

- chapter 24 - global judgment from God
- chapter 25 - reassurance of protection and deliverance to His faithful ones
- chapter 26 - a song of faith and praise by God's people for His making a distinction between those whom He punished and themselves whom He delivered

“In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; He sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. 2 Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. 3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. 4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. 5 For He has humbled the inhabitants of the height, the lofty city. He lays it low, lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust...

8 In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for You; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul. 9 My soul yearns for You in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks You. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness...

11 O LORD, your hand is lifted up, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people, and be ashamed. Let the fire for your adversaries consume them...12 O LORD, You will ordain peace for us, for You have indeed done for us all our works...13 O LORD our God, other lords besides You have ruled over us, but your name alone we bring to remembrance...

16 O LORD, in distress they sought You; they poured out a whispered prayer when your discipline was upon them...

20 Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by.”

## I. The Mindset of God's Afflicted People (1-5)

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; He sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. 2 Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. 3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. 4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. 5 For He has humbled the inhabitants of the height, the lofty city. He lays it low, lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust.

\*they endured the storm on the earth and trusted God to see them through

\*that trust became a song of praise

\*the key to their victorious endurance was connected to what they allowed to own their thoughts – “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You because he trusts in You.”

\*they received a testimony of confidence in God as they moved toward the future (4) – Trust in the Lord forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock

## II. The Heart Posture of God's Afflicted People (8-9)

8 In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for You; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul.  
9 My soul yearns for You in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks You. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

\*they declared their trust in all that God had done and was doing (8a)

\*in the midst of the shaking and the storm, God's name and glory became the most important thing to them (8b)

\*in the darkness of night, when activity ceases and they were alone with their thoughts, they longed for God, they engaged the deepest part of themselves (the spirit) to proactively seek after God (9a)

\*they saw the value and purpose of God releasing judgment upon the planet. Like it or not, the global release of judgment was so that nobody could be mistaken about the righteous character and ways of God. (9b)

### III. The Purifying of God's Afflicted People (11-13)

11 O LORD, your hand is lifted up, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people, and be ashamed. Let the fire for your adversaries consume them.

12 O LORD, You will ordain peace for us, for You have indeed done for us all our works.

13 O LORD our God, other lords besides You have ruled over us, but your name alone we bring to remembrance.

\*they were grateful and humbled that God protected and preserved them through the storms of chapters 24. They asked God to reveal to their enemies that He was lovingly committed to them. They prayed for God to complete the judgment of His adversaries and their adversaries. **If our theology does not allow us to recognize the validity of God's coming wrath...and even more...to praise Him for it, then we are not yet ready for the coming Age (11)**

\*while fire consumes their enemies, God's people stay confident in His sovereign care for them. They also take no credit for having escaped the wrath to come. Even the good things, obedient things and holy things they did for the Lord were only able to be done because of His grace at work in them. This is what it looks like to be humble (12)

\*they confess that there were other times where they worshipped the idols of the land. They welcomed false God's into their lives. Because of that, human lords were allowed to dominate them. But when the global shaking occurred, they ceased from their sins and became unilaterally focused on God once again. (13)

**Note: 1 Peter 4:1 – "...whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin."**

### IV. The Dependence of God's Afflicted People (16)

"O LORD, in distress they sought You; they poured out a whispered prayer when your discipline was upon them."

God receives the weakest, most broken, unimpressive prayer of repentance. His aim in disciplining us is to lovingly bring us to Himself, where we can experience Him and the very best He has for us. He does not enjoy chastising His children, but He has promised to do so. Sometimes, He sends distress at such a heavy level that it forces us to pour out a whispered prayer of confession and repentance.

### V. The Call to God's Afflicted People (20)

"Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by."

When affliction hits us, when judgment falls upon the earth, when we have acknowledged our sins, when we have whispered our broken prayers for forgiveness...we hear God the Father calling us to shut out everything else and come close to Him. His judgments will not relent until they have fulfilled His sovereign purpose. He does not want us fixated on that because HE HAS DELIVERED US FROM THAT. He wants us to draw in to Him. He calls us to one on one interaction with Him.

**This is our hope when we are being humbled: that God loves us, will protect us, will provide for us, and wants to be with us in all our brokenness, regrets, fears and weakness.**