

**Hostile Takeover!**  
**A Word from the Survivors of Armageddon**  
**Isaiah 24:14–23**

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*Isaiah 24:14–23*

*“They raise their voices, they shout for joy; They cry out from the west concerning the majesty of the LORD. Therefore glorify the LORD in the east, The name of the LORD, the God of Israel, In the coastlands of the sea. From the ends of the earth we hear songs, “Glory to the Righteous One,” But I say, “Woe to me! Woe to me! Alas for me! The treacherous deal treacherously, And the treacherous deal very treacherously.” Terror and pit and snare Confront you, O inhabitant of the earth. Then it will be that he who flees the report of disaster will fall into the pit, And he who climbs out of the pit will be caught in the snare; For the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake. The earth is broken asunder, The earth is split through, The earth is shaken violently. The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard And it totters like a shack, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again. So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.” (NASB95)*

We have completed our review of the first 13 verses of Isaiah’s Apocalypse. Those verses declare the all-consuming wrath of God in judgment.

Yes, these verses are also a high-level review of the book of Revelation. Ultimately...they are a picture and display of God’s justice and righteousness.

Messiah has returned and He is in His role as the Goel of His people.

*Zechariah 12:8–10*

*“On that day the LORD will defend the people of Jerusalem; the weakest among them will be as mighty as King David! And the royal descendants will be like God, like the angel of the LORD who goes before them! For on that day I will begin to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died.” (NLT)*

When Jesus Christ returns to Earth at the end of the Great Tribulation, He is returning as the avenger of blood. There are two pictures provided to us in the Old Testament of the Goel, the kinsman-redeemer. In His first coming, Jesus reflected the role of the goel which “is a wonderful picture of Jesus, our kinsman-redeemer who purchased us from the “slave market” of sin (Romans 3:24; 1 Corinthians 6:20). (Guzik 2004, Le 25:24-28)

The Goel among the Hebrews was the nearest male blood relation alive. Certain important obligations devolved upon him toward his next of kin. (1.) If any one from poverty was unable to redeem his inheritance, it was the duty of the kinsman to redeem it (Lev. 25:25, 28; Ruth 3:9, 12). He was also required to redeem his relation who had sold himself into slavery (Lev. 25:48, 49). (Easton 1893)

Jesus claimed to be fulfilling this role in Luke 4.

*Luke 4:16–19*

*“Now Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and the regaining of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”” (NET)*

He was reading from Isaiah 61 and stopped at Isaiah 61:2a. The whole verse reads as follows.

*Isaiah 61:2*

*“To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,” (NASB95)*

The rest of the verse sets up His role when He returns at the end of the Great Tribulation. This is what is described by Isaiah in the first 13 verses of chapter 24.

The role of the avenger of blood. A bit more about that role.

The other role of the Goel is that of the avenger of blood. “The avenger of blood, this man will kill the murderer. Whenever he happens to meet him, this man will kill him. And if on account of hatred he pushes a person or hurls any article against him from an ambush, and he dies, or on account of wrath he struck him with his hand, and he dies, have the one who struck be put to death by death. The one who struck him is a murderer; have the murderer be put to death by death. The avenger of blood will kill the murderer when he meets him.” (Lexham Press 2020, Numbers 35:19-21)

The role that is being described by Isaiah falls into the role of the Avenger of Blood.

Those who have survived the Great Tribulation and remain, as the gleanings referred to by Isaiah in verse 13; they are the remnant that is left on the planet following the judgment of God and the physical return of Messiah. This remnant reacts to what it is they have seen and now personally realize in the salvation just experienced. They are freed from the persecution and murder foisted on them by the inhabitants of the Earth. This is the remnant; those who have not been murdered by the Earth-dwellers.

They have just witnessed the following.

*Revelation 19:11–21*

*“Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, shouting to the vultures flying high in the sky: “Come! Gather together for the great banquet God has prepared. Come and eat the flesh of kings, generals, and strong warriors; of horses and their riders; and of all humanity, both free and slave, small and great.” Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.” (NLT)*

As the dust begins to settle, all over the planet, begins the praise of those who have witnessed Christ arrive and deal with the Beast and his armies. They have been saved.

*Isaiah 24:14–16*

*“They raise their voices, they shout for joy; They cry out from the west concerning the majesty of the LORD. Therefore glorify the LORD in the east, The name of the LORD, the God of Israel, In the coastlands of the sea. From the ends of the earth we hear songs, “Glory to the Righteous One,” But I say, “Woe to me! Woe to me! Alas for me! The treacherous deal treacherously, And the treacherous deal very treacherously.”” (NASB95)*

Specifically, as we focus on Isaiah 24:14-16a we see globally, praise and worship from Tribulation saints. Jewish and Gentile. They have witnessed the justice of God poured out on those who “inhabit the earth.” The remnant are the “they.”

Verse 14 begins the display of the joy of the remnant over the justice of God. “The majesty of the Lord, which is matter of terror to wicked people, furnishes the saints with songs of praise. They shall sing for the magnificence, or transcendent excellency, of the Lord, shown both in his judgments and in his mercies; for we must sing, and sing unto him, of both, Ps. 101:1.” (Henry 1994, 1121)

*“They raise their voices, they shout for joy...”* Out from the midst of ruin rises the recognition of God, an incense apparently from true worshipers. They shout for joy, and exult in tribute to the Lord’s majesty. (Rosscup 2008, 1098)

Coming from the ruined cities of the Earth-dwellers, comes the sound of those who were persecuted, hunted and killed by the Earth-dwellers. They have been rescued. Only God could do this. There is also the worship and praise from those who perished at the hands of the Earth-dwellers. The Avenger of Blood has completed His work.

*Revelation 7:9–17*

*“After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. They were shouting out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood there in a circle around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” Then one of the elders asked me, “These dressed in long white robes—who are they and where have they come from?” So I said to him, “My lord, you know the answer.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb! For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. They will never go hungry or be thirsty again, and the sun will not beat down on them, nor any burning heat, because the Lamb in the middle of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”” (NET)*

*Isaiah 24:14*

*“They raise their voices, they shout for joy; They cry out from the west concerning the majesty of the LORD.” (NASB95)*

We see the content of this praise prophetically captured in the Psalms. Psalms 146–150.

The praise begins in the west, the voices can be heard from that area first and in response, worship also begins in the east. *“Therefore glorify the LORD in the east, The name of the LORD, the God of Israel, In the coastlands of the sea.” (Isaiah 24:15, NASB95)* The praise takes off and continues spreading globally among those who are left around the planet. The realization of what God has done is earth-shattering.

*Malachi 1:11*

*“For from the east to the west my name will be great among the nations. Incense and pure offerings will be offered in my name everywhere, for my name will be great among the nations,” says the LORD who rules over all.” (NET)*

The song of the ultimate worldwide gathering is focused on the Lord in his exaltedness (majesty), in his essential worth (give glory), in his self-revelation (name), in his exclusivity as the God of Israel, in his loveliness (Glory, šēbī, 16; see 4:2) and in his character as the Righteous One. (Motyer 1999, 187)

*Isaiah 24:16*

*“From the ends of the earth we hear songs, “Glory to the Righteous One,” But I say, “Woe to me! Woe to me! Alas for me! The treacherous deal treacherously, And the treacherous deal very treacherously.”” (NASB95)*

This purified remnant will be like a few olives left in the top of an olive tree after the tree is shaken and they will sing unto the Lord because of His goodness to them. From the ends of the earth, the surviving Gentiles will sing songs praising this righteous remnant. (Gingrich 1993, 28)

With the remnant of the planet now praising the Lord, who has triumphed over the Beast and his armies as well as the evil one, there comes a warning for those remaining Earth-dwellers. This warning from Isaiah begins in the middle of verse 16.

*“...But I say, “Woe to me! Woe to me! Alas for me! The treacherous deal treacherously, And the treacherous deal very treacherously.” Terror and pit and snare Confront you, O inhabitant of the earth.” (Isaiah 24:16b–17, NASB95)*

The Septuagint really highlights Isaiah’s thought.

Isaiah 24:16b–17

...And they will say, "Woe to you who reject, you who reject the law!" Fear and a pit and a trap are upon you who dwell on the land." (Lexham Press 2020, Isaiah 24:16b-17)

Those who are Earth-dwellers cannot escape what is coming. While the praise rises and shakes the planet, there are still some out there who are left looking for a way out. Their loyalties have been with the Beast. They also survived. There is no way out.

Jesus described those days as He looked forward to them in His discussion with His disciples in Matthew 25.

Matthew 25:31–46

"But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. **All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.** He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' Then these righteous ones will reply 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' **Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.** For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?' And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.' **And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.**" (NLT)

The destiny for the Earth-dweller, the "inhabitant of the land," is no different than that of those who refuse to accept the free gift of salvation and will not believe today. Terror, pit and snare.

**Terror or Fear** – for the Earth-dweller, fear has been the name of the game since the Rapture of the Church. Rather than looking to the Lord, they looked to their own solutions to issues and problems... none of which removed the fear. The sixth seal judgment is about causing terror for those who are Earth-dwellers.

John gives us the reason for fear. As we will see, it is based on what you do with Jesus. If we accept His gift, no fear...but if we reject...all we have left is fear. Fear of what is yet to come.

1 John 4:15–18

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because **fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.**" (NASB95)

John 3:16–18

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; **he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**” (NASB95)*

**Pit** – The person who fears is the person who has rejected the free gift of salvation. All they have left to look forward to is judgment. This term, pit, refers to the fear of death.

For the believer *“Therefore we are always full of courage, and we know that as long as we are alive here on earth we are absent from the Lord—for we live by faith, not by sight. Thus we are full of courage and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:6–8, NET)* There is no fear of death. We know our future and it is with Jesus. The issue with judgment has been dealt with by Jesus for us on the Cross and we rest in that.

For the unbeliever, the Earth-dweller – all they have to look forward to is judgment. *“Indeed, just as people are destined to die once and after that to be judged, so the Messiah was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people. And he will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to bring salvation to those who eagerly wait for him.” (Hebrews 9:27–28, ISV)*

**Snare** – This is deception. This is what Satan, and the Beast, are all about. For those who refuse to believe the truth, the Earth-dweller who has been left behind at the Rapture of the Church, they will be snared...trapped by the lie. Jesus was concerned about this. As He began His briefing to the disciples on the Mount of Olives *“Jesus answered them, “See to it that no one deceives you,” (Matthew 24:4, ISV)* The source of deception Jesus also defined.

John 8:44

*“You belong to your father the devil, and you want to carry out the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and has never stood for truth, since there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies.” (ISV)*

2 Thessalonians 2:8–12

*“Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. **He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.**” (NLT)*

Recapping what the Earth-dweller has left to look forward to.

Isaiah 24:17

*“Terror and pit and snare Confront you, O inhabitant of the earth.” (NASB95)*

Unlike the remnant who are worshipping, remaining Earth-dwellers are in deep fear and looking for a place to escape their future. They are going into hiding.

Isaiah 24:18

*“Then it will be that he who flees the report of disaster will fall into the pit, And he who climbs out of the pit will be caught in the snare; For the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake.” (NASB95)*

Isaiah explains to the Earth-dwellers more about their future. Those who manage to avoid death during the Tribulation, and the odds are rather long as only somewhere between 1 in 7 and 1 in 14, will make it; will be deceived.

The judgment is inescapable for the “*inhabitant of the earth.*” Isaiah has already told us where they will try and hide.

*Isaiah 2:19*

*“Men will go into caves of the rocks And into holes of the ground Before the terror of the LORD And the splendor of His majesty, When He arises to make the earth tremble.” (NASB95)*

The source of their terror, the judgment previously discussed by Isaiah, is not something they can escape. The windows of Heaven are open. This reference to a term used to discuss the Flood is here, a term of judgment. This time there is not a flood of water, but judgment is coming just the same, just as a flood. Indeed, Jesus has descended to Earth and taken over. The foundations are being shaken to ferret out those who are in hiding.

*Revelation 6:15–17*

*“Then everyone—the kings of the earth, the rulers, the generals, the wealthy, the powerful, and every slave and free person—all hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. And they cried to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to survive?”” (NLT)*

The inhabitant of the Earth has nothing more to look forward to than judgment. It cannot and will not be delayed.

What is the condition of the planet when Christ returns?

*Isaiah 24:19–20*

*“The earth is broken asunder, The earth is split through, The earth is shaken violently. The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard And it totters like a shack, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again.” (NASB95)*

This picture is a repeat of what we saw with the city of chaos, the city of tohu. The inhabitants of the Earth made their choice, and their choice resulted in tohu.

The whole picture (cf. Jeremiah 4:23–25) is of earth once again becoming tōhû (see verse 10). This is what they chose: a world without the ordering hand of God and this, in faithful divine justice, is what they got. (J. A. Motyer 1996, 204)

The unbelieving world wants to experience a life without Christ, a life without restraints, the ability to call their own shots and do as they please. What they have achieved is the almost complete destruction of the planet.

We see this desire to live without restraint all around us today. Even down to a major political party recently making, as part of their presidential platform, an embrace of the sin and evil that Paul described in Romans 1:18-32. Life without restraints.

Isaiah was prophetically correct in chapter 5 as he discussed the cultural climate prior to the fall of Judah. As Paul also related, the person that embraces the lifestyle of Romans 1:18-32, is one who is doomed. By extension, so is the culture and the nation and the world which does the same. The evil ones are quite busy these days, but Isaiah points out they too are doomed.

*Isaiah 5:18–23*

*“What sorrow for those who drag their sins behind them with ropes made of lies, who drag wickedness behind them like a cart! They even mock God and say, “Hurry up and do something! We want to see what you can do. Let the Holy One of Israel carry out his plan, for we want to know what it is.” What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter. What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever. What sorrow for those who are heroes at drinking wine and boast about all the alcohol they can hold. They take bribes to let the wicked go free, and they punish the innocent.” (NLT)*

*Isaiah 24:21–23*

*“So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.” (NASB95)*

There is much more to the judgment than just dealing with Earth-dwellers. In that day. What day? The Day of the Lord. Isaiah does not want us to miss the “when” of this event. This is a day that the fallen members of the unseen realm are well aware of. Even the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim, demons, know of this day. This became clear when Jesus went out of His way and intentionally began the process of reversing Genesis 3, 6 and 11 targeting the enemy.

We see this in Mark 5. Jesus had been ministering in Capernaum on the northwest side of the Sea of Galilee. A very Jewish area and His ministry home base. He suddenly and specifically instructs His disciples to go to the other side of the lake with Him.

Even the enemy picks up on what He is doing and where He is going and tries to stop Him.

*Luke 8:22–24*

*“One day Jesus and his disciples got into a boat. He told them, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” So they started out. Now as they were sailing, Jesus fell asleep. A violent storm swept over the lake, and they were taking on water and were in great danger. So his disciples went to him, woke him up, and kept telling him, “Master! Master! We’re going to die!” He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. They stopped, and there was calm.” (ISV)*

Jesus was on His way to the country of Gerasenes. He is intentionally engaging in warfare. This is Gentile country. It is on the east side of the Sea of Galilee. It is not somewhere a good Jewish boy or girl would go to for a weekend.

*Enoch 15:8–12*

*“And now the giants who are born from the spirits, even the strong spirits of flesh upon the earth, their dwelling will be on the earth. Evil spirits went out from their body, for they came from the higher places, and the beginning of their creation and foundation is from the watchful holy ones. They will be called evil spirits. And so for the spirits of heaven, their dwelling will be in heaven, and the spirits that are born upon the earth, their dwelling will be upon the earth. The spirits of the giants were doing unjustly, destroying, attacking, and wrestling with each other and thrown together upon the earth, the hard spirits of the giants. They are making courses, and no one is eating, but they are fasting and thirsting and stumbling spirits. These will rise up against the sons of men and women because they have gone forth from them.” (Lexham Press 2020, Enoch 15:8-12)*



For Second Temple Jews, the demons Jesus encountered and defeated were Watcher-spirits, released at the death of the ancient Nephilim/Rephaim giants. The passage from 1 Enoch 15 included above makes that quite evident, as do the Dead Sea Scroll references to the Watchers as “bastard spirits.” This term quite clearly views demons as the result of the death of the hybrid (“bastard”) Nephilim offspring produced in the transgression of Genesis 6:1–4, Enoch’s sin of the Watchers. When Jesus confronts Legion, He is facing a collective of these entities. (Heiser 2017, 100)

*Mark 5:1–7*

*“They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; and shouting with a loud voice, he said, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus, **Son of the Most High God?** I implore You by God, do not torment me!”” (NASB95)*

Yes, this is not the first time that Jesus has encountered demons. But there is something interesting to note. In Mark 1:24, Jesus encounters a demon while in Jewish territory. *“Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, “What business do we have with each other, **Jesus of Nazareth?** Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”” (Mark 1:23–24, NASB95)*

Here the demon refers to Him as Jesus of Nazareth. Contrast that to what the legion, in what is actually Bashan, call Him; Son of the Most High God.

One other thing too, the account of this event recorded by Matthew adds. *“And they cried out, saying, “What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to **torment us before the time?**”” (Matthew 8:29, NASB95)*

The “time” is a direct reference to Isaiah 24:21. They know the “time” and they knew that “time” had not yet arrived. They also knew who they were talking with too.

“Legion identifies Jesus as “Son of the Most High,” a title that reflects the Old Testament theology of cosmic geography. Recall that in Deuteronomy 32:8–9, the “Most High” had disinherited the nations of the world, assigned them to the dominion of supernatural sons of God, and then created Israel as is own inheritance from nothing. Those sons of God rebelled and became corrupt (Psalm 82:1–4), throwing God’s order into chaos (Psalm 82:1–5).

The exorcism of Legion is therefore more than a strange tale of suicidal swine. It’s about theological messaging. Legion recognizes that Jesus is rightful Lord of the country of the Gerasenes—old Bashan now under Gentile occupation.

These familiar episodes in the ministry of Jesus occur in the darkest, most spiritually sinister places known to Old Testament Israelites and Jewish readers of the Old Testament. Bashan and Hermon were ground zero for spiritual evil and, in particular, the Watchers of 1 Enoch. The spiritual corruption of humanity would be healed by the atonement of the cross. His resurrection meant that no member of the kingdom of God would share living space with the Watchers in the underworld Abyss, the realm of the dead. Even an army of Watchers was overmatched by the Son of the Most High. They would be lords of nothing.” (Heiser 2017, 101-102)

Jesus began the hostile takeover of the world from the evil one. He went out of His way while here on earth to confront the enemy. They would understand what He was doing. They are defeated foes thanks to the Cross. Paul talks about that event in Colossians 2:15. *“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.” (ESV)*

When is the final triumph? The event being described here by Isaiah. Paul talked about that day as well.

*Romans 11:25–26*

*“For I want to let you know about this secret, brothers, so that you will not claim to be wiser than you are: Stubbornness has come to part of Israel until the full number of the gentiles comes to faith. In this way, all Israel will be saved, as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion; he will remove ungodliness from Jacob.’” (ISV)*

The time is contingent upon the number of Gentiles to be saved. Thus, the Great Commission.

*“Then he told them, ‘As you go into all the world, proclaim the gospel to everyone.’” (Mark 16:15, ISV)*

At the end of time all Israel will be saved (11:26\*) but this cannot occur until “the fullness of the Gentiles” has been achieved (11:25\*). Reckoning backwards from this apocalyptic climax, Paul infers that current Jewish resistance against the gospel provides time for the Gentile mission. This is the reasoning behind the Spanish mission project that this letter seeks to advance, for if the gospel can be brought to the end of the known world, the climactic conversion of Israel can occur and the parousia can come as promised. (Jewett and Kotansky 2006, 674)

Of course, Satan as well as all the fallen know this. This leads to one of their strategies we see today. This involves persuading believers to delay or not be involved in evangelism. This is getting worse and not better.

One of the most alarming trends is the severe drop in the proportion of born-again Christians sharing the gospel with nonbelievers. The ideal form of church growth, of course, is by attracting nonbelievers to follow Christ and become part of a community of faith. However, in the last ten years, the share of believers expressing the gospel to non-Christians has plummeted from more than half (55 percent) to barely one-third (35 percent). (Barna 2016, Kindle Location 396)

Many historic Christian beliefs and practices are considered to be extreme by large proportions of Americans—especially among non-Christians. For example, two out of five adults believe it is extremist to try to convert others to their faith; 60 percent of all adults in America and 83 percent of atheists and agnostics believe evangelism—one of the central actions of Christian conviction—is extremist. (Kinnaman and Lyons 2016, 41)

*2 Timothy 4:3–4*

*“For the time will come when people will not tolerate healthy doctrine, but with itching ears will surround themselves with teachers who cater to their people’s own desires. They will refuse to listen to the truth and will turn to myths.” (ISV)*

For the church in 2020, Jesus has the following word.

*Revelation 3:15–20*

*“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot! So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth! Because you say, ‘I am rich and have acquired great wealth, and need nothing,’ but do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked, take my advice and buy gold from me refined by fire so you can become rich! Buy from me white clothing so you can be clothed and your shameful nakedness will not be exposed, and buy eye salve to put on your eyes so you can see! All those I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent! Listen! I am standing at the door and knocking! If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come into his home and share a meal with him, and he with me.” (NET)*

*Isaiah 24:21*

*“So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth.” (NASB95)*

God previously announced in Psalms 82 the impending doom of the fallen divine beings. *"I said, "You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High. "Nevertheless you will die like men And fall like any one of the princes." Arise, O God, judge the earth! For it is You who possesses all the nations." (Psalm 82:6–8, NASB95)*

In late OT and inter-testamental times the pantheon, as the hosts of heaven, was integrated into Hebrew thought as being rebellious angels who came to constitute the spiritual powers at war with God and with his people. It was also understood that certain angels were designated as patrons of nations. (Oswalt 1986, 454-455)

They have lost their immortality, hence their god status. This ability for the God of Israel to demote the others speaks of the power of the king of the council. The king alone can control all of the other gods. This divine trial also demonstrates the fairness of Israel's God. This God is not capricious, but sentences the other gods for their refusal to act in ways that reflect the values of God's kingdom. (Tanner 2014, 643)

At the end of the Great Tribulation, two groups will be judged, and the first to be referenced are those former members of the heavenly host.

As we have already seen, their doom began during the earthly ministry of Jesus and it was the resurrection that completely caught them by surprise and fully deposed them. Judgment had begun. During the Tribulation, a point is reached where the fallen divine beings, figuratively have their wings clipped and are limited to Earth. Who are these beings?

*Revelation 12:7–9*

*"Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But the dragon was not strong enough to prevail, so there was no longer any place left in heaven for him and his angels. So that huge dragon—the ancient serpent, the one called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels along with him." (NET)*

For more info on these beings, Romans 8:38, Colossians 1:16, Ephesian 1:21, 2:2, 3:10, 6:12, Colossians 1:16. These fallen ones who account for up to 1/3 of the heavenly host at one time, are captured and imprisoned. As for those they misled.

The kings of the earth, who, spurred on by the angels, have rebelled against Yahweh and His anointed people (Ps 2), will also be punished, that Yahweh may reign in undisputed majesty and glory on Mt. Zion (v. 23)-22. Rebellious angels and rebellious human beings alike Yahweh will imprison in a great subterranean prison, the Pit (cp. 14:15 n.). (Gray 1912, 422-423)

*Revelation 20:1–3*

*"Then I saw an angel descending from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a huge chain. He seized the dragon—the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan—and tied him up for a thousand years. The angel then threw him into the abyss and locked and sealed it so that he could not deceive the nations until the one thousand years were finished. (After these things he must be released for a brief period of time.)" (NET)*

*Isaiah 24:21–22*

*"So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished." (NASB95)*

The rulers who listened to the fallen ones will be imprisoned in the same pit together. The intent is to eliminate rebellion throughout the cosmos.

Only one can be on the throne.

*Isaiah 24:23*

*“Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.” (NASB95)*

A reference is given here that Jews would connect with Exodus 24.

*Exodus 24:9–11*

*“Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear like the sky itself. But he did not lay a hand on the leaders of the Israelites, so they saw God, and they ate and they drank.” (NET)*

This reminder of the days in which the covenant between God and Israel was formulated signals that, eschatological and cosmic language notwithstanding, the outcome of Isaiah 24 is not the end of the world but a judgment that sets the Earth back on its course. Judgment leads not to the end but to the ends, the purposes, of God: the renewal of the Earth and its peoples. (Tull 2010, 374-375)

As New Testament believers, we also connect this statement, but we do so with Revelation 4.

*Revelation 4:9–11*

*“And whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders throw themselves to the ground before the one who sits on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever, and they offer their crowns before his throne, saying: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, since you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created!”” (NET)*

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