

A Trek Through Isaiah 20 - 24:1-20

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Review

- In the book of the King
- 13-27 kingdom panorama
 - Review of Judah and all the surrounding kingdoms.
 - Question: where is true security?
 - Five answers
 - One-world government
 - Davidic monarchy
 - Collective security and self-sufficiency
 - People of God
 - Triumphant end
 - Reviewed in three series

The World City and the City of God 24 – 27

	One-world Government	Davidic Monarchy	Collective Security and Self-sufficiency	The People of God	Triumphant End
3	24:1-20 The city of chaos	24:21-23 The King of glory	25:1-12 Salvation for all	26:1-21 The strong city	27:1-13 Universal Israel

- The third series of oracles about “Where is true security?”
- Here are resolved the themes introduced in the first two sets of oracles in 13 – 23.
- No specific nation or city references. In view is all peoples and nations grouped into one world.
- Often referred to as “The Apocalypse of Isaiah”. Eschatological but not apocalyptic: end times but little symbolism.
- Overall theme: Yahweh’s victory over His enemies and for His people.
- Two contrasts
 - City of man (cast down and destroyed) vs City of God (secure and full of life)
 - Song in the city of man (once revelry, now silent) vs Song of Judah over the whole world (God who saves and redeems)

The City of Chaos and the Believing Remnant 24:1-20

- First oracle in the series
- Isaiah’s question: Where is true security? Answer: One-world government.
- Series 1: The mighty king of Babylon brought down to Sheol. Series 2: The watchman receives the news: Babylon has fallen. Series 3: The world city finally destroyed.

The Earth Devastated 24:1-3

Isaiah 24:1–3 (LSB)

1Behold, Yahweh empties the earth to destruction, eviscerates it, distorts its surface, and scatters its inhabitants.

2And the people will be like the priest, the male slave like his master, the female slave like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor.

3The earth will be completely emptied to destruction and completely plundered, for Yahweh has spoken this word.

- V1 Devastation of the earth
 - Behold. Great importance.
 - Yahweh. The principal Actor.
 - Empties the earth. Could happen at any time. People gone.
 - Distorts its surface. Render unrecognizable
 - Scatters. As at Babel Ge 11:9b
- V2 Collapse of society
 - Will be like
 - One is the same as the other
 - Definite article
 - types of people.
 - People...priest.
 - Religious collapse
 - Male slave ...master...female slave ...mistress;
 - Societal collapse
 - the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor
 - Commercial collapse.
- v3 Devastated earth
 - inclusio w v1. V1: the actor. v3 : the recipient.
 - Will be completely emptied. Passive tense: acted upon
 - Yahweh has spoken. Certainty.

The World Withered 24:4-5

Isaiah 24:4–5 (LSB)

4The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the exalted of the people of the earth languish.

5The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they trespassed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.

- V4
 - the earth under the curse.
 - The land personified.
 - mourns. As a funeral.
 - withers. As plants.
 - Languishes. Becomes weak.
 - people under the curse
 - Exalted. The best of humankind..
- V5
 - Polluted.
 - Profane. Under a curse.
 - For. cause of the curse
 - Trespassed laws. Crossed the boundaries set by Yahweh.
 - violated statutes. Replaced God's moral absolutes with human morality.
 - broke the everlasting covenant.
 - Various views on which specific covenant this refers to.
 - As Paul in Ro 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or give thanks...

The World Cursed 24:6

Isaiah 24:6 (LSB)

6Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who inhabit it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men remain.

- Therefore. Result.
- curse. Covenant sanction.
 - As Lv 26:14-45 But if you do not obey Me and do not do all these commandments, if, instead, you reject My statutes, and if your soul loathes My judgments so as not to do all My commandments and so break My covenant, I, in turn, will do this to you...
 - Also Dt 28:15ff
- Are held guilty.
 - Justly deserved condemnation.
- Are burned.
 - Curse applied
- few men remain.
 - Remnant of the world.

The World City Destroyed 24:7-12

Isaiah 24:7–12 (LSB)

7The new wine mourns; The vine languishes; All the glad of heart sigh.

8The joy of tambourines ceases; The rumbling of those exulting stops; The joy of the harp ceases.

9They do not drink wine with song; Strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.

10The city of chaos is broken down; Every house is shut up so that none may enter.

11There is an outcry in the streets concerning the wine; All gladness turns to gloom. The joy of the earth is taken away into exile.

12Desolation remains in the city, And the gate is struck down to ruins.

- Structure: 15 lines like hammer blows.
- Draws upon the imagery of celebration at the end of grape harvest
- V7-9 The end of self-gratification
 - V7 The new wine mourns, the vine languishes. What they depended on for satisfaction is gone.
 - V7 all the glad of heart sigh. The revelers are no longer merry.
 - V7-8 joy ceases. Godless celebration ceased.
 - V9 strong drink is bitter. Alcohol no longer brings pleasure.
- V10 The end of self-organization
 - The city of chaos is broken down.
 - City. The world-city of proud, self-sufficient man. The spirit of Babel.
 - Chaos. Heb tohu. Gen 1:2 “without form”. The order brought by creation is completely reversed. May refer to the city before destruction or after destruction. The ultimate end of Babel. Motyer: “anything goes and nothing matters”.
 - broken down. Defeated and destroyed.
 - every house is shut up so that none can enter.
 - Doors intentionally shut, perhaps out of fear.
 - No socializing.
- V11 The end of self-preservation
 - Outcry in the streets
 - Cry of desperation.
 - Concerning the wine
 - What was depended upon for happiness.
 - All gladness turns to gloom. The joy of the earth is taken away into exile.
 - No present gladness.
 - No hope.
- V12 City left desolate
 - In the city. All inside.
 - the gate is struck down to ruins. Defenses gone. Government destroyed.

The Believing Remnant 24:13-16a

Isaiah 24:13–16 (LSB)

13For thus it will be in the midst of the earth among the peoples, As the shaking of an olive tree, As the gleanings when the grape harvest is over.

14They lift up their voices, they shout for joy; They cry out from the west concerning the majesty of Yahweh.

15Therefore glorify Yahweh in the east, The name of Yahweh, the God of Israel, In the coastlands of the sea.

16From the ends of the earth we hear songs, "Glory to the Righteous One,"

- V13
 - in the midst of the earth among the peoples
 - Transition to the remnant
 - As the shaking of an olive tree, As the gleanings when the grape harvest is over.
 - Picture of harvesting olives and grapes.
 - Violent harvesting which takes almost all the fruit followed by careful preservation of the gleanings.
- V14-16 Rejoicing of the remnant
 - They. The faithful remnant preserved.
 - lift up their voices, they shout for joy...they cry out.
 - Loud praising.
 - from the west...in the east...in the coastlands of the sea...from the ends of the earth
 - Over all the world.
 - What they praise
 - the majesty of Yahweh. His revealed glory.
 - the name of Yahweh. His revealed character and works.
 - the God of Israel. The one true God.
 - The Righteous One. His righteousness finally displayed in the destruction of the city of chaos

Warning 24:16b-18a

Isaiah 24:16–18 (LSB)

16..." But I say, "I waste away! I waste away! Woe is me! The treacherous deal treacherously, And the treacherous deal very treacherously."

17Panic and pit and pitfall Are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth.

18Then it will be that he who flees the sound of panic will fall into the pit, And he who climbs out of the pit will be caught in the pitfall...

- V16 Introduction and the prophet's pain
 - But I say
 - The prophet speaking
 - I waste away! I waste away! Woe is me!
 - Repeated for emphasis.
 - Isaiah mourns the judgment to come before the rejoicing.
 - He is affected personally.
 - The treacherous deal treacherously, And the treacherous deal very treacherously
 - The reason for the woe.
 - Repetition for emphasis.
 - May be "plunderers" referring to the conquerors.
 - May be "traitors" referring to false leaders.
 - May be "treacherous" referring to the people who continued in sin.
- V17-18a Judgment with no escape
 - Imagery from hunting.
 - O inhabitant of the earth. Judgment coming to individuals.
 - V18 No escape.

The Earth Broken 24:18b-20

Isaiah 24:18–20 (LSB)

18...For the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth quake.

19The earth is broken asunder; The earth is split through; The earth is shaken violently.

20The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard And it totters like a shack, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again.

- Explanation of the figure just used.
- Inclusio with v1-3.
 - V1-3 the Agent
 - V18-20 what is done
- V18-19
 - For the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth quake
 - Re the flood in Gen 7:11 ...on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.
 - Universal but not a water flood.
 - Three statements of the earth destroyed. Pictured by Heb structure.
 - Broken asunder - there is broken down earth
 - Split through - there is cracked through earth
 - Shaken violently - there is shaken earth
- V20
 - Two similes
 - reels to and fro like a drunkard: loss of internal coordination
 - totters like a shack: temporary garden shelter being blown over in a storm.
 - its transgression is heavy upon it,
 - Cause of the destruction
 - it will fall, never to rise again
 - The final end to Babel.

Application: What sort of people should we be?

Look at v14-16. The believing remnant will rejoice when the day of the Lord comes, since wickedness will finally be judged. But, in the meantime, what about us?

Look at 2 Pet 3:11-18. Peter asks the same question: In view of the coming day of the Lord, what sort of people should we be?

- Looking for and hastening the day of God. (v12)
 - Why?
 - Because God's righteousness will be manifested (Is 24:16)
 - Because the new heavens and earth will appear (2 Pet 3:13)
 - As 1 Jn 2:15, 17 Do not love the things of the world...the world is passing away
 - As the heroes of faith: strangers and exiles on the earth...looking for the heavenly city (Heb 11:13-16)
- Diligent to be assured (v14)
 - In peace: assured.
 - Be diligent. As 2 Pet 1:5-8 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these things are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Making disciples (v15)
 - Patience as salvation. Opportunity for the gospel
 - As 2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some consider slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
- On guard against error (v17)
 - So as not to fall
- Growing (v18)
 - In grace
 - In knowledge

References

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