

The Tale of Two Cities

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Isaiah 24-25

March 26, 2023

Snapshot:

The Righteous King reverses the curse.

- I. The City of Man: the Effects of the Curse (Isaiah 24:1–13, 17–22)
- II. The City of God: the Reversal of the Curse (Isaiah 24:21–25:12)
- III. Living In Between (Isaiah 24:14–16)

Connect

What is your favorite city you have ever lived in or visited? Why?

Study

Point 1: The City of Man: the Effects of the Curse

READ Isaiah 24:1–13, 17–22

- 1) What is the picture of God's judgment these verses are building (take your time and go through the entire chapter)? How have you seen the earth mourning and withering? What is the reason the LORD gives for bringing judgment?
- 2) Why is it important for believers to understand the affects of the curse? Whom does the curse affect? Who can escape the effects of the curse?
- 3) Take some time to compare and discuss Isaiah 24:21, 22 with John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11, 33; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2, 6:12; 1 John 4:4.

Point 2: The City of God: the Reversal of the Curse

READ Isaiah 24:21–25:12

- 4) What are the things the Lord is being praised for in Isaiah 25:1–5? Do you struggle with the idea of praising the Lord for overcoming His enemies? Why? Thinking through Isaiah 24, what is sin bringing to the earth and its inhabitants? In what ways do you see the Lord reversing the curse of sin in Isaiah 25?
- 5) What does it look like to wait on the Lord (Isaiah 25:9)? How does looking forward to the city of God help us to wait on the Lord's salvation? How are we experiencing His salvation now?

Point 3: Living In Between

READ Isaiah 24:14–16

6) Why is Isaiah mourning if the verses just before reveal the new song being sung to the glory of God? How does Isaiah's weeping help us understand how to live between the city of man and the city of God? What does it look like to mourn over the coming judgment while still rejoicing in the new city?

Pray the passage

Take time to meditate on the judgment of the Lord and allow that to help you pray for the lost in your life, around you, and in the world. What sins do these passages expose in your life? Spend time asking for forgiveness and repenting. Spend time praising the Lord that He is just and will bring to an end all that seeks to destroy his creation. Spend time thanking Him for your salvation and asking for endurance as you wait for His return.

Memorize & Meditate

“It will be said on that day, ‘Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation’” (Isaiah 25:9).

Preparing for next week

Read: Isaiah 26

Ask: questions of the text

Pray: through text, for the pastor as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.