

Isaiah 25

Good evening and thank you for joining us! Would you please turn in your bibles to Isaiah 25? I mentioned last week that chapters 24-27 have the nickname, “The Little Apocalypse.”

After spending a dozen chapters judging the nations of his day, Isaiah sees into the distant future and God’s judgment in this world’s final days. These four chapters in Isaiah parallel the events found in Revelation 6-19.

Last week we saw the ominous introduction to **Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the LORD makes the earth empty and makes it waste, Distorts its surface And scatters abroad its inhabitants.**

At the end of the chapter Isaiah compares the planet to a drunken man, or a hammock reeling back and forth. Earth is knocked off its hinges.

Now in chapter 25 Isaiah’s emphasis is on how God will protect His people, the Jews, while pouring out His wrath. The final judgments are intended to punish the wicked, but purify the Jews. See even in the midst of judgments, we’ll see God’s faithfulness and grace.

The title of tonight’s message is The End through Isaiah
Let’s pray

**1 O LORD, You are my God.
I will exalt You,**

I will praise Your name,
For You have done wonderful things;
Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. While pouring out
His righteous judgments, the praise of God rises up among God's
people! Notice nobody questions God's fairness or criticizes His
harshness.

See if God didn't judge the rebellion of mankind we would have to
question His righteousness.

2-6

2 For You have made a city a ruin,
A fortified city a ruin,
A palace of foreigners to be a city no more;
It will never be rebuilt.
3 Therefore the strong people will glorify You;
The city of the terrible nations will fear You.
4 For You have been a strength to the poor,
A strength to the needy in his distress,
A refuge from the storm,
A shade from the heat;
For the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.
5 You will reduce the noise of aliens,
As heat in a dry place;
As heat in the shadow of a cloud,
The song of the terrible ones will be diminished.

6 And in this mountain
The LORD of hosts will make for all people
A feast of choice pieces,

A feast of wines on the lees,
Of fat things full of marrow,
Of well-refined wines on the lees. As God's judgment reins down on Earth, He serves a feast in the mountain of the Lord. His people will eat the "choice pieces".

The book of Revelation describes two very different scenes. On Earth terrible plagues will wreak havoc. But in heaven God throws a party. Revelation 19 calls it, The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

7 And He will destroy on this mountain
The surface of the covering cast over all people,
And the veil that is spread over all nations. The problem in the world today is that Satan has cast a veil of spiritual blindness over the eyes of people and of nations as a whole. Only when Jesus returns will this satanic "covering" will be removed and folks will see unhindered.

Here in v8 Isaiah speaks of how God will treat His people in the Kingdom Age.

8 He will swallow up death forever,
And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces;
The rebuke of His people
He will take away from all the earth;
For the LORD has spoken. It's interesting, In 1 Corinthians 15:54 Paul quotes the first half of the verse. In Revelation 21:4 John quotes the latter half. Both NT passages speak of Messiah's ultimate triumph over sin and its consequences.

And here's what's so amazing, both Paul and John were looking into the future through the eyes of a prophet who lived 700 years prior to them.

In other words, they were looking back in order to see forward. This is why the OT is important to us today, and why we can't neglect it.

9 And it will be said in that day:

“Behold, this is our God;

We have waited for Him, and He will save us.

This is the LORD;

We have waited for Him;

We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.” These are God's glorious promises to us, but inheriting those promises requires patience.

We live in the meantime: the in-between time between the giving of these promises and the receiving of these promises. That's why every Christian needs patience.

Chapter 25 closes with a judgment against Moab.

10-13

10 For on this mountain the hand of the LORD will rest,

And Moab shall be trampled down under Him,

As straw is trampled down for the refuse heap.

11 And He will spread out His hands in their midst

As a swimmer reaches out to swim,

And He will bring down their pride

Together with the trickery of their hands.

12 The fortress of the high fort of your walls

He will bring down, lay low,

And bring to the ground, down to the dust. God's hand is protecting Zion, while Moab will be trampled under God's foot. And here's the choice God gives every person. Would you rather be in the safety of God's hands, or in judgment under His foot?

Chapter 26

So chapters 24 and 25 point to the day when the Messiah reigns over Israel, and over all the world. On that day, there will be a lot of joyful singing, such as this song that will be sung in the land of Judah.

1-3

1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

"We have a strong city;

God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks.

2 Open the gates,

That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in.

3 You will keep him in perfect peace,

Whose mind is stayed on You,

Because he trusts in You. Here's one of the most beautiful verses in Scripture. God promises "perfect peace" to the stayed mind or the fixed faith.

"Peace" in Hebrew is "shalom." The phrase translated, "perfect peace," is literally "shalom, shalom." This is a double peace, or peace to the nth degree.

And how do we experience this peace, not just for a moment, but how do we live in this peace? It's a matter of the "mind".

The Bible tells us we are to love the LORD our God with all of our mind (Matthew 22:37).

We are transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2).
We can have the mind of Christ

To be kept in this perfect peace, our mind must be stayed on the LORD. If our mind is stayed on ourselves, or our problems, or the problem people in our lives, or on anything else, we can't have this perfect peace.

4 Trust in the LORD forever,
For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.[fn] The Hebrew phrase "everlasting strength," is literally, "rock of ages." Here's the inspiration for the hymn by that same name.

Here's what's so cool. In v3 God asks us to trust Him completely with our mind. And here in v4 He gives us the reason we can trust Him- because He is everlasting strength.

5-6

5 For He brings down those who dwell on high,
The lofty city;
He lays it low,
He lays it low to the ground,
He brings it down to the dust.
6 The foot shall tread it down—
The feet of the poor

And the steps of the needy.” Recall the third beatitude in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount? Who inherits the Earth? “The meek” - not the high and mighty! Jesus told us to resist the thinking of this world and to live with a focus on His kingdom.

7-9

7 The way of the just is uprightness;

O Most Upright,

You weigh the path of the just.

8 Yes, in the way of Your judgments,

O LORD, we have waited for You;

The desire of our soul is for Your name

And for the remembrance of You.

9 With my soul I have desired You in the night,

Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early;

For when Your judgments are in the earth,

The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

v 10 is a shocker

10 Let grace be shown to the wicked,

Yet he will not learn righteousness;

In the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly,

And will not behold the majesty of the LORD. God’s grace gives second chances, but an unrepentant person won’t take advantage of grace. Its tragic when pride hardens a heart to God’s grace.

11-15

11 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.

12 LORD, You will establish peace for us,
For You have also done all our works in us.

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

14 They are dead, they will not live;
They are deceased, they will not rise.
Therefore You have punished and destroyed them,
And made all their memory to perish.

15 You have increased the nation, O LORD,
You have increased the nation;
You are glorified;

You have expanded all the borders of the land. Here Isaiah is speaking of God's blessings to the nation Israel. When God called Abraham God promised Him the land from the Euphrates to the Nile. Israel has never fully ruled over this territory, but one day she will.

The day is coming when the Arabs will be in for a shock. Rather than drive Israel into the sea, one day Israel will rule over their lands.

But a purging also awaits God's people...

16-18

16 LORD, in trouble they have visited You,
They poured out a prayer when Your chastening was upon them.

17 As a woman with child

Is in pain and cries out in her pangs,
When she draws near the time of her delivery,
So have we been in Your sight, O LORD.
18 We have been with child, we have been in pain;
We have, as it were, brought forth wind;
We have not accomplished any deliverance in the earth,
Nor have the inhabitants of the world fallen. Before God's
Kingdom comes, a time of trouble is ahead for Israel. God
"chastens" - or corrects - Israel! The Great Tribulation will punish
the wicked, but purify the Jews.

Verse 19 is a mind-blowing verse.

19 Your dead shall live;
Together with my dead body[fn] they shall arise.
Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust;
For your dew is like the dew of herbs,
And the earth shall cast out the dead. The NT calls the risen Lord
Jesus "the first fruits of the resurrection." Christians are the
remainder of the harvest. Jesus paved the way for His followers to
also be resurrected.

Notice the progression in this chapter... Grace is shown - God
works in His people - He chastens them - they die and rise with
Him. What would you think comes next? In the NT what's our
added hope? How about the rapture! We've been promised an
escape from the tribulation God sends on an evil world.

And from Isaiah's ancient perch we see clearly this very event! It's mind-boggling, Isaiah living 700 years before Christ and he sees an event in the end times when Jesus takes us home.

20 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. Isaiah invites God's people to escape God's judgments. God's desire is to punish evildoers, not His own people. So rather than subject us to friendly fire - He takes the Church out of harm's way.

Here Jesus invites His people to "come." When you study the great tribulation in Revelation 6-19, the cataclysms God hurls at Earth in the Great Tribulation are so devastating there'll be no hiding place. No corner of the planet will be safe. The only refuge will be heaven itself.

That's why you've likely heard the saying "before God's judgment comes down, the Church goes up." Our sin has already been judged - on the cross of Jesus it was paid in full. Thus, Christian believers aren't looking for judgment, we're looking for Jesus.

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. (it's the Day of the Lord)

Chapter 27
Israel Will Be Restored

1 In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong,
Will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent,
Leviathan that twisted serpent;

And He will slay the reptile that is in the sea. Now this is a tough verse and there's a lot of debate about it. When you read Job we know Leviathan was a dreadful water beast. In Psalm 74 the psalmist used Leviathan figuratively to describe Egypt, which was a powerful and deadly enemy of Israel. So some scholars point to v1 as Leviathan here being a symbol of strong spiritual enemies against God's people.

Some interpreters believe that Isaiah is specifically talking about Satan himself who occupies the air, the land, and the sea, and who infests the whole creation. God will punish Satan and his army in the future

2 In that day sing to her,
“A vineyard of red wine!”^[fn] Throughout the Bible we see Israel described as God's vineyard.

3-4

3 I, the LORD, keep it,
I water it every moment;
Lest any hurt it,
I keep it night and day.
4 Fury is not in Me.
Who would set briars and thorns
Against Me in battle?
I would go through them,

I would burn them together. When God judges, His emotions are not what ours would be. I'd be thinking, "I'll show them."

God isn't so insecure. He doesn't have to show anyone anything. Sadly, those who refuse to humble themselves, and accept His truth, He has to humble.

**5 Or let him take hold of My strength,
That he may make peace with Me;
And he shall make peace with Me.** Better to take hold of God by faith than to resist and have Him take hold in judgment.

**6 Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob;
Israel shall blossom and bud,
And fill the face of the world with fruit.** Here God reveals His intentions for His people, Israel. He will prosper the nation.

This prophecy is already being partially fulfilled. **SHOW PIC**
Today, "Eretz Israel," or "The Land of Israel" is the size of New Jersey. Yet it's the Middle East's largest agricultural producer. It's one of Europe's leading citrus providers. As Isaiah foretold in v6, Israel is "filling the face of the world with fruit!" **CLOSE PIC**

7-8

**7 Has He struck Israel as He struck those who struck him?
Or has He been slain according to the slaughter of those who
were slain by Him?**

**8 In measure, by sending it away,
You contended with it.
He removes it by His rough wind**

In the day of the east wind. God will judge Israel, but not to the same extent He brings judgment on Israel's enemies. God won't annihilate them.

9 Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be covered;
And this is all the fruit of taking away his sin:
When he makes all the stones of the altar
Like chalkstones that are beaten to dust,
Wooden images^[fn] and incense altars shall not stand. God will
purge Israel of all traces of idolatry. He'll grind them to dust.
10-11

10 Yet the fortified city will be desolate,
The habitation forsaken and left like a wilderness;
There the calf will feed, and there it will lie down
And consume its branches.
11 When its boughs are withered, they will be broken off;
The women come and set them on fire.
For it is a people of no understanding;
Therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them,
And He who formed them will show them no favor. Before Jesus
returns Israel will be the scourge of Earth. Their enemies will
show them no pity.
12-13

12 And it shall come to pass in that day
That the LORD will thresh,
From the channel of the River^[fn] to the Brook of Egypt;(from the
Euphrates to the Nile)
And you will be gathered one by one,

O you children of Israel.

13 So it shall be in that day:

The great trumpet will be blown;

They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria,

And they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt,

And shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at

Jerusalem. When Israel reaches the brink of annihilation, and are scattered around the globe, God will defeat Israel's enemies and call His people home. Isaiah foresees a final exodus.

Today 7 million Jews live in Israel. More Jews live in America than in Israel. Only 40% of Jews actually live in Israel. The Jewish return predicted by the prophets is far from complete. It's still the future, and will be fulfilled at the end of the age.