

ISAIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Isaiah chapter 24 as we continue our study through the Word of God. We have seen in our previous studies God's judgment upon the nations that have come against Him and those have been fulfilled in times past for the most part. Some are still future though. But now, as we move into chapters 24-27 we are going to move from the Tribulation Period which is that last 7 year period of time where God pours His wrath out upon a Christ rejecting world and deals with the Jewish people once again to, specifically, the Great Tribulation.

Keep in mind that the Great Tribulation is that last 3½ years of the 7 year Tribulation Period and it is during this time that cataclysmic events will come upon a Christ rejecting world and you can read of them in the book of Revelation. Now, just like in labor where the pains are low in intensity and frequency when labor begins, just before the birth of the child the pains are intense and they are frequent. The same is true with this period of time. As it gets closer to the birth of the Kingdom Age where Jesus will return and set up His Kingdom on this earth the pains upon this world will increase in intensity and frequency.

Now as you look at this picture it also seems to follow the progression of the Jewish day. Keep in mind that the Jewish day began at sunset or night and it goes on into sunrise or day. The Tribulation Period is a time of great darkness but that darkness is dispelled by the light of Christ as He comes to set up His Kingdom on this earth, to rule and reign for 1,000 years from the throne of David in Jerusalem.

I like what one writer had to say regarding this period of time and what our focus should be upon in the days we are living in. He wrote,

. . . mankind consist basically of two groups of people – two cities, as it were. There is the city of man. The nations and cultures and businesses and ideas and trends and politics and moralities of this present age, however much they disagree on the surface, are in fact unified at the profound level. They are all against God. What is our world really all about? It’s a massive social construct, often beautiful and even heroic, rendering plausible life without God at the center. The human race is deeply united in building its own world on its own terms. That construction of reality is passing away. But there is another city, and it can never fall. It wasn’t built by human hands; it can’t be destroyed by human hands. It’s the city of God. And God is inviting us to pick up and move, leave our old lives behind, and build new lives in his city.

- Raymond C. Ortlund Jr., Isaiah, p.141

How true that is. This world that man is trying to build, this kingdom in a sense is going to pass away and only the Kingdom of God will remain. Where are you at this evening, building your own kingdom apart from God or dwelling in His Kingdom which is internal and spiritual now but one day will be external and physical as He sits upon the throne of David?

Paul puts this into perspective for us as he wrote in II Corinthians 4:16-18, “**Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**”

And John reminds us in I John 2:15-17, **“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”**

If your focus is building up your kingdom on this earth, doing your own thing, you will see that God’s judgment will destroy everything and only what He has established will stand. The Tribulation Period will take down all the pride, the arrogance of man and those who will humble themselves before the Lord will be the ones entering into the Kingdom Age. With that said, let’s begin reading in Isaiah chapter 24 starting in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

ISAIAH 24

VERSES 1-3

1. As you read these verses you see the devastation of this judgment upon man and this world. As you look at what the book of Revelation tells us you will find that one-third of the earth’s population will be destroyed in the Seal Judgments, Revelation 6:8. Then, in the Trumpet Judgments we see another one-third of the earth’s population destroyed. If $\frac{3}{4}$ of this earth’s population remained after the Seal Judgments that would mean $\frac{1}{2}$ of the earth’s population will be destroyed in just these two judgments of God, over 3.5 billion people and we have not even spoken of the Bowl Judgments!

When Isaiah says that “**... the LORD makes the earth empty ...**” it is true as over ½ of the earth’s population will be destroyed not including those who have come to the Lord and have been martyred for their faith during this period of time!

2. Also, as you read this you see that this is affecting all walks of life; no one escapes this judgment of God. From the rich to the poor, from kings to slaves, all will be affected by God’s judgment that is being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world! No one will escape!

VERSES 4-6

1. Here we see the reason for the judgment that is coming upon them. They rejected the true and living God, they rejected Christ. You see, by their actions it shows where their heart is at. And they are not submitting to the Lord but rebelling against Him. Isaiah speaks of the people being “**haughty**” or “**proud**” and that is the problem. They don’t see their need for God, it is about what they can do and a heart that is not with God is a heart that is filled with sin and that is exactly what we see today.

Notice three points that Isaiah makes here in regards to their pride, what they have done against the Lord. First of all it says that “**... they have transgressed the laws ...**” In other words, they have stepped over the line that God has established. There are no boundaries, do whatever you want with whoever you want whenever you want!

As you look at what some of the slogans are from a few years back you can see how this fits into what man is about, being proud, doing what he wants. Listen to just a few of these.

Nothing is taboo . . . Break all the rules . . . To know no boundaries . . . Relax: No rules here . . . Peel off inhibitions. Find your own road . . . We are all hedonists and want to do what feels good . . . That's what makes us human . . . Living without boundaries . . . Just do it.

Man no longer wants to respect the boundaries that God has set and thus, he makes his own and God says that man will be judged because of that!

The second point that Isaiah makes in regards to why this judgment is coming is that they **“. . . Changed the ordinance.”** I find that interesting because we see that today. The word for **“ordinance”** is Torah and it speaks of the Law of God or the Word of God! Man changes God's Word to make it fit into his lifestyle, what he wants to do. If you doubt that then I will share with you this glaring example.

Joel Osteen has said in regards to sin, “I don't address these things from the pulpit. They only come up in interviews.” And when he was asked if openly practicing gay/homosexual people will be accepted into heaven, he responded, “I believe they will.” When asked about people living in open sin, he said, “I'm not going to bash those people. I'm not going to be against those people. They're good people.”

Now some read this and see nothing wrong with it but the problem comes when you compare it with the Word of God and you see that He is changing the Word of God to fit his own theology. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 6:9-11, **“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”**

The Corinthians came from that kind of lifestyle; they were into those things but no longer because they have been washed in the blood of Christ! We can't change God's Word to fit our sinful lifestyle and think God will accept it. God has judged, is judging and will completely judge those who follow down this path of changing His Word! We can't change God's Word into something "lighter," into something "more acceptable." Once a people, once a nation, once a world does that we are ripe for judgment!

And the third point Isaiah makes in regards to this judgment of God that is coming is that they have "**Broken the everlasting covenant.**" There are several everlasting covenants spoken of in the Bible. I believe this is specifically speaking of the New Covenant, Hebrews 13:20, that is what is spoken of here. The point being is that it is the shed blood of Christ for our sins and what people have done is negate the finished work and have made our salvation based upon some aspect of works.

Again, that is contrary to the Scriptures as Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:8-9, "**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**" We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone!

Thus, to do these things just shows the pride of man and God will judge this earth and man! You see, those who have rejected Christ have been placed in the balances of God and have come up short, and thus, judgment is coming. In fact, this judgment will be so intense that very few people will make it through the Great Tribulation Period as I have said. Well over ½ of the earth's population will be destroyed, over 3½ billion people! And thus, the closing of verse 6 makes sense as Isaiah tells us, "**. . . And few men are left.**"

VERSES 7-13

1. God is going to shake this world so violently in this judgment that what may have started out as a party will end quickly as the Great Tribulation Period begins. There will be no more parties, no more music, no more joy; judgment has come!

And in the midst of all this is confusion, as the cities have been laid waste and those that are trying to hide in their homes are terrified, there is no escape! And thus, the destruction of human life will be so intense that only a few will remain, like a tree after the fruit has been removed during the harvest season.

VERSES 14-16

1. Keep in mind that prior to the start of the Tribulation Period the Lord will come to Rapture His Bride, the Church and take us out of this trial that has come upon the earth dwellers. You see, our citizenship is in heaven. We live on this earth but this is not our home. And as dark and wicked as the Tribulation Period will be God always has His faithful remnant, even in the Tribulation Period, those who have come to Christ during this time, and they are singing praises unto Him because they see the goodness of God even in this judgment.

VERSES 17-18

1. Where is the judgment coming from? It is coming from heaven, from God or as Isaiah put it,

“For the windows from on high are open, And the foundations of the earth are shaken.”

Isaiah 24:18. Thus, as the windows of heaven are open in judgment, no one will escape. There will be no place to run, no place to hide. The judgment of the LORD is inescapable. Look at what Isaiah is saying. If they escape *the fear*, they will fall into *the pit*. If they escape *the pit*, they will fall into *the snare*. God’s judgment has enough back-up plans to catch everyone.

Then how can anyone escape the judgment of God? The only way to escape the judgment of God is to *satisfy* it and the only place God’s judgment was ever *satisfied* was on the cross. The only way to escape His judgment is by asking Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life, to forgive you of your sins! But pride will keep you from the cross; it will keep you from Jesus. That is why judgment comes upon the prideful!

VERSES 19-20

1. For those who think they can make it through the Tribulation Period, think again. The earth is going to be violently shaken and everything that can be shaken will be shaken. And I can’t imagine why anyone would want to make it through this time, how horrible the judgments are going to be. And this earth, in its present state, will not rise again!

Now Isaiah speaks pretty specifically what is going to happen, that the earth is going to wobble like a drunken sailor you might say or stagger like someone who is drunk. What can cause that to happen? Can that happen? Has that ever happened?

First of all an impact of a large meteor or comet could cause a severe wobble in the earth's rotation, causing it to "stagger like a drunken man" in its orbital path around the sun and its surface to "twist."

Also an earthquake can cause the earth to wobble or stagger like a drunken man! Let me share with you two instances that are not huge to say the least but they do show that an earthquake can cause this,

The 9.0 magnitude earthquake that ravaged Japan also shortened Earth's day by just over one-millionth of a second (1.8 microseconds to be exact), according to NASA. It also shifted the Earth's axis by about 6.5 inches.

The quake also shifted the position of the Earth's "figure" axis (which is different from the planet's north-south axis). This shift in Earth's figure axis will cause *Earth to wobble* a bit differently as it rotates, but it won't cause a shift of the Earth's axis in space - only external forces such as the gravitational attraction of the sun, moon and planets could do that.

- <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/03/japan-earthquake-shifted-earth-axis-shorter-day-nasa/1#.UJLSihAXn1A>

Also, we are told,

An earthquake that unleashed deadly tidal waves on Asia was so powerful it made the *Earth wobble* on its axis and permanently altered the regional map, US geophysicists said today. The 9.0-magnitude temblor that struck 250 km south-east of Sumatra island on Sunday may have moved small islands as much as 20 meters, according to one expert.

- <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/12/28/1103996533891.html>

Do the Scriptures speak of debris hitting the earth, comets or meteors hitting the earth so that it will wobble? Yes it does. In Revelation 8:8, the Second Trumpet Judgment we are told, **“Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.”**

In Revelation 8:10-11 we see another heavenly object fall to the earth, **“Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.”**

And in Revelation 8:12 we are told, **“Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.”**

These judgments all come towards the end of the Tribulation Period and they could cause the earth axis to shift and make the earth wobble like a drunken sailor.

What about earthquakes, does the Bible speak of earthquakes happening during this period of time? You bet it does, with a magnitude that has never been reached before except maybe you can say at the time of the flood, but as we will see in a few minutes this coming earthquake has not been equaled! In Revelation 6:12-14 we are told, **“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.”**

So we see not only earthquakes but the sky receding, the star's from heaven falling to the earth and these earthquakes are so severe that every island and mountain is going to be moved out of its place. I think that is strong enough to make the earth wobble!

And Revelation 16:18 also speaks of this great earthquake, "**And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.**" And I guess that tells us that not even during the flood were there any earthquakes like the one that is coming! This is what is coming at the end of the Tribulation Period and Isaiah says that this earth, in its present state, will not rise again!

VERSES 21-23

1. As you read this please understand that there are two groups of people that Isaiah is speaking of. First of all when he speaks of the "**exalted ones**" he is speaking of the demonic forces, the fallen angels or those who went with Lucifer or Satan when he rebelled against God. They will be judged!

The second group of people are the "**kings of the earth**" or those who were in power and leading the people to this battle against God. What about the rest of the people? They too will be judged, we have seen that already in this chapter. For those who come to Christ during this period of time they will enter into the Kingdom Age. For those that reject Christ they will be cast into Hell awaiting the Great White Throne judgment at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ where they then will be cast into the Lake of Fire or outer darkness!

Keep in mind that God's purpose in judgment isn't simple vengeance or vindictiveness; it is to bring about a glorious new world. That is what is coming.

2. Now we also see that the light or the brilliance of the sun and moon will be ashamed in the Kingdom Age? Why is that? Because the light of God is so bright, His presence so awesome, that the sun and moon are pale in comparison to Him!

3. As we move from the darkness of the Tribulation Period, the blackness of the night of judgment, we are going to see that blackness is dispelled by the light of Christ as He comes to set up His Kingdom. I believe these songs that are being sung are done so in the Kingdom Age. That does not mean that there was no praising God in the Tribulation Period because those who were believers were praising God in spite of all that was happening to them.

ISAIAH 25

VERSE 1

1. As God's Word comes to pass, as those things that He has promised are fulfilled, as His glory covers this earth, a song of praise breaks forth unto the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Now keep in mind that during the Tribulation Period there were those who came to Christ and they were able to praise the Lord even in the midst of this horrible time. Remember what Isaiah 24:14 said, "**They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing; For the majesty of the Lord They shall cry aloud from the sea.**"

The idea here is praising God even in the midst of tribulation, even the Great Tribulation and that is a heart that is in love with the Lord and is not focused on self. How do I know that? Because they are praising God in spite of the tribulation they are facing!

Spurgeon put it like this and it is powerful and may it awaken our hearts so that we are men and women of praise in spite of what we are going through, the praise of God! Spurgeon wrote, "If I did not praise and bless Christ my Lord, I should deserve to have my tongue torn out by its roots from my mouth. If I did not bless and magnify his name, I should deserve that every stone I tread on in the streets should rise up to curse my ingratitude, for I am a drowned debtor to the mercy of God - over head and ears - to infinite love and boundless compassion I am a debtor. Are you not the same? Then I charge you by the love of Christ, awake, awake your hearts now to magnify his glorious name."

2. Notice how this song starts out. God is the One who is master of their life, there is that personal relationship. Because of that he is going to praise God because he knows God! He sees the wonderful things that God has done in his life in spite of the difficulties he has faced and he knows that God is faithful, what He has promised will come to pass. He has learned to trust God's Word because it is truth! May we do the same!

VERSES 2-3

1. Those cities that have defied God will be brought down; they will be judged and they will not rise again. And in this judgment we see people worship God, how can that be? Because God's judgment is fair, it is right; there is no darkness in Him at all.

VERSES 4-5

1. In these two verses we see a contrast between two different people. First of all for those that are poor, not only in need of food and shelter but poor in strength is the idea, God will give them the strength to go through those times. He will be a shelter in the midst of the storm that has come!

On the other hand, those that see themselves as strong, as powerful, doing whatever they want, they will be no match for God. You see, when God pours out His judgment upon them there is no safety and the song that they once were singing will be taken away. God will bring the wicked down!

VERSE 6

1. Here on Mount Zion, the city of God, there is going to be a great feast that takes place. It is for all people, but how can we find our way to Mount Zion? Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:22-24,

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”

Paul just finished speaking of Mount Sinai and we don't meet with God on Mount Sinai in Arabia but on a different mountain, Mount Zion in Jerusalem! What is the difference? Mount Sinai was marked with fear and terror while Mount Zion is a place of love and forgiveness. At Mount Sinai only Moses could approach God, but on Mount Zion there is an innumerable company that can draw close to God. At Mount Sinai Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant, the Law, while on Mount Zion Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant! Mount Sinai is all about the Law while Mount Zion is all about Grace!

And we can approach Mount Zion only through the blood of Christ. Once we do then this day of celebration in the Kingdom Age we can be a part of. Some feel Isaiah is talking about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb happening here on earth as the Kingdom is established. It could very well be.

VERSES 7-8

1. One day the veil will be lifted and we will see the Lord face-to-face. Paul, in I Corinthians 13:12 said, "**For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.**"

Also, in II Corinthians 3:18 Paul said, "**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**"

Then why does Paul say this in II Corinthians 3:16, "**Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.**" I believe Paul is speaking of the veil that blinds people from salvation that the Devil uses to keep people from the truth of God, the love of God for sinful man.

But once that veil has been removed by Christ we can see Him through the Word of God. Yes, we can't see Him clearly as face-to-face, but as we study, meditate, apply God's Word to our lives the Holy Spirit is transforming us into the image of God step-by-step. It is a life-long process as John tells us, **“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”** I John 3:2. So I do believe that all will see Jesus and some will enter into judgment and some into the Kingdom Age when they see Him at the end of the Tribulation Period.

2. Notice what will take place in the Kingdom Age.

- **“He will swallow up death forever.”** Think about that and then think about what Freud said, “And finally there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be.” Freud was wrong, the remedy is Christ! Paul said in I Corinthians 15:54, **“... ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’”**

This will be true for every believer when death is defeated by resurrection. A resurrected body is not a resuscitated corpse. It is a new order of life that will never die again. And there is coming a day when there will be no more death!

- **“The Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces.”** What a precious promise, that God will wipe away every tear from our eye. We see this come to pass in Revelation 21:4, **“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”** It isn't just that He takes away the things that made us sad, or even that He gives us a handkerchief to dry our eyes and blow our nose. Instead, He gently and lovingly will wipe away tears from all our faces. That day is coming and I can't wait for it.
- **“The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth. . . .”** Does the Lord rebuke us today? Sure He does to draw us back to Him when we have gone astray! But there will come a day when we are no longer troubled by sin, no longer in a place to rebel. In that glorious day, the rebuke of His people He will take away.

VERSE 9

1. What we will proclaim then is what we proclaim now, “**. . . ‘Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.’**” The God we worship and praise is the same God who is coming back to establish His Kingdom on this earth!

VERSES 10-12

1. Why does this speak of Moab being trampled down here if it is speaking of the nations of the world who have come against God and are being judged? Moab represents all those who have rejected the Lord, they will be judged. We don't have to fear, we don't have to worry, for what God has said He is more than able to do and He will do! He will bring the prideful down and lift the humble up, entering into the Kingdom Age with Him. Imagine what that day will be like!

2. As we move into Isaiah chapter 26 we are coming to the second of the trilogy of songs that speak of the Coming Kingdom.

ISAIAH 26**VERSES 1-2**

1. During the Kingdom Age you won't have to worry about locking up your homes, closing the gates of the city to protect you and your family from the wicked. Righteousness will fill the land. In this country alone we spend billions, not millions, of dollars on the defense budget. Look at the money that is spent on security systems for your home, your car, your personal information. Why do we need to do that? Because man's heart is wicked and they try to take that which is not theirs and that is why we try to protect ourselves. Just think, one day we won't need to spend one penny for that! The city of God is in stark contrast to the city of man.

VERSES 3-4

1. Notice one of the benefits when we have our minds focused upon the Lord. You will have peace! Now that is not entirely correct. Isaiah tells us that we can enjoy "**perfect peace.**" In Hebrew, the term "**perfect peace**" is actually shalom shalom. This shows how in Hebrew, repetition communicates intensity. It isn't just shalom; it is shalom shalom, perfect peace!

But also understand this; you can never experience the peace *of* God until you first make peace *with* God through Jesus Christ. If we can focus upon the Lord, trust in Him, then we can boldly proclaim what Paul said in Romans 8:28, "**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**" In other words, as we trust in the Lord, as we rest in Him, as we are focused upon Him we can enjoy the shalom shalom of God or that "**perfect peace.**"

2. Isaiah tells us that to enjoy that kind of peace our mind must be “**stayed**” on the Lord! The Hebrew word is CAMAK, (saw-mak’) and it carries with it the idea of “propping up or to lean upon or take hold of . . . bear up, establish, uphold, lay, lean, lie hard, put, rest self, set self, stand fast, stay (self), sustain.”

So, what sustains your mind? What do you lay your mind upon? What upholds your mind? What does your mind stand fast upon? What is your mind established upon? What does your mind lean upon? To have this perfect peace your mind cannot occasionally come to the Lord; it has to be stayed on Him. And now you know why Satan loves to get our minds on *anything* except the **LORD!**

It is as Solomon said in Proverbs 3:5-6, “**Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.**” The word “**lean**” carries with it the same idea of propping up or leaning upon the Lord, resting in Him!

3. Now the name “**YAH**” is a contraction of the word **YAHWEH**. What I find interesting here in verse 4 and it is connected to God is this word “**everlasting.**” This word can be translated “**Rock of Ages.**” Why would that be placed here? Keep in mind that we have just seen that God is going to shake this earth and everything that can be shaken will be shaken. What can’t be shaken? Those that are standing upon the solid Rock, Jesus Christ!

VERSES 5-6

1. God will deal with the proud, the haughty, He will bring them down. Think about what we see today. The city of man, the world system, is all about power and prestige, built on the backs of the weak and the poor. But when God brings the city of man down to the dust, He will turn all that around, and the feet of the poor shall tread it down.

VERSES 7-9

1. Sometimes it seems so dark, so evil, but don't lose hope. One day the darkness of night will be dispersed by the brightness of His coming. And I think many times we are just waiting with no hope for the destruction of the wicked. But we need to get refocused; our minds need to be stayed on the Lord because our hope and our joy is found only in Him. We are waiting for His return and we rejoice because what God has promised He is more than able to bring to pass.

VERSES 10-11

1. We are living in the age of grace where God has given us an opportunity to receive His free gift of life in Christ. But not all will accept it and one day God's judgment will come and they will not escape.

Why do they do that? It is because of their hardness of heart that they refuse to see God's righteous arm of judgment. And for many, they will recognize it when it is too late and their hearts are too hard.

VERSES 12-18

1. As you read Isaiah 26:12 it seems like he was reading Ephesians 2:8-10 as God not only works in us but through us. It is all about what He has done. Then what is our responsibility in the area of salvation? Listen carefully; all we must do is **RECEIVE IT!** We can't earn it, we can't work our way into it, we can't be good enough to deserve it. All we can do is receive this free gift of grace into our lives by faith! God has done the rest!

2. When you look at verse 13 the word "**dominion**" is the Hebrew word BA'AL, (baw-al') the name of the Canaanite god! I think the idea here is that Israel and Judah were worshiping false gods instead of the true and living God, they were their masters but now they have turned back to the Lord!

3. Is it that bad to worship these gods? Yes, in fact it is foolish to worship these false gods because they are dead, they are not living, they have no power.

4. And in Isaiah 26:15-18 Isaiah is just speaking of all the difficult times they have been through and how they expected them to bring in the Kingdom Age. And yet it brought forth nothing just like a women in labor and bringing forth nothing, it is like the wind, empty.

Let me say this, man's attempt to bring in the Kingdom Age will not succeed, all that it will accomplish is emptiness, like the wind. And yet, many in the church today believe they can and need to establish God's Kingdom here on earth and then He will return. And yet the Scriptures speak of the opposite. It is Christ who will return and set up His Kingdom here on this earth and not us. For those that believe in this theology, also known as Kingdom Now or Dominion Theology and even in some of the Reformed Theology, it is wrong. And as much as they believe it and teach it, all their efforts will produce nothing but air, emptiness!

VERSE 19

1. We may read this and not think much about it. The reason being is because we have a better understanding of resurrection life than they did in the Old Testament. We see what Jesus has done and what the Scriptures tell us and they didn't see that. The Old Testament had a shadowy understanding of the life to come but for us, the secrets of the life to come have now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. (II Timothy 1:10).

In the oldest book in the Bible, Job, we also see this idea of resurrection life. In Job 19:25-26 we are told, "**For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God.**" Job believed in the resurrection of these bodies.

Paul makes this very point in I Corinthians 15:20-22, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”** You see, just as Christ was raised from the dead in bodily form, so too will we be raised from the dead in bodily form, we will get resurrection bodies! That is what Job is speaking of and what Isaiah is speaking of ***RESURRECTION LIFE!***

VERSES 20-21

1. Some read this and see a picture of the Rapture. I don't necessarily see that and I will tell you why. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15:51-56, **“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.”**

Notice, the Rapture was a mystery or something that was hidden that has now been revealed. The Old Testament saints did not see the Church, the Rapture; they were mysteries that were revealed to us in the New Testament by God. Now I am not saying that there are no references to the Rapture or even Gentiles being saved in the Old Testament, but as you look at the context here, I don't think it is speaking of the Gentiles and the Jews, but **“my people”** or the Jews alone.

2. First of all what does God tell the Jewish people to do? He tells them to hide themselves, close the door. That means that they are going to flee. In the Rapture it happens in the twinkling of an eye, it is instantaneous and we don't do it, the Lord does.

Secondly, why does God tell the Jewish people to do this? Because there is coming a time of **"indignation"** and the word carries with it the idea of anger, fury, especially with God's displeasure with sin.

Thirdly, who is going to be punished for this? We are told that it is **"To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity."**

Thus, what we see here is God warning the Jews to flee for their lives because God is going to pour out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world, the earth dwellers and this judgment will be complete! Does that sound familiar? It should, we have been dealing with this period of time known as the Tribulation Period.

Remember what Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 24:15-22. **"Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place' (whoever reads, let him understand), 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."**

In the middle of the 7 year Tribulation Period as the Antichrist enters the re-built Temple and demands to be worshiped as God, the Jews flee for their lives realizing that he is not God. And for 3½ years God will protect them in the rock city of Petra and once the indignation is over, once they call upon the Lord Jesus as their Savior, the Lord will come back and establish His Kingdom on this earth. I believe that is what Isaiah is speaking of and it fits in with what the Scriptures tell us.

Not that there is no Rapture, there is, but that is not what is being spoken of here. God is dealing with the Jewish people once again in the Tribulation or what is also known as the seventieth week of Daniel. That last 7 year period of time and as you look at Daniel chapter 9 you will see that God is saying that the nation of Israel will get saved, their sins will be forgiven and that is only done through Christ. That means that they have come to that saving faith in Jesus during this period of time and now the Kingdom Age will be established. We will see that in our next study as Israel blossoms in the Kingdom Age!