

**Sunday, July 26, 2020**

**God is My Salvation – Isaiah**

**90. Chariots of Fire – Isaiah 66:1-24**

Intro: In light of the coming judgment, make your calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10). Do you tremble at the Word of God desiring to be obedient to it and to Him? Then come join us on this journey to the New Jerusalem and bring others with you! Here at the end of the vision of Isaiah we see vengeance, salvation, wrath, justice, comfort, peace, and an unmistakable call to world-wide missions.

- I. Choosing to Go Your Own Way – vs. 1-4
  - A. God Living Among His People (vs. 1)
    1. Where is My house?
    2. Will God really live here? – 1 Kings 8:27
      - a. The heavens cannot contain Him, how much less this Temple?
      - b. The whole earth is the Lord’s footstool
  - B. Contrite, Humble, and Trembling (vs. 2)
    1. Humans build large edifices for God, but He can’t see them
    2. He is looking at the people, not the place
    3. God dominates all of creation, everything in it is His workmanship – He owns it all
    4. His eye is on the contrite and humble who tremble at His Word – Psa. 34:18; 51:17; Isa. 57:15; Psa. 2:11; 96:9; 99:1; 119:119-120
      - a. Humble – taking the lowest place
      - b. Contrite – “lame in spirit” – natural inability in spiritual matters – Matt. 5:3; 1 Cor. 2:14
      - c. Trembling – fear, and a desire to obey – Phil. 2:12
  - C. Choosing Abomination (vs. 3-4)
    1. Lawful sacrifice vs. unlawful act – obeying God’s Word vs. disobeying
      - a. Worship without contrition, humility, and fear is a meaningless ritual
      - b. You can be religiously meticulous and at best achieve nothing, at worst apostatize
      - c. God’s Word is the key to everything – obedience rather than sacrifice – 1 Sam. 15:22
    2. They have chosen abominations – all that the Lord detests
      - a. They have chosen their ways (outward), and their soul’s delight (inward)
    3. The Lord has chosen their delusions and what they fear will come upon them
- II. Sudden Destruction; Sudden Glory – vs. 5-14 (2 groups)\_\*
  - A. Some Seek the Lord; Some Seek Idols (vs. 5)
    1. Exclusion based on spiritual pride – earning God’s favor
    2. For the others, expectant joy, but the haters throw this in their faces – 2 Peter 3:3-7
    3. The hope of eschatological reversal
  - B. Hear the Sound! (vs. 6)
    1. An uproar - the city and the Temple gone – the Lord repaying rebellious Israel
    2. If you do not tremble before His Word, you will tremble before His wrath
  - C. What is Impossible with Man is Possible with God (vs. 7-9) – Luke 18:27
    1. Painless birth, motherhood without labor – Gen. 3:16 – Eden restored
    2. This is unheard of – and act of God\_\*\*
    3. Instantaneous springing to life of a whole new society by supernatural birth – John 3:3-8; James 1:17
    4. The Lord finishes what He starts – Phil. 1:6 – the faithfulness and sovereignty of God
  - D. Linking the Future with the Present (vs. 10-11)
    1. Now – identify with Jerusalem - as members of Zion here and now be fully involved and committed to the whole life of the earthly church – Heb. 12:22
    2. Zion is looking for future blessings

- a. Live now in the benefit of divine mercy
  - b. Enjoy the richness of divine fellowship
  - c. Fashion our lives in obedience to the divine Word
  - d. Mourn over the sins of the visible church, as fellow-sinners longing for the blessing and perfection yet to come
3. This, the Church, is our mother and we will experience the glory of the Lord in those who He has supernaturally birthed by her

E. Peace (vs. 12-13)

- 1. All that was lost by disobedience will be restored – Isa. 53:5; 55:12; 57:19
- 2. The wealth of nations – every need supplied; every nation represented
- 3. Three-fold comfort
  - a. In its quality – maternal
  - b. In its source – the Lord
  - c. In its location – The New Jerusalem, Zion – God’s people in the new creation

F. When You See This, You Will Rejoice (vs. 14)

- 1. Body and soul – in your whole being
- 2. His servants see His strength to save
- 3. His enemies bear His fury

III. Meaningless Religion and Apostacy – vs. 15-17

A. The Lord, Coming in Judgment (vs. 15-16)

- 1. For – because of what we have heard so far
- 2. Holiness and Power
  - a. The Lord will come with fire – unapproachable, deadly holiness
  - b. Chariots – destructive power, symbolic of the irresistible power of the holy God acting in judgment
  - c. The whirlwind – leaves nothing behind
- 3. Justice – sword, execution, judgment – Gen. 3:24 – the whole history of fallen mankind is bracketed by the sword of holy justice
- 4. Whether God saves His people or judges His enemies, He acts in pure justice

B. The Compromiser and Apostate (vs. 17) – does not tremble at His Word, will be consumed in the whirlwind of holy fire and fury

IV. God’s People Gathered – vs. 18-24 – spanning the first and second coming of Christ

A. God’s Purpose for the World (vs. 18-21)

- 1. The Day of Vengeance has come, now to gather His people to see His glory – Matt. 3:11-13, 13:30
- 2. The means for carrying out His purpose
  - a. A Sign among them, around which they will gather around the world – the Cross
  - b. Those who escape the judgment to come, sent to the nations
  - c. Gathering all His people, with Gentiles included, to Jerusalem – Gal. 4:25-26; Heb. 12:22\_\*\*\*
  - d. All Your Brothers – John 11:52
  - e. First fruits – brought in vessels – Deut. 26:2 – the converts of the nations come as the first fruits of the harvest of the world, holy and belonging to the Lord
  - f. Priests and Levites – 1 Peter 2:9

B. The New Heavens and Earth (vs. 22-24)

- 1. The promise of perpetuity – it has not happened yet but is sure and certain, and once here will be forever
- 2. Descendants – the family of Abraham saved by the Servant – Gen. 22:16-18; Isa. 53:10
- 3. Feasts – New Moon and Sabbath - the living worship Him – Isa. 1:13
  - a. Not fasts, the time of mourning is past
  - b. Celebration of the beginning of the month, giving God the first place

- c. Remembering Him week to week, enjoying the new creation
- 4. Fury – the dead suffer torments forever
  - a. Pictured as a cemetery beside the city
  - b. As the redeemed go to worship they deliberately make themselves go out and look, facing vividly and horribly the fate from which they have been spared by grace
  - c. They face the consequences of the last battle against God – ceaseless corruption and unending holy wrath – “they rebelled against Me”
- C. The Danger of Doubting Judgment
  - 1. “Did God really say...you will not surely die!” – Gen. 3:1, 4
  - 2. Judgment for the wicked is certain and ceaseless – Matt. 18:8-9; Mark 9:43-48
  - 3. We warn the wicked to flee the wrath to come
  - 4. And so we tremble at the Word of God

\_\* One group hates the other, opposes its membership, and scorns its expectations. This group will be destroyed, city and temple, as the Lord’s enemies. The other group – Word Tremblers – are going to experience the supernatural action that will initiate them into the New Zion and all the comforts they will enjoy there. They are called the Lord’s servants.

\_\*\* Did you ever hear of such a thing? Well how about it being not a child, but a nation, born instantly, supernaturally? When the Lord brings glory on His people it will be as sudden as the destruction of the wicked.

\_\*\*\* “A vision of staggering proportions – In relation to the Lord’s new creation purposes for Zion (His people), it would fall upon those who were already its citizens to gather in from the whole world those who would be co-equal with them in citizenship and privilege in the day when Jerusalem would be the pilgrimage center for all creation and when every opposing faction or person would be a thing of the past.”  
– Motyer, pg. 540

## **CROSS REFERENCES**

### **2 Peter 1:10**

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

### **1 Kings 8:27**

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

### **Psalm 34:18**

The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

### **Psalm 51:17**

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

### **Isaiah 57:15**

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

### **Psalm 2:11**

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

### **Psalm 96:9**

Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.

### **Psalm 99:1**

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; let the earth be moved!

### **Psalm 119:119-120**

You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross; therefore I love Your testimonies. My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your judgments.

### **Matthew 5:3**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

## **1 Corinthians 2:14**

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

## **Philippians 2:12**

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

## **1 Samuel 15:22**

So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

## **2 Peter 3:3-7**

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

## **Luke 18:27**

But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

## **John 3:3-8**

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

## **James 1:17**

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

## **Philippians 1:6**

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

**Hebrews 12:22**

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

**Isaiah 53:5**

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

**Isaiah 55:12**

“For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

**Isaiah 57:19**

“I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near,” says the Lord, “And I will heal him.”

**Genesis 3:24**

So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Matthew 3:11-13**

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

**Matthew 13:30**

Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ’

**Galatians 4:25-26**

for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

**Hebrews 12:22**

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

**John 11:52**

and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

## **Deuteronomy 26:2**

that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide.

## **1 Peter 2:9**

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

## **Genesis 22:16-18**

“By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

## **Isaiah 53:10**

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

## **Isaiah 1:13**

Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

## **Genesis 3:1, 4**

“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

## **Matthew 18:8-9**

8 “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.

## **Mark 9:43-48**

43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 44 where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— 46 where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ 47 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— 48 where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’