

The Book of Isaiah

The Day of the LORD Chapters 24-27

Chapter 24

In Isaiah chapters 13-23, we have seen the judgment of God on the nations, in Isaiah chapters 24-27 we have the climax of those judgments – the Great Tribulation period. Isaiah chapters 24-27 has been called the little Apocalypse.

- The prophetic phrase “that day” is found six times in these chapters (24:21; 25:9; 26:1; 27:1,2,12,13).
- The events of these chapters occur before the time when “the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem” (24:23).

The final time of God’s judgment upon His people Israel is what is in view here. It details the final week, or seven years of Israel’s transgression and iniquity as is laid out by the prophet Daniel¹. It is what must happen before the Lord can “... finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness ...” (Daniel 9:24).

What is given here in this chapter is how the earth and the people feel being under the Tribulation Period as the Lord Begins to have His “Day”.

(vs. 1-2) The Scattering of the people from the climatic events happening on the earth is what is in view (See Luke 21:24-26 cf. Rev. 6:12-17!). One would do good to take note of all the descriptive words being used in this chapter concerning the earth and the people – empty, waste, spoiled, mourneth, languisheth, fadeth, defiled. It the “Day of the Lord” and all will be affected equally for their sins: “as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servants, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.” (vs. 2)

(3-12) Divine Judgment of the earth and the People (1-12): The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof (Psalm 24:1). Christ is the rightful heir of all the earth, He alone is King of kings and LORD of Lords (Revelation 19:16). Therefore, there is a natural connection to the earth and the Lord. Israel was continually warned about defiling the

¹ See Daniel’s 70th Weeks chart on page 87

earth but more specifically the land of Israel, see Leviticus 18:28 and the context (Num. 35:34; Ezek. 33:26, Hos. 4:3). The sins of the people effect the land and thereby both are affected. One day the LORD will purge the land of all the filthiness and defilement and He shall be married to it (Isaiah 62:4).

The Salvation of God's Remnant (13-15): The imagery being used here is that of a person in a field shaking an olive tree after its been reaped to get what little remains. Thus, it is dealing with the Remnant of Israel that will be left in the land following the return of the Lord (Zech. 13:8-9), they will be the only ones singing and rejoicing at the return of the Lord.

The Climatic Events Upon the Return of the LORD (16-23): The reflecting on the suffering Israel had to endure before they repented and turn to the Lord is the thought of these verses. Israel is weeping with them that will be weeping.

(vs. 17-18) The inhabitation of the earth will not be able to escape this time. Those that flee from the "noise of fear" shall "fall into the pit" and he that comes up "out of the pit" shall be "taken in the snare". Why? Because the windows on high are "opened" to let all the fallen angelic realm, the principalities and powers, the host of the high ones (see vs. 21) down to earth:

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Re 12:7-9)

These are the "high ones" mentioned in verse 21.

The windows up on high are opened are also to let forth the coming judgments upon the earth like hail stones (Job 38:22-23; Rev. 8:7, 11:19, 16:21). Men's hearts fail because of the signs in the heavens (Mt 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-27)

(vss. 19-21) The inhabitation of the earth will not be able to escape not only because of the "windows on high being opened" but also because of the "foundations of the earth being shaken and reeling to and fro like a drunkard". This event is always tied to the events prior to the Lord's Return as it is in 2 Peter 3:10-13. It is the day in which not only the host of the high ones are punished but also the "kings of the earth" (vs. 21 cf. Psalm 2; Rev. 17:14).

(vs. 22) The rebellion following the 1000-year reign of Christ is when these captives in the pit will be “visited” – **Revelation 20:1-3**.

(vs. 23) The great and lesser lights will function differently in the coming kingdom, “when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem and before his ancients gloriously.” (**Isaiah 60:18-22**).