

SURELY GOD WILL BE EXALTED ON EARTH IN THE END

SUNDAY NOV 10,2024

SCRIPTURE: ISA 25:1-12

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Introduction: Tribulation is a term that refers to times of trouble or distress, or a specific period of intense trials. Alfreda very effectively covered the tribulations last week and Mrs. McQueen explicitly explained the tribulation periods so we won't rehash that info. What we have learned as born again believers is that trouble don't last always. Like David we know that no matter what's going on we must bless the Lord at all times and is praise should continually be in our mouth. The old saying of no use crying over spilt milk is so true because you certainly can't put it back in the bottle. The Israelites messed up after so many warnings. Isaiah encourages them to remember the good things God has done and give thanks. Like the song says " If it had not been for the Lord on my side" or "As I look back over my life"

I. JOY IN THE MIDST OF TRIBULATION

A. PRAISE GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE (VS1)

Those who have come to trust in the Lord will praise Him even in the midst of trouble. They will lift their voice and sing of His majesty by first acknowledging who He is and that they know and love Him. Worship then comes naturally. When we think about all the wonderful things the LORD has done, it is pretty easy to make the decision to worship the LORD. God wants our worship to be filled with *thought* and *remembrance* of His great works, not only an emotional response. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful works to he children of men (Ps107:21)

II. PRAISING GOD FOR HIS RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT (V 2-3)

We can worship God for His judgment because we have confidence in His fairness. God will never make a city a ruin unless the judgment is

deserved, and God has made provision for the righteous. Which city is referred to? No specific city, but in reality, every city. It can best be understood, therefore, as a pictorial description of the human society, which is to be subjected to the divine judgment. When God asserts his will in judgment he will bring to an end the existing human order, so that in a sense every city will be brought to chaos.”

III PRAISING GOD FOR HIS GOODNESS (VS 4-5)

God is worthy of our praise because He brings strength to the poor and needy.

This is a wonderful reason to praise God, and even the strangers (aliens) are blessed by His goodness. God will even quiet the song of the terrible ones.

Praising God for what He will do. (VS 6)

Don't wait till the battle is over shout now! What a time what a time what a time.

For God's people, this will be the “victory banquet” or the “awards banquet” when the final battle is over. What a feast that will be.

IV. THE DESTRUCTION OF EVIL(VS 7-8)

There is a veil that is spread over all nations that keeps them from seeing God, loving God, and obeying God. In this glorious day, the LORD will destroy that veil.

In the New Testament, Paul speaks of Israel being blinded by a veil: *But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart* (2 Corinthians 3:15). In Isaiah's day, it was more apparent that the nations were veiled. In Paul's day, it was more apparent that Israel was veiled. But for both the nations and for Israel, the remedy is the same: *Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away* (2 Corinthians 3:16).

He will swallow up death forever: The LORD will also destroy death. The day will come when death is powerless. Death was introduced by Adam's rebellion (Genesis 2:16-17) and will one day be completely eliminated by God.

This is how glorious the tender mercy of God is. 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. Instead, He gently and lovingly will wipe away tears from all faces

Now, we need God's rebuke of His people. If God did not rebuke and correct us, we could drift further and further from Him. 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. We thank God for that coming day, and we also thank God for the faithful rebuke of His people until then.

V. TESTIMONY OF GOD'S PEOPLE (VS 9)

We are those who were unafraid to confess Jesus before men on earth, and we will be blessed to hear Him confess us before our Father in heaven (Luke 12:8). It is a wonderful thing to wait on the LORD, and to see Him bring His salvation. We can praise God for these things *right now!* FOR WE ARE NOT ASHAMED

VI THE LORD RESOLVES ALL THINGS (VS 10-12)

The LORD will settle His hand of favor, power, and glory on Mount Zion. After the Great Tribulation, when Jesus Christ reigns from Jerusalem, the whole creation will know that the hand of the LORD does rest on this mountain.. "The powerful and gracious presence of God (which is oft signified in Scripture by God's hand) shall have its constant and settled abode; it shall not move from place to place, as it did with the tabernacle; nor shall it depart from it, as it did from Jerusalem." In that day, Jesus will rule the nations with all authority and righteousness (Psalms 2:8-12). God will reach out (As a swimmer reaches out to swim) and bring low every proud, rebelling heart. Those who oppose His rule He will bring to the ground, down to the dust.

**Conclusion: ALL HAIL KING JESUS ALL HAIL EMMANUEL
HE REIGNS FOREVER HE REIGNS FOREVER AND EVER
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