

**ISAIAH**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Isaiah chapter 11 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As we move into chapter 11 this evening keep in mind that this is a continuation of the prophecy that began back in Isaiah chapter 7 and this prophecy finishes up in Isaiah chapter 12. We have seen in Isaiah chapter 10 the judgment of God being poured out and ultimately the oppression that the world is enduring will reach its climax as they usher in the Antichrist as their King during the Tribulation Period. This is a dark period of time. There is not much hope. But as dark and hopeless as this may be there is a light that is going to burst forth and change everything!

As we will see tonight that God is going to break through that darkness and He is going to come back and set up His Kingdom on this earth. It is 1,000 years where righteousness will flow throughout the land. Out of all that destruction will come a beautiful and righteous time as our King of kings and Lord of Lords rules and reigns from Jerusalem! Then, as we move into chapter 12 we will see the culmination of this prophecy as all will come to worship the Lord in the Kingdom Age!

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Isaiah chapter 11 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word this evening.

**ISAIAH 11****VERSE 1**

1. Remember what we read back in Isaiah 10:33-34, “**Behold, the Lord, The Lord of hosts, Will lop off the bough with terror; Those of high stature will be hewn down, And the haughty will be humbled. He will cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, And Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One.**” The proud have been chopped down, there are only stumps left and there is not much hope.

But out of those stumps the Lord will cause a branch to grow from the root of the family of Jesse, David’s father! One writer put it like this, “We see a bare, withered tree stump, robbed of its trunk and top, and it looks as though the stump will never bear any fruit any more. But, a small shoot sprouts from the root of this dry stump which is the Davidic dynasty. Because of its unsightliness and misery, it is not named after David but after his father. When Christ was born, there was nothing royal about that dynasty. But a new shoot sprang from this old stem.”

(Bultema)

2. This is obviously a Messianic prophecy pointing to Jesus Christ. We will see that as we continue through this chapter. And as we will see, there is a brief thought about the First Coming of Christ and the rest is dealing with His Second Coming.

VERSE 2

1. Here we see the sevenfold workings of the Holy Spirit in the Messiah, in Jesus. It speaks of completeness, perfection. Let's look at these a little closer.

- ***THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD*** – Keep in mind that there are many false spirits or deceiving spirits out there but that is not what Jesus had. Jesus was of the Spirit of the LORD!
- ***THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM*** – In I Corinthians 1:30 we are told, “**But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.**” Please understand that Jesus does not just have wisdom, He is wisdom! We saw this in His earthly ministry; He was perfectly wise, intelligent in all things!
- ***THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING*** – Make no mistake about it, Jesus knows all things and thus, He understands us perfectly. Trapp spells it out like this in describing Jesus, “Sharpness of judgment in smelling out a hypocrite . . . His sharp nose easily discerneth and is offended with the stinking breath of the hypocrite’s rotten lungs, though his words be never so scented and perfumed with showers of holiness.”
- ***THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL*** - Jesus is our perfect counselor, He knows all things and He understands us better than we do! Remember what we were told in Isaiah 9:6 of the Messiah that was to come, “**. . . And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**”
- ***THE SPIRIT OF MIGHT*** – This just makes sense. Jesus has the power to do what He desires! There is no one stronger or mightier than our Lord!
- ***THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE*** – As I have said, Jesus knows all things; He knows what we will do before we do it! We can’t know the mind of the Lord unless the Spirit shows us and He gives to us the knowledge we need to make decisions.
- ***THE SPIRIT OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD*** – What does that mean? I believe what is being said is that Jesus willingly submitted Himself to the Father and thus, in doing that He was honoring the Father!

Now let me say this. When we speak of the Godhead we are speaking of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit or One God manifested in three distinct persons, not three different gods! That is why Jesus told Phillip in John 14:9 that if you have seen Him then you have seen the Father because their natures are the same. And that is true of the Holy Spirit and Jesus as well. When we see the Spirit of the LORD at work, it should look like the ministry and the nature of Jesus.

2. One more point here and that is from Revelation 4:5 where we read, “**And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**” Now this is not speaking of seven Holy Spirits but the sevenfold working of the Holy Spirit, which speaks of perfection in His attributes. When Jesus became flesh He laid down some of his Godly attributes and as His ministry began the Holy Spirit fell upon Him to assist Him in the work. Obviously Jesus is God and He did not need that assistance, but He freely emptied Himself so He could show us that what was at His disposal is at our disposal also. And that is the power of the Holy Spirit in our life to give us the Spirit of the LORD, the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of counsel, the Spirit of might, the Spirit of knowledge and the Spirit of the fear of the Lord!

How can we obtain that in our lives? First of all you have to be born again; you have to ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life! Then we see Jesus tell us in Luke 11:13, “**If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!**” What do you have to do? You have to ask! God wants to empower you but I think many times we don’t ask for that power in our lives.

And keep in mind that the power that God gives us is not to draw attention to ourselves. It is not to toot our whistle like that of a steam locomotive. That power or steam you might say is to drive the train and in our case it is to drive the Gospel message forward! In Ephesians 5:18 Paul said, “**And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.**”

Paul is telling us that we must “*be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.*” The idea is a total surrender, moment by moment, day by day, week by week and-so-on to the Holy Spirit! In contrast, drinking is wasteful and as much as you think you are in control, it has control over you! It is far better to be controlled by the Spirit of God. Think about it, alcohol is a depressant and it depresses our self-control. The Holy Spirit is a stimulant; He controls every aspect of our life. Who do you want to be controlled by?

#### VERSES 3-5

1. We have seen that this Rod that sprouts forth from the stem of Jesse is empowered by the Spirit of God and this Rod is Jesus Christ, the Messiah! Now we see that character of the Messiah, that it is perfect! Remember back in Isaiah chapter 10 that God came against His people for their unrighteousness, but He will judge in righteousness, not looking at the outward appearance, but at the heart of the matter.

And verse 3 starts out with the delight of the Messiah in the fear of the LORD or His desire to do the will of His Father! We see that in John 4:34, “**. . . ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’**” Interestingly enough the will of the Father was also the will of the Son and it pleased the Son to complete the work!

As He judges in righteousness He will deal with those that are unrighteous, the wicked, those who have rejected Him. Think about that, righteousness will be the standard for judgment and for correction! I can't wait for that day.

And as you look at verse 5 you see that both, righteousness and faithfulness are the belt of His waist because they go hand-in-hand! Everything that Jesus does will be done in righteousness and justice!

### VERSES 6-9

1. Now we see the reign of the King and when the Messiah reign's nature will be transformed. No longer will there be predators among the animals, and seemingly all animals will be herbivores, even man! You see, the One who is anointed with the Spirit, the Messiah, is able to renew nature itself!

2. Let's look at this a little closer as we get this glimpse into what the Millennial Kingdom will be like. Have you ever seen a leopard lying down with a calf? I guess you might have but that is just because the leopard is eating the calf, sorry but today we see this survival mentality and we know what happens in the animal kingdom!

But like I have said, in the Millennial Kingdom there will not be carnivorous animals. They will be herbivores or vegetarians, like man will be. A lion will eat grass; you will be able to have bears and lions for pets.

The Millennial Kingdom will be like it was during the Garden of Eden before sin entered the picture, and death through sin. In Genesis 1:29-31 we read, **“And God said, ‘See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food’; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”**

Thus, sometime after sin entered the world or right after the flood, animals degenerated into carnivorous animals, meat-eaters! And for man, after the flood God said in Genesis 9:3-4 **“Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.”** Now some may have degenerated into meat eaters before the flood, but after the flood God said that we can eat meat.

But, in the Millennial Kingdom we will all be vegetarians. Again, in Hosea 2:18 we read, **“In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely.”** All creation will live in harmony, even those pesky mosquitos!

Paul even picks up on that in Romans 8:19-22 when he wrote, **“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”** Nature is waiting for the transformation that will come when the Messiah reigns and believers are glorified. I can’t wait for that day; the Millennial Reign of the Messiah will be glorious!

#### VERSES 10-12

1. That banner that arises for all to see, that light that pierces the darkness, is none other than Jesus Christ, as all people are drawn to Him, both Jews and Gentiles.
  
2. Now in verse 11 Isaiah is speaking of the Lord bringing back His people, the Jews into the land once again, gathering them from all around. What is that talking about? First of all the first time that God brought His people back from captivity was after they were exiled in Babylon for some 70 years.

Now some feel that the second time God did this was on May 14, 1948 when God brought His people back into the land after almost 2,000 years without a homeland. This may be a partial fulfillment of that promise, but I don’t believe it is the ultimate fulfillment.



I believe that will take place when the Lord comes back to set up His Kingdom here on earth. When He does He will draw His people, the Jews back into the land from the four corners of the earth, from all over the world! We read of this in Matthew 24:31 as Jesus tells us, “**And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**”

But how can they be dispersed when they are back in the land today? That is a great question and the answer I believe is given to us in Matthew chapter 24. You see, at the 3½ year mark of the seven year Tribulation Period the Antichrist goes into the Temple and demands to be worshiped as God. The Jews refuse and the Antichrist goes after them to wipe them out. That causes them to flee Jerusalem!

Where do they go? I believe that they flee to the rock city of Petra and it is here that the Jews come to Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I also think this persecution of the Jews is worldwide but the idea here is that God is bringing them back into the land of Israel, the remnant, from all over the world as He sets up His Kingdom on this earth!

#### VERSES 13-16

1. First of all in regards to Israel and I think this is important, there will no longer be a divided kingdom. There will be no Northern Kingdom of Israel, spoken of as Ephraim here, and there will be no Southern Kingdom of Judah. Christ unites and thus, a united Kingdom in the Millennial Kingdom!

2. But before this is established, before the Lord sets up His Kingdom, He will judge the nations. The goats He will place on His left side and they will be cast into hell waiting the final judgment day. The sheep He will place on His right side and they will enter into the Kingdom Age with Him. This is speaking of those who make it through the Tribulation Period.

As the Lord establishes His Kingdom, during the reign of the Messiah, the nations will not go to war any more. Conflicts will be justly and swiftly settled by the Messiah and His government. But first, those disobedient nations which we see described here as the Philistines and Edom and Moab and the people of Ammon, traditional enemies of Israel will be punished.

3. Not only that, but there will be this super highway, no tolls on this super highway that will extend from Assyria to Egypt through the land of Israel as the nations of the world will come over this super highway to worship the Lord.

We see this in Zechariah 14:16-21 as people come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord and we are told, **“And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichecker of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. In that day ‘HOLINESS TO THE LORD’ shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the Lord’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.”**

And in Isaiah 35:8 we are told of this super highway, **“A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.”**

In the Kingdom Age we will make a yearly pilgrimage to Jerusalem on the Highway of Holiness. I don’t think you can drive on the Illinois toll roads and call that a Highway of Holiness! But when the Lord come’s this road to Jerusalem will be just that and no sinners will be there, only the righteous. And even someone who gets lost easily will be able to find their way, probably because of all the praise songs being sung as we travel to the holy city to see our King! I am thankful for that!

**ISAIAH 12****VERSES 1-2**

1. What day is Isaiah talking about here? The same day we talked about in Isaiah chapter 11, the Millennial reign of Christ, the Kingdom Age when Jesus is ruling and reigning and righteousness and faithfulness will fill this land!

And this I love because they will know where their salvation comes from. In verse two it says, “**Behold, God is my salvation**” or Jesus, *YESHUA*. They will recognize Jesus as their Messiah and the nation of Israel will enter into the Kingdom Age, not every Jew, but the remnant that turn to Him.

We also see the word *YAH*, which is a contraction of *YAHWEH* followed by *LORD* in all capital letters, which is the name of God. I think it is repeated this way to make a strong point, that there is salvation in no other name! That is what Peter said in Acts 4:12, “**Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**”

2. In verse 1 we also see Isaiah say, “**... Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and you comfort me.**” How can a righteous Judge ignore sin? He can’t and that is why God has become our salvation, He paid the price for our sin on the cross of Calvary and even though God was angry with us, that anger was dispelled because the price had been paid!

Paul, in Romans 5:1 said that very thing, **“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** We can’t have that peace with God apart from Christ. We can’t earn our salvation, we receive it by faith! But today we see people say things like, “Just try Jesus, you will like Him!” Are you kidding me, is our relationship with the Lord like a fast food restaurant where we try to see if we like this or like that and if we don’t we get rid of it! That is not right.

Spurgeon put it like this, “The talk about trying to believe is a mere pretense. But whether pretense or not, let me remind you that there is no text in the Bible which says, ‘Try and believe,’ but it says ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.’ He is the Son of God, he has proved it by his miracles, he died to save sinners, therefore trust him; he deserves implicit trust and child-like confidence. Will you refuse him these? Then you have maligned his character and given him the lie.” You don’t try Jesus, you believe! True salvation is only found in Him and that peace will only come as we see our salvation that is only in Him and not in ourselves!

### VERSE 3

1. In Psalm 63:1-2 David said, **“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.”**

The same thought is found here in Isaiah chapter 12. In a world that is dry, it is barren and people are thirsty, God wants to refresh us with His water of life that He gives to us freely.

Remember what Jesus said to the woman at the well in Samaria back in John 4:13-14,

**“... ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’”** What the world has to offer will never

satisfy, it is not refreshing and you will thirst again. But what God gives to us is refreshing; it is satisfying as we draw our strength from Him!

Leon Morris put it like this,

When a believer comes to Christ and drinks he not only slakes [satisfies] his thirst but receives such an abundant supply that veritable rivers flow from him. This stresses the outgoing nature of the Spirit-filled life. . . . There is nothing of the piety of the pond in Christianity.

- Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to John*, p. 425-426

We are not told to drink of the stagnate and polluted waters of this world but of the refreshing and life-giving waters that are found in Christ!

VERSES 4-6

1. Keep in mind that this prophecy began in Isaiah chapter 7 and we are now finishing it here in Isaiah chapter 12. And we have been taken from judgment to the Kingdom Age, a time of hopelessness to a time of great hope! And once again Isaiah is driving home the point of when this is, “**... in that day you will say ...**” In other words, in the Kingdom age there will be praise unto God and not lukewarm praise or praise that is held back. We will “**Cry out and shout**” praises unto God!

2. Now for some, I think they believe shouting out praises to God is only for the Kingdom Age, but that is not even close to being true! Listen to what Psalm 150 has to say, “**Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!**” Psalm 150:1-6.

What are we to do? ***PRAISE THE LORD!***

3. Listen to what Spurgeon had to say regarding this. He wrote, “We ought not to worship God in a half-hearted sort of way; as if it were now our duty to bless God, but we felt it to be a weary business, and we would get it through as quickly as we could, and have done with it; and the sooner the better. No, no; ‘All that is within me, bless his holy name.’ Come, my heart, wake up, and summon all the powers which wait upon thee! Mechanical worship is easy, but worthless. Come rouse yourself, my brother! Rouse thyself, O my own soul!” May we worship Him with our entire being, may we shout for joy, may people see our love and praise for the Lord!

4. Now someone may say, “Why should we worship the Lord?” I think verse 6 gives us two very good reasons why we should praise the Lord. First of all because of who He is, “**For great is the Holy One of Israel.**” That is a good reason. The second reason is also good; it is because of where God is, “**in your midst!**” God is great and He is in our midst thus, ***PRAISE THE LORD!***

5. As we move on we are going to see God judging the nations and it will begin with Babylon, modern day Iraq, Isaiah 13:1-14:27! Then judgment will come upon Philistia, Isaiah 14:28-32. Then on Moab, Isaiah 15:1-16:14. Then on Damascus and Samaria, Isaiah 17:1-18:7. And lastly, and Egypt, Isaiah 19:1-20:6.



**ISAIAH 13****VERSE 1**

1. This “**burden**” that Isaiah had regarding Babylon is speaking of a heavy message, something of importance. Judgment was coming and it would be a heavy judgment from God. Now keep in mind that the Assyrians were still the powerhouse in the land and it would not be for another 100 years or so before Babylon took the Southern Kingdom of Judah into captivity. But God can speak with 100% confidence regarding future events because He knows the beginning from the end and all that is in between!

2. As we are reading this I also see this as a last day’s prediction because Babylon in the Scriptures represents both a commercial and religious system and you can read of them in Revelation chapters 17 and 18. And God is going to bring these false systems down; they will not stand before a holy and righteous God!

**VERSES 2-5**

1. As I have said, the Babylonians were not a world power at this time, the Assyrians were. And yet there is that rise to power and then their destruction! Who is going to do this? We don’t have to guess because Isaiah tells us that God is going to use His “**sanctified ones**” to do this! Who are these holy men of God that are going to bring Babylon down?

God is going to use a pagan nation, a nation that He has set apart for this task and He is speaking of the Medes and the Persians. God will use them as His instrument of judgment against the Babylonians. In fact, when we get to Isaiah chapter 45, 150 years before Cyrus King of Persia was born, God called him by name and spoke of his captivity of Babylon, how it would all take place.

And on October 12, 539 B. C. the nation of Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians. God does use pagan nations to bring about His judgment upon other nations, even His own people. We read in Jeremiah 25:9 that God calls Nebuchadnezzar, the pagan King from Babylon, His servant, for it would be the Babylonians that would bring about God's judgment upon God's people, the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

2. Now as you read this there seems to be more to it than just the Medes and the Persians and there is. You see, the Babylonians fell to the Medes and the Persians and not by a multi-national military force. In fact, they were an adjacent enemy and not from a distant land.

So what is going on here? As we have seen as we look at prophecy, as God speaks against a certain nation of people, there is a near fulfillment and then a complete future fulfillment. I believe that the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Revelation chapter 17 as the Great Harlot, Mystery Babylon, which is the religious center of the world, will be destroyed. And in Revelation chapter 18, Babylon the Great or the commercial center of the world is destroyed.

Let me give you a little overview to show you what is going on. In Genesis chapter 11 we read of a man named Nimrod, who lived in the area of Shinar, who led the people into false worship. It was there that the tower of Babel was built, not to reach into heaven, but a place where they could worship the stars, worship the heavens.

And God brought judgment upon them and confused their language. Now Babylon is in the same area as Shinar and it became the center of occult worship and a commercial center of the world. When Babylon fell their priests moved their activity to Pergamos, and then during the time of Constantine this pagan religion moved from Pergamos to Rome. And many of the things that the Roman Catholic Church have in their mass, their beliefs, have been adopted from the Babylonians or this false religious system. And there is coming a day when this false religious and commercial system will rise up again, and God will bring it down. How do I know it is speaking of the Tribulation Period? Let's read on and you will see what I mean.

#### VERSES 6-16

1. So we don't to guess or infer what day this is because we are told that it is the "**Day of the LORD**" and it "**is at hand!**" Now keep in mind that this "**Day of the LORD**" is not a literal day but a period of judgment, which I believe is seven years long, also known as the Tribulation Period.

Now what about this Hebrew word for “day” or YOM, doesn’t it speak of a literal day? Isn’t that how we are to take Genesis 1:8 and the other days of creation, “**And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.**” Yes, that word “day” means a literal day and when it is connected with a number, it is always literal. Also, it says “**evening and morning**” which gives us another indication that it was a literal day. But here in Isaiah it speaks of a period of time that seems to begin sometime after the Rapture of the Church and continues on through the Tribulation Period when the Lord comes back to separate the sheep from the goats and to set up His Kingdom here on earth.

It is a terrifying time as we are told in Joel 1:15, “**Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.**” Also, in Joel 2:1-2, 10-11 we read, “**Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations. . . . The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?”**

Please understand that this is a time of God’s judgment upon a Christ rejecting world and His dealing with the nation of Israel, completing the last 7 year period in regards to the 70 seven year periods that were pronounced upon Israel, 69 of those have already been fulfilled. They are dark days, days of God’s judgment!

2. Some feel that this “**Day of the LORD**” extends beyond the judgment of God, on into the Millennial Kingdom and the establishment of the New Heavens and New Earth. Some feel that Peter makes that point in II Peter 3:10-13 when he says, “**But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**” It seems to be possible but the majority of the texts, the ones I can find all deal with a day of wrath upon a Christ rejecting world as God is putting down the proud in heart, the rebellious, the wicked!

And it is bad. Amos tells us of this day, “**Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?**” Amos 5:18-20.

Just when you think you have escaped, you get it! In fact, things are so bad that Jesus tells us of this time that men’s hearts will fail them because of the things they see coming upon the earth. (Luke 21:26). Imagine seeing a scary movie, and the terror you feel, only this time this will be real and there is no escape!

3. Notice again who this is for, “**I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.**” Isaiah 13:11. God is punishing those who stand in their own righteousness, which is like filthy rags.

But, for those in Christ, we stand in the righteousness of God that has been imputed to us by Christ. This judgment is not for us. It is as Paul said in I Thessalonians 5:4-9, “**But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

Those who are in spiritual darkness will be overtaken by this day. For those who are in Christ, this day is not for them, but they will be taken out of this world prior to God’s wrath being poured out. As Peter tells us in II Peter 2:9, “**then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.**” Yes, God knows how to deliver us and He will deliver us!

4. As you read of these events here in Isaiah you see them also mentioned in the New Testament. In Matthew 24:29 we are told, “**Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**”

Also, in Revelation 6:12-17 we read, **“I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”**

You see, God is punishing the world, the *“earth dwellers”* for their evil, their rebellion against Him. We, as Christians, are not earth dwellers, but pilgrims and strangers, just passing through. Our citizenship is in heaven, (Philippians 3:20). This is not our home, but we look towards heaven for a city whose builder and maker is God, (Hebrews 11:10).

Thus, as Jesus said in Revelation 3:10, **“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”**

But for those who enter into this **“Day of the LORD”** it is going to be bad. You can read Revelation chapters 6-19 and get the details of the destruction that will take place. And Isaiah is telling us that man will be rare in those days because of the destruction that takes place.

God is going to shake this earth so violently that every island and every mountain will be moved out of its place. In Hebrews 12:25-29 we read of this time, **“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”** God is going to shake the earth to its very foundation, and only those things that are spiritual will last, everything else will be removed.

We will also see this as we move in Isaiah 24:19-20 where we read, **“The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.”**

Some speak of a polar axis shift or reversal that can cause this wobbling effect of the earth. Some scientists believe that every 5,000 to 6,000 years the polar axis shifts or reverses itself. Whatever God uses to shake this earth, it will be shaken!

#### VERSES 17-22

1. Here in verse 17 we go back to the Medes and the Persians coming down upon Babylon and the idea here is that they will not be bought off but will accomplish their task of destroying Babylon.



2. As you read this you see the ugliness of war. As you read through this you may wonder how God can allow this. Understand this, God did not create the world like this, but man chose to live this way by rebelling against God. And thus, his nature reflects that of Satan and not of God. They seek to take captive and destroy people's lives. And many of these nations are only reaping what they have sown upon others.

3. Keep in mind that the city of Babylon was awesome, some 15 square miles with double walls for protection and the Euphrates River running through it. And yet God was going to allow the Medes and the Persians to bring them down in one night, never to rise again.

Now here's the thing, Cyrus did not destroy Babylon but walked in through unlocked gates in the Euphrates River. So what is going on here when it speaks of it being destroyed? Wolf gives to us this insight as he wrote, "When Cyrus conquered Babylon, he did not devastate the city. The walls were left standing until 518 B. C., and general desolation did not set in until the third century B. C. Babylon gradually fell into decay, and the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled. Babylon became completely depopulated by the time of the Muslim conquest in the seventh century A. D., and to this day it lies deserted."

But I also think this looks to the future because I think Babylon will be rebuilt. You see, modern day Babylon or I should say Iraq is not in the exact location of ancient Babylon but built some distance away. In fact, they have located the ancient city and have put up some of its ancient structures, but it remains uninhabited. And I think Babylon will one day be the commercial center of the world as Revelation tells us. Others feel that commercial Babylon is not speaking of a certain place but that does not make sense because when it is destroyed people are watching it burn! So I think Babylon will be rebuilt, not on the ancient site, but it will be rebuilt!

4. As I close this evening it is hard to end on all this judgment and destruction. What should we glean from it? I think Calvin gives us a good perspective to close this study with. He wrote, “Whenever therefore we behold the destruction of cities, the calamities of nations, and the overturning of kingdoms, let us call those predictions to remembrance, that we may be humbled under God’s chastisements, may learn to gather wisdom from the affliction of others, and may pray for an alleviation of our own grief.” Lessons to learn!