty-Seven (27:1-13)

This section recounts the carrying-out of God's final promise to Israel—Judah—He will restore.

A. Heavenly Battle (27:1)

1. See 24:21—"exalted ones"
2. Leviathan---mythological dragon (READ: Revelation 12:1-3)
3. Ephesians 6
4. Craddock—"an invitation to see what's really going on behind what's going on."

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 NKJV

B. Restoring of the vineyard (2-6)

See: 5:1-7

- C. God's anger with His people was not like His anger with Israel's enemies (7)
- D. His judgment was not to annihilate, but cleanse (8, 9)
- E. Enemy finally defeated (10, 11)
- F. Full restoration of God's people (12, 13)

Conclusion: God's activity in our lives in discipline is not for purpose of destruction, but for refinement.

A. Adversity is not always discipline

(Job reminds us)

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- B. But should certainly ask God if it is something we must learn.
- C. Is there something between me and God?
- D. If no repentance necessary, it may be trial.

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 1 Peter 4:12-13 NKJV

- E. God NEVER has destruction in mind when He allows suffering.