

“THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING!”**Scripture: Isaiah 13:1-12****Bible Teacher: Rev. Alice D. Tamrie****I. HISTORICAL AND BIBLICAL BACKGROUND****A. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Prophet Isaiah continues in his prophecies from Chapters 1-12 ending in a Hymn of Praise declaring that the Word of God’s remnant is still on the tongue of the righteous despite the nation of Israel being dispersed. God’s grace would lead to the regathering at Christ’s Second Coming. This psalm of redemption is based on Yah, the Lord and that He is our strength and song. God is our praise, and we are to call upon Him giving public acknowledgment declaring this in a very vocal and clear cry. How excellent is His name crying it out aloud with joy, we can still call on His name. He has done excellent things constantly reminding ourselves and God.

The Prophet Isaiah prophetically admonishes the people of God to bear up under the burden of what is to be experienced when the day of the Lord comes. It is as though Isaiah was heavily laden with a message from God that he must deliver this hope because of its sheer weight addressing it as a burden. Babylon was the crown jewel of the Assyrian empire. Yet the Lord’s overthrow of Babylon symbolizes God’s triumph over the world. The term Babylon symbolically is used in the New Testament (1 Pet. 5:13, Rev. 14:8, etc.) to refer to any enemy of God’s kingdom. God’s people will be instruments in His hands for judging sinfulness and wickedness. The very nations are the tools God will use to vent His holy wrath against Babylon. The day of the LORD refers to a time of unusual activity of God in the lives of people, for judgment or for mercy. This is not a day that is approaching a fixed date, but that the day of the Lord is about to burst into one’s world at any time. The Lord is jerking the covers off to let us see what sin and wickedness has become. Isaiah is compelled to bring a proclamation of God’s message of Hope. It is mixed with a message of doom! It is a banner, like a flag on an open field denouncing all the wickedness and sin that is yet to come. So, he wants all to get ready. God is speaking prophetically with an urgency to get our attention!

B. BIBLICAL CONTEXT

The Major and Minor prophets’ personalities are central in context as they are sharing what is going to happen when God’s judgment is eminent in His return. All the prophets were sensitive but courageous about the soon coming persecution and affliction of judgment to a wayward people. The prophets had a tough assignment to tell the people of God to turn, to repent, as they themselves

never wavered from the prophetic ministry to God had called them (Jeremiah stayed 40 years of ministry and never wavered!). Several of them were forced to seek safety in those chaotic times, of those dark times when the people were held captive by pagan leaders. The prophets were trying to change man's heart using many metaphors and symbolic images to get the believers and for that matter, unbelievers to submit to the divine will of God. Many of the prophets such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Zephaniah, Nahum were all acutely aware of the human condition as commanded by God-by sending His Son Jesus to die in our place and set us free from the bondage of sin – all were mighty men of God trying to assert the might and power of God. The understanding was such that every person must make their own decision to follow the Lord. No person can depend on the faith of any ancestors to gain entrance into God's kingdom. We are accountable and responsible as individuals to line it up! Each prophet in essence was giving theological contributions about the sure judgment of God against those who oppose His will and abuse His people. Acts of inhumanity are acts against God and He will serve as the ultimate and final judge, not the people who are in power even in these evil and last days. God sometimes uses nations as instruments of His judgment, and the same standards of righteousness and holiness are for the pagans as well.

Prophecy can be quite strange, gloomy, and pessimistic. How can God's wrath/anger and judgment be reconciled with the God of grace and love whom we meet in the New Testament with Jesus the Christ? Judgment against sin is a part of the work which He must do to remain a just and holy God. Isaiah's compelling prophecy is intermingled with God's judgment and a call for holy living and faithful proclamation to God's covenant people as he was anointed and compelled to do this. Our work as believers is to carry the message of His salvation to those who are surely doomed unless they turn to God in repentance and faith. This is the message of the Cross (Jer. 45-51; Ezek. 25-32; Amos 1-2; Zeph. 2, Nah.1:1-3, 19; Matt. 24:29-44; Mk. 13:24-31; Lk. 21:25-33).

II. THE LESSON: "The Day of the LORD is Coming! "Isaiah 13:1-12

GROUP INTERACTION/DISCUSSION: What does all of this have to do with the day of the Lord?

This is a special day at the end of time when God's will and purpose for mankind and His world will be fulfilled. A period when Christ will reign throughout the world as He prepares heaven and earth in preparation for the eternal state of all mankind. An instantaneous event when Christ will return to earth to claim His faithful believers while consigning unbelievers to eternal damnation; a time of great darkness for any in rebellion against God, whether Jew or Gentile. It's a time of judgment (Isa. 13:6; 9; Jer. 46:10), as well as restoration (Is. 14:1; Joel 2:28-32). It's decision time! Line it up! God is delaying His return so we can get our lifestyles right!

1. **vv. 1-5.**

God is trying to get our attention and there is an urgency about it as it is a compelling message to teach, preach and live! Immediately we see that the Word of God is described as a **'burden'** in Chapters 13-66, all of this were during the reign of King Hezekiah. Chapters 13-39 are toward the captives and chapters 40-66 is to the restoration from captivity and to eternal restoration under the Messiah. So, chapters 13-23 deal with judgments upon various nations including Judah and Israel and twelve other nations. There are fulfilled and unfulfilled predictions. Notice, God personalizes this with and emphasizes what God- "I"- will stir up things against the armies of Antichrist. We must recognize that we are up against the formidable enemy and is vividly described being brought into **'judgment'**. Let's look at what **judgment** is – it is a discernment or separation between good and evil. **God judges** among people and their actions according to the standards of His law. It is exposing what one is really doing. It can refer to the process/discernment or to the punishment meted out to those who fall under His wrath and condemnation (John 5:24). Satan has a short time, and he is running for his time is about to be up for sure!

In the Bible, the most **important judgment is the final judgment**, the ultimate separation of good and evil at the end of history. The precise time of this judgment is appointed by God (Acts 17:31), but it remains unknown to man (Matt. 24:36). **God Himself is the Judge** of mankind and He has the power and wisdom to judge with righteousness, truth, and justice and is given specifically to his Son Jesus. His work is as mediator, deliver His people from sin, and destroy all God's enemies. Those who trust in the Lord, repent of sin, and walk in His ways will not be condemned but will enter eternal life. The purpose is to give God the glory. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the foundations on which sinners are saved through their trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

What God's role as judge is reflected in the leadership functions of political officials, who uphold order in society and execute judgment on evildoers (Rom. 13:1-7-"no authority except that which God has established..."). This goes to the leaders of the church today- (how can you lead others, when you are doing the opposite yourself?) (Matt. 18:17-18). Believers also have a responsibility to judge matters of wrongdoing among themselves, but this should always be done fairly and with compassion and gently. Believers are never to take over the task of judgment that belongs to God alone (Heb. 10:30).

So, Justice is the **practice** of what is right and just, not only what is right by a code of law, but also by what makes for right relationships as well as harmony and peace. **"Doing justice" and "getting justice" is to maintain what is right or to set things right.** Justice is right when it is done with honorable relations between husbands and wives, parents and children, employers and employees, government and citizens, man and God. It is in spirit and action! This is best shown in Jesus Christ, the prophets were champions of social justice. This is **perverted** by bribery

and favoritism, or partiality. God's rewards come to those who **practice justice** in all their dealings with others. Prophet Amos 5:24, "Let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream".

Thusly, the JUSTICE OF GOD: God's fair and impartial treatment of all people. God is interested in fairness as well as in what makes for right relationships. His demands are on individuals and nations to look after victims of oppression are just demands (Psalm 82). God's just action is our reason for hope. **The order of events is grace, through faith, resulting in the works (Eph. 2:8-10.** The result of justification is what we are **saved "from" wrath.** Therefore, we are **saved "to look forward" to the redemption and eternal life "with" Christ.**

Therefore, God's wrath – is the personal manifestation of God's holy, moral character in judgment against sin. **Wrath,** It is not fitful anger like anger as we know it. It is in no way vindictive or malicious. It is holy indignation-God's anger directed against sin. It is an expression of His holy love. All of God's people are by "nature children of wrath (Eph. 2:3) and **the wrath** of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of mankind, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18). God's love is manifested in God's only Son, - Jesus Christ experienced **wrath** on our behalf. His **wrath** is what will fall on the ungodly at His Second Coming (1 Thess. 1:10(Jesus rescues); 5:9 (God did not appoint us to suffer **wrath** but to receive salvation through Jesus Christ, 2 Thess. 1:7-10). So, then we are to be self-controlled, putting faith and love and hope in our head and hearts. In the meantime, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live in unity, together with Jesus. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing!

2. **vv. 6-12.**

The plan of salvation that God has for his godly and righteous people as believers is purposeful, specific and direct. He laid this out in the Old Testament in the Books of Law, Books of History, Poetry, Major and Minor Prophets as to how he wanted us as his godly people to live giving commandments, precepts, laws, ways, and sending Jesus as the modeling example. We are to be imitators of Him on how to carry this out and eventually teaching in the New Testament how to live this life with the help of the Father God, the Son and the Holy Spirit. No wonder there are only a few remnants left!

Over time the world, through sin, wickedness and unrighteousness have turned away from living sanctified lives that his **wrath** is now about to begin. God, now through His prophet says, get your banner ready, raise the flag and call out to everyone, I will demonstrate and carry out my holy anger on all. Get everybody's attention. Things are going to happen and manifest itself so that you will know that it is God. The Lord Almighty is calling battle formation to cry, wait for the day of the Lord is at hand!

Wrath therein is described: as destruction(vs.6) everyone will be afraid, (vs. 7)hearts melting (vs.8)all will lose courage, and be afraid on that day, (vs. 9)pains and sorrows will fall-- like a woman giving birth, everyone is paralyzed in pain, their faces will be amazed, ashamed and confused, (vs. 10) the anger of God will make the land desolate, and sinners will be destroyed; it's a terrible day. These images describe the depths of people's fear – images of stress in the poetic symbolic language. Sure, it is cruel, a terrible day. We see further (vs. 10-12) how the sun, moon, stars, and constellations will be shaken. Arrogancy of the proud shall case, haughtiness will be brought low. The heavens will shake, and the earth shall be moved. The Antichrist will be destroyed; and all things wicked shall be realized as prophesized.

FACT CHECK: Babylon is no longer the 7th wonder of the world. Its culture, religion and military power occur throughout the OT. It was a long narrow country (40 miles wide, 8,000 square miles.) It finally won its liberation from the Assyrians. Nebuchadnezzar the king was its ruler. Its hanging garden was known as one the seven wonders of the world. They destroyed Jerusalem and carried its captives away. They had a system of gods (moon, sun, love, war, storms air, etc.) and had influence beyond its borders. Its religion was temple-centered, all types of priests, exorcists, diviners. Its literature was full of myths which were marked by festivals, of realism and animalistic symbols. It glorified all gods, but GOD Himself. Wrath had to come. All of this led to sin, which is viewed as estrangement, alienation from God. Are you a part of this Babylon lifestyle?

III. CONCLUSION.

What are the sanctified ones doing in the meantime? No wonder God sent prophets, teachers, preachers, and sanctification of the saints sprinkling his spiritual gifts all over. No wonder Jesus, without sin, accepted the divine will of God and with the Holy Spirit indwelling in Him, became the Intercessor for us and said, "I'll go". Jesus had exceptional qualifications to be the Highest Priest and a resume! He lived, died, and was resurrected. His work was done in his earthly ministry and was completed. Now, the Second Coming of Christ is coming as he promised. Apostle Paul dealt with this in the Book of Romans! His "finished work" was the beginning of God's "good work" in His people. This work will not be completed until "the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:6) when the entire universe will be united "in Christ" (Eph. 1:10).

Here's the deal, folks, the power of Satan, Antichrist, and will be completed destroyed by God's saints and angels coming with Christ. Repent and change your lifestyle! Lineup! Get your house in order!