

# ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

## Don't Cling to What is Crumbling.

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta **Devotion and Discussion Questions** 

**Key Texts: Isaiah 24:14-23;** *Genesis 7:11; Isaiah 6; Isiah 41, 53* 

If something is falling apart in your hands, if it's unstable, shaky, splitting, reeling—why would you grab that for security? If you knew the party was about to end at midnight, you wouldn't anchor your life to the music, the lights, or the decorations. You'd anchor yourself to the One who never ends, never fades, never crumbles.

Isaiah shows us a world collapsing because humanity has rejected God's instructions—His Torah, His boundaries, His ways. It's like saying, "I'm done with oxygen—but I can't believe I'm suffocating!" When you rebel against the Source of Life, destruction isn't a surprise; it's a natural consequence. And yet—right in the middle of the ruins—God lets Isaiah hear something unexpected: a remnant singing a new song. A song rising from the ends of the earth. A song of the Righteous One. A song of hope in the middle of collapse.

But Isaiah also hears the world groaning under betrayal, treachery, panic, pit, and trap. Everywhere he looks—boged, boged, boged—fraud, fraud, fraud. Nothing to trust. Nowhere to lean. Everything shaking above and below. Isaiah's message to us is clear: When the world is crumbling, you'd better not cling to what is crumbling. You cling to the One who reigns.

## 1. A SONG RISING FROM THE RUINS (Isaiah 24:14-16a)

Isaiah hears something he didn't expect: "They"—the few, the gleanings, the remnant—will raise their voices. They will shout for joy in the ga'on, the majesty of Adonai. These aren't the proud ones who trusted in their own exaltation. All through Isaiah, human ga'on—human greatness—is condemned. But God's ga'on? His greatness? That fits perfectly on Him. And these gleanings—these few survivors of a shaken world—lift their voices to His greatness.

They shout from the sea—from the west. Isaiah says, "Therefore glorify Adonai in the east—in the light!" From one end of the earth to the other, praise is rising. On the ruins of the old city, the song of a new city begins. "From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: 'Glory to the Righteous One!'" Not glory to the righteous remnant. Glory to the Righteous ONE—the Servant of the Lord, the One later revealed in Isaiah 41 and Isaiah 53: "My Servant, My Righteous One."

So right in the middle of collapse, God gives us a glimpse: a worldwide ingathering, praise rising from every corner of the globe. When everything else fails, the song of the Righteous One rises. When all human greatness collapses, the true Greatness shines.

## 2. BUT RIGHT NOW... IT STILL HURTS (Isaiah 24:16b-17)

Isaiah hears the future song, but he's still living in the present pain. He says, "I waste away! Leanness is mine, leanness is mine!" He's thin, emaciated, worn out from watching betrayal dominate the world. Then he cries out, "Traitors betray with treachery; traitors betray!" Boged, boged, boged, boged, boged, boged. Five times. Fraud everywhere. Deception everywhere. No stability. No loyalty. No trustworthy place to stand.

Isaiah is saying what many of us feel: "Lord, I know there's a future glory coming—but right now, everything feels like treachery." And that's when the next blow lands: "Panic, pit, and trap are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth." Run from panic and you fall in a pit. Climb out of the pit and the trap grabs you. Everything above you is shaking—the windows of heaven are opened. Everything below you is shaking—the foundations of the earth tremble. It's like the ground is quicksand, the sky is falling, and everywhere you turn is another snare. That's what life looks like when the world rejects God's ways. And Isaiah is honest about it: this is what it feels like **until** the Lord makes all things new.

## 3. THE COLLAPSE OF THE OLD... AND THE COMING OF THE KING (Isaiah 24:18-23)

Why is everything shaking? Why is the earth reeling like a drunk? Isaiah says it plainly: **rebellion—transgression—is heavy upon it.** The word for "heavy" is *kavod*—(the word often used for glory). The wrong kind of *kavod* - glory. The world has gloried in rebellion, and its rebellion has weight, and that weight is pulling the world down. Reject the Source of Life and collapse is inevitable.

But then the vision shifts. Isaiah sees **Adonai-Tzva'ot coming to judge**—to have a meeting (pakad) with the hosts of heaven and the kings of the earth. He gathers them like prisoners in a pit. He sentences them. And then, in the end, "the moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed, for Adonai-Tzva'ot will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem before His elders gloriously."

Everything else collapses. Everything else crumbles. Everything else reels. But the King? **He stands. He reigns.** Human glory fades. Sun and moon bow their heads in shame. But His Kingdom endures. Don't cling to what's crumbling. Cling to the King.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Isaiah gives us a prophetic preview: the world we see now is unstable, unreliable, shaking from the rebellion it refuses to repent of. Betrayal is everywhere. Panic, pit, and trap surround us. Human greatness collapses. But the song of the remnant rises. And the King is coming. So the question is simple: **What are you holding on to?** What are you clinging to that is already crumbling, already shaking, already fading? Why trust the things that cannot stand when you can stand on the Rock that cannot fall? Let go of the collapsing world. Take hold of the everlasting King.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. What are some "crumbling things" we often cling to without realizing it?
- 2. Why do you think Isaiah pauses to acknowledge his own pain even after hearing the future song?
- 3. How does Isaiah's description of betrayal reflect our world today?
- 4. What does it mean to give glory to the Righteous One in the middle of chaos?
- 5. How can we live as "gleanings"—as the faithful remnant—in a collapsing world?

#### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Adonai-Tzva'ot,** We come to You as the Only One who will never crumble, never fade, never fall. We confess that we often cling to things that cannot hold us—our own strength, our own security, our own plans. Today we release them. We take hold of You, our Rock, our Righteous One, our Coming King. Strengthen us to be faithful in a shaking world. Teach us to join the song of the remnant, glorifying Your name from the ends of the earth. Reign in us, reign through us, and lead us into Your unshakable kingdom. **In Yeshua's name, amen.**