

## The Defeat of Satan

### Isaiah 27

This is our 46<sup>th</sup> sermon in Isaiah, a preacher who announced “**God’s Unfolding Plan**” in history.

\*We’ve explored the various themes of Isaiah (from *Problem of Sin* to *Judgment of Enemies*) and are now **in the heart** of one of the most glorious themes: “**The Coming Kingdom.**”

\*As a heart has **4 chambers**, Isaiah 24-27 reveals **4 aspects** at the heart of the Coming Kingdom

\*The **Chapter Titles in your Bible** show the power of these **4 chambers**:

- Isaiah 24: “**Judgment on the Whole Earth**” (*God will repay the wicked and grant us relief*)
- Isaiah 25: “**God will Swallow up Death Forever**” (*God conquers death and wipe away tears*)
- Isaiah 26: “**You Keep Him in Perfect Peace**” (*The dead shall live and earth will sing for joy*)
- Isaiah 27: “**The Redemption of Israel**” (*God will slay the serpent & gather His people*)

\*Today, we rejoice in one of the greatest triumphs of the Coming Kingdom:

***\*The final battle and the ultimate defeat of Satan.***

\*Some may ask: “*What does this have to do with Christmas or birth of Jesus*” to which I quote:

*1 John 3:8 “The reason the Son of God **appeared** [came, manifested, entered the scene] was to...**destroy the works of the devil.**”*

\*IOW: **Behind the visible storyline of Christmas** (shepherds, angels, wise men), **is an invisible storyline** (God himself had come to wage war and triumph over the kingdom of darkness.)

\***Do you remember playing “Capture the Flag”?** Two opposing sides. One objective: **Capture the Flag.**

\*But, in the process of the mission, if your teammates got **tagged**, they would go... **to jail.**

\*So, though the main mission was to “**capture the flag**” there was also a secondary mission of equal importance: Get to your **teammates in jail** and **release the captives.**

\*So it is with the coming of the Son of Man. It was a **Divine Rescue Mission**, where He came to triumph over the enemy, and in so doing a secondary objective was accomplished: **Captives were released.**

\*As it says in Eph. 4:8 “*When he ascended on high **he led a host of captives.**”*

This is the Good News of **Is. 27**: God will win the final victory & call us home to eternal glory.

#### **1. A Final Battle is coming, (v.1-5)**

- Serpent Defeated (v.1)
- People Rescued (v.2-4a)
- Peace Offered (v.4b-5)

***“In that day the Lord with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.” (v.1)***

\***What a Picture!** The chapter begins with an **epic battle** between our Lord and Leviathan

\*Our ancient adversary (pictured as a **twisting, fleeing serpent**) is soundly defeated.

\*God **slays the serpent** by driving a sword into the kingdom of darkness. (**Rev. 12:9**)

\*The sword (ESV: *hard, great, strong*) is translated in NLT “**terrible, swift sword.**”

\*This is the phrase we sing in the **Battle Hymn of the Republic**:

*“Mine eyes have seen the glory of **the coming of the Lord**;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed **the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword**:  
His truth is marching on.”*

\*That’s Isaiah 27: God’s **truth is marching on**. And the **Tempter** of the human race will be struck once and for all & **slither no more**.

*2 In that day, “A pleasant vineyard, sing of it! 3 I, the Lord, am its keeper; every moment I water it. Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day; 4 I have no wrath.*

\*Here God’s voice is **heard singing a melody** over His people, **like a mom singing over her baby**.

\*Many metaphors in Scripture to describe God’s people (*bride, building, etc*)

\***Vineyard** is a metaphor (**Is. 5 & Mt. 21**) to describe God’s intimate care/growth of His people.

*“I, the Lord, am its Keeper”* = He tends it; guards it; protects it.

*“every moment I water; I keep it night and day”* = He is intimately involved in our care.

*“I have no wrath.”* NIV: ‘I am not angry.’ NLT: ‘My anger will be gone.’

\*That is music to the ears! There is nothing but **eternal joy and celebration!**

\*New Hope, when you hear me say “**You are Loved**” do you really believe that **God loves you?**

\*Do you embrace that even now “*there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus*”?

\*In moments you **doubt God’s love** or secretly wonder if **He is still angry** at you, may this picture come to your mind: **Your Father singing a love song over you.**

*4...Would that I had thorns and briers **to battle!** I would **march against them**, I would **burn them up together**. 5 **Or** let them...*

\*Whoa! I just thought God said “*I am not angry!*” What is this talk of going “**to battle**” and “**marching**” against them and “**burning them up**”?

\*I believe God is speaking here of enemies who oppose him on that final day.

\*What will become of them? Well, **it is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of God.**

\*But, even here with such strong language, God gives us insight into the **longing of His heart**:

*“Or let them lay hold of my protection, **let them make peace with me, let them make peace with me.**” (v.5)*

**“Make peace...make peace.” Make Shalom! Shalom!”** Lay down your weapons!

*Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. Draw near to God, He will draw near.*

**\*The power of the Word “OR!”** You can fight against God...**OR** bend a knee and make peace.

**\*If you are fighting against what God wants, hear His voice, longing to break through:**

**“Make peace with me.”**

**2. ...meanwhile God’s Kingdom flourishes, (v.6-11)**

- His Word will Spread; (v.6)
- His Grace will Extend; (v.7-9)
- But many are ‘stupid.’ (v.10-11)

**6 *In days to come* Jacob shall **take root**, Israel shall **blossom** and **put forth shoots** and **fill the whole world with fruit.****

**\*Put simply, v.6 describes THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF THE CHURCH!**

**\*The imagery of **taking root, blossoming, growing, fruit, *in days to come*** suggests that the Kingdom of God and His gospel would **flourish around the world.****

**\*What appeared to be a **small garden** in Isaiah’s day **centered in a small corner of Israel** would one day develop a root system to stretch around the globe, even to Michigan.**

**\*The truth of God’s Kingdom would flourish...from a **regional influence (in Jerusalem)** to being a **world-wide phenomenon** that influences all people.**

**\*On Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, you’ll get to hear 5 minutes from Max of how God is at work in Russia:**

*“God called me when I was drunk. I was climbing over a bridge railing to commit suicide. In my second attempt to throw myself over to certain death, I clearly heard a fatherly voice speak to my heart, ‘You will not die!’” (Max)*

**\*Max gave His heart to Christ, dedicated his life to ministry, and now is seeing the gospel flourish in **30 rehab centers** ministering to over **400 recovering addicts** annually.**

**7 *Has the Lord struck Israel as he struck her enemies? Has he punished her as he punished them?* 8 **No, but he exiled Israel to call her to account.** She was exiled from her land as though blown away in a storm from the east. 9 **The Lord did this to purge Israel’s wickedness, to take away all her sin.** (NLT)**

**\*Two questions, both with a simple answer: **God is for His people, not against them.****

**\*Yes, there are times God disciplines us and **calls us to account** for wrongdoing...but God is **not out to punish His people**, but **to purge them.** To cleanse & forgive!**

**\*This week my son said: “Dad, **do you know the best moment of my childhood?**” *What’s that?***

**\*He had hit one of his sisters and I called him into a bedroom for discipline. Tears streamed down his face because he was “**being called to account**” for his wrongdoing.**

**\*I asked him if he knew he did wrong. (He did.) I asked if he’d ever do it again. (No.)**

**\*I then told him he was free to go...forgiven...BEST MOMENT EVER!**

\*Listen: the **BEST MOMENT** of life is the day you realize...

***"God is not OUT TO GET you, but OUT TO FORGIVE you!"***

\*At the **heart of the Christmas story** and the birth of Jesus is this good news:

***"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15)***

\*Even today, my friend, he can purge your sin & take your sin away by trusting Christ.

***"11 The people are like the dead branches of a tree, broken off and used for kindling beneath the cooking pots. Israel is a foolish and stupid nation, for its people have turned away from God. Therefore, the one who made them will show them no pity or mercy."***

\*These are candid words describing people who decide to **"turn away from God."**

\*How **"foolish and stupid"** it is to reject the One who offers mercy if you call on Him!

**\*When I was a kid, my older brother would say to me: "Don't be stupid."**

\*There are some people who **turn away from God** and live in total rebellion.

\*If that's you, **feel the hand of God take you by the shoulder; look at the tenderness in his eyes; and hear his words...very candid and honest:**

***"Don't be stupid. If you keep walking that direction, you will not find mercy."***

### **3. ...until the trumpet sounds! (v.12-13)**

***12 In that day from the river Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt the Lord will thresh out the grain, and you will be gleaned one by one, O people of Israel. 13 And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.***

**\*IOW: God will call His people home!**

\*The picture of **"Threshing" & "gleaning one by one"** is farming term at harvest to mean: **selecting out the good from the bad.** We do it all the time.

\*We go through **assorted chocolates** to pick out the good ones.

\*Or we **search through Doritos** to find the cheesy ones.

\*Or we sort through **Christmas presents** to find ones with our name on it.

\*On the final day, a **great trumpet will sound.**

\*A **trumpet of celebration** that raises the dead and gathers people before Him.

\*And when we are gathered, the Lord will **sort through** and **pick out his people** "one by one."

***"Mine. Mine. Mine. Mine. Mine. Mine."***

\*That is the great comfort of Isaiah 27: God wins the final battle & gathers His people home.

*“And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the cloud be rolled back as a scroll.  
The trump shall resound and my Lord shall descend. Even so, it is well with my soul.”*

### Action Steps:

- **Let it sink in: “You are loved!”**

\*Are you a believer in Jesus Christ? Have you trusted Him as Lord? Let it sink in:

\*He **sings** over His people.

\*He **“Keeps”** His people.

\*He watches over His people **every moment; night and day.**

\*He will **gather** His people.

\*He will be angry no more!

- **Make Peace with God.**

\*Are you at odds with God? Are you acting foolish? Are you running away from mercy?

\*Listen to the choice: You can continue on a road to ruin **“OR...Let them make peace with me.”**

\*Making peace is **hard** to do (b/c of pride)...but it is **not complicated**: **“Father, forgive me. I have turned away from you. I look to Christ as Lord and ask you to take away my sins.”**

- **Be on Guard: Our enemy is defeated, but still dangerous.**

\*Two extremes exist when thinking of Satan: *“He doesn’t exist.”* Or *“He’s behind every bush.”*

\*There is a middle ground; a biblical balance: he is a **defeated foe**, but still a **dangerous force**.

\*His names reveal his tactics:

- Satan (adversary)
- Devil (slanderer)
- Lucifer (son of the morning)
- Belial (a false god)
- Evil One
- Tempter
- Prince of this world.
- Accuser of the brethren
- Serpent, Dragon, Angel of Light.

\*Scripture calls us to **Be on guard. Resist Him. Stand firm in the faith. Put on the armor.**

\*The **most important message for New Hope in 2021**: **“Be Prepared; Stay Alert.”**

\*We must be prepared how to recognize his tactics, do daily battle, and stand firm.

- **Take Comfort: the Battle is already won.**

\*I am reading a book on Waterloo about the epic battle between **Britain and France** in the 1800's.

\*On one side was Napoleon and his Imperial Guard, who were considered **unbeatable**.

\*On the other side was the Duke of Wellington, who was **unbeaten in battle**.

\*The two foes had never met and the **big question was:**

**When "unbeatable" Napoleon faced "unbeaten" Wellington, who would win?**

\*In our world, there are times Satan feels unbeatable. The kingdom of evil seems ferocious.

\*But Scripture promises a day when Christ, the **Unbeaten**, will slay the serpent.

\*Which is why we rejoice in the words of Martin Luther who wrote in the great hymn:

*"And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed, his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him."*