

A Trek Through Isaiah 27 - Is 24:1-20

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Prayer

Introduction

For today

- The city of chaos 24:1-20

The World City and the City of God 24 – 27

The third series of oracles about “Where is true security?”

	One-world Government	Davidic Monarchy	Collective Security and Self-sufficiency	The People of God	Triumphant End
3	24:1-20 The city of chaos	24:1-23 The King of glory	25:1-12 Salvation for all	26:1-21 The strong city	27:1-13 Universal Israel

Here are resolved the themes introduced in the first two sets of oracles in 13 – 23:

No specific nation or city references. In view is all peoples and nations grouped into one world.

Often referred to as “The Apocalypse of Isaiah”. Eschatological but not apocalyptic. End times but little symbolism.

The City of Chaos and the Believing Remnant 24:1-20

The Earth Devastated 24:1-3

1 Behold, the Lord will empty the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.

2 And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest;
as with the slave, so with his master;
as with the maid, so with her mistress;
as with the buyer, so with the seller;
as with the lender, so with the borrower;
as with the creditor, so with the debtor.

3 The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered; for the Lord has spoken this word.

- V1 Devastation of the earth
 - Behold. Great importance.
 - the Lord. The principal Actor.
 - Empty the earth. People gone.
 - Twist. Render unrecognizable
 - Scatter. As at Babel Ge 11:9b
- V2 Collapse of society
 - As with the...so with the...
 - One is the same as the other
 - Definite article
 - types of people.
 - People...priest.
 - Religious collapse
 - slave, ...master...maid, ...mistress;
 - Organizational collapse
 - as with the buyer, so with the seller;
as with the lender, so with the borrower;
as with the creditor, so with the debtor.
 - Commercial collapse.
- v3 Devastated earth
 - inclusio w v1. V1: the actor. v3 : the recipient.
 - passive: certainty

The World Withered 24:4-5

4 The earth mourns and withers;
the world languishes and withers;
the highest people of the earth languish.

5 The earth lies defiled
under its inhabitants;
for they have transgressed the laws,
violated the statutes,
broken the everlasting covenant.

- V4 the earth under the curse.
 - The land personified.
 - mourns. As a funeral.
 - withers. As plants.
 - Languishes. Weakens.
- V4 people under the curse
 - Highest. The best of humankind..
- V5 defiled.
 - Profane. Under a curse.
- cause of the curse
 - transgressed the laws. Crossed the boundaries set by God..
 - violated the statutes. Replaced God's moral absolutes with human morality.
- broken the everlasting covenant.
 - Various views on which specific covenant this refers to.
 - As Paul in Ro 1:21-22 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, ... and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images

The World Cursed 24:6

6 Therefore a curse devours the earth,
and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt;
therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched,
and few men are left.

- Therefore. Result.
- curse. Covenant sanction.
 - As Lv 26:14-45 But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, 15 if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, 16 then I will do this to you...
 - Also Dt 28:15ffq
- suffer for their guilt.
 - Justly deserved consequences.
- few men are left.
 - Remnant of the world.

The World City Destroyed 24:7-12

7 The wine mourns, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh.

8 The mirth of the tambourines is stilled, the noise of the jubilant has ceased, the mirth of the lyre is stilled.

9 No more do they drink wine with singing; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.

10 The wasted city is broken down; every house is shut up so that none can enter.

11 There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine; all joy has grown dark; the gladness of the earth is banished.

12 Desolation is left in the city; the gates are battered into ruins.

- Structure: 15 lines like hammer blows.
- V7-9 The end of self-gratification
 - The wine mourns, the vine languishes,
 - What they depended on for satisfaction is gone.
 - From the land which once flowed with milk and honey.
 - V7 all the merry-hearted sigh
 - The revelers are no longer merry.
 - V7-8 stilled
 - Godless celebration ceased.
 - V9 strong drink is bitter
 - Strong drink no longer brings pleasure.
- V10 The end of self-organization
 - The wasted city is broken down.
 - City. The world-city of proud, self-sufficient man. The spirit of Babel.
 - Wasted. Heb tohu. Gen 1:2 “without form”. The order brought by creation is completely reversed. The ultimate end of Babel. Motyer: “anything goes and nothing matters”.
 - broken down. Defeated and destroyed.
 - every house is shut up so that none can enter.
 - Doors intentionally shut, perhaps out of fear.
 - No socializing.
- V11 The end of self-preservation
 - lack of wine.
 - Daily nourishment. As bread and wine.
 - Even the basic necessities of life are no more.
 - Outcry
 - Cry of desperation. Contrast v7 sighing.
 - all joy has grown dark; the gladness of the earth is banished
 - No present gladness.
 - No hope.
- V12 City left desolate
 - In the city. All inside.
 - gates are battered into ruins. Defenses gone. Government destroyed.

The Believing Remnant 24:13-16

13 For thus it shall be in the midst of the earth
among the nations,
as when an olive tree is beaten,
as at the gleaning when the grape harvest is done.

14 They lift up their voices, they sing for joy;
over the majesty of the Lord they shout from the west.

15 Therefore in the east give glory to the Lord;
in the coastlands of the sea, give glory to the name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

16 From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise,
of glory to the Righteous One.

- V13 Transition to the remnant
 - beaten...gleaning.
 - Picture of harvesting olives and grapes.
 - Violent harvesting which takes almost all the fruit followed by careful preservation of the gleanings.
- V14-16 Rejoicing of the remnant
 - They. The faithful remnant preserved.
 - lift up their voices, they sing for joy...they shout from the west.
 - Loud praising.
 - from the west...in the east...From the ends of the earth
 - Over all the world.
 - What they praise
 - the majesty of the Lord. His revealed glory.
 - the name of the Lord. His revealed character and works.
 - the God of Israel. Not their gods.
 - The Righteous One. In contrast to mankind's wickedness and His people's faithlessness.

Warning 24:16-18b

16 From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise,
of glory to the Righteous One.

But I say, "I waste away,
I waste away. Woe is me!

For the traitors have betrayed,
with betrayal the traitors have betrayed."

17 Terror and the pit and the snare
are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth!

18 He who flees at the sound of the terror
shall fall into the pit,
and he who climbs out of the pit
shall be caught in the snare.

- V16 Introduction and the prophet's pain
 - From the ends of the earth we hear songs of praise.
 - Referring to v15.
 - I waste away. Woe is me!
 - 2x for emphasis.
 - Isaiah mourns the judgment to come.
 - He is affected personally.
 - For the traitors have betrayed,
with betrayal the traitors have betrayed.
 - The reason for the woe.
 - Repetition for emphasis.
 - May be "plunderers" referring to the conquerors.
 - May be "traitors" referring to false leaders.
 - May be "treacherous" referring to the people who continued in sin.
- V17-18 Judgment with no escape
 - Imagery from hunting.
 - O inhabitant of the earth. Judgment coming to individuals.
 - V18 No escape.

The Earth Broken 24:18c-20

18 ...For the windows of heaven are opened,
and the foundations of the earth tremble.

19 The earth is utterly broken,
the earth is split apart,
the earth is violently shaken.

20 The earth staggers like a drunken man;
it sways like a hut;

its transgression lies heavy upon it,
and it falls, and will not rise again.

- Explanation of the figure just used.
- Inclusio with v1-3.
 - V1-3 the Agent
 - V18-20 the cause
- V18-19 Universal destruction
 - For the windows of heaven are opened,
and the foundations of the earth tremble
 - Re the flood in Gen 7:11 ...on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.
 - Universal but not a water flood.
 - Three statements of the earth destroyed. Pictured by Heb structure.
 - Broken - there is broken down earth
 - Cracked through - there is cracked through earth
 - Shaken - there is shaken earth
- V20 The end
 - Two similes
 - staggers like a drunken man: loss of internal coordination
 - sways like a hut: temporary garden shelter being blown over in a storm.
 - its transgression lies heavy upon it,
 - Cause of the destruction
 - it falls, and will not rise again
 - The final end to Babel.

(10:00)

Discussion

We will break into two groups to discuss today's passage. Here are the topics:

1. **24:5 The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed**
 - a. **2 Cor 7:10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death**
2. **24:7-10 The wasted city**
 - a. **...all the merry-hearted sigh**
 - b. **...strong drink is bitter**
 - c. **...every house is shut up**

Join the group with the topic that seems most significant. Must be at least three people in each group. Select one person to scribe. Each group will report to the class what they found.

In your group, discuss

- **See:** Something about God that you see in the passage
- **Know:** The effect that this view of God has upon you.
- **Respond:** A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.

For next week:

- The King of glory 24:21-23
- Salvation for all 25:1-12

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