

The Day Will Come When God Shakes the Earth!

Isaiah 24:14-23

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I. Historical Background and Biblical Context

Chapters 24-27 are paralleled to chapters 1-4, in that both sections contain messages of sin, judgment and restoration. The theme of this section is the triumph of God over His enemies that have contaminated His earth with sin. Isaiah's vision of the destruction of "the city in chaos" in chapter 24, verse 10, is an example of the city of man or the whole world being destroyed and the establishment of another city or world (Mt Zion, Jerusalem or the City of God). We have one city that is bound for destruction and one that will be made new. As the city of man falls under divine judgment the songs that the people who had no regard for the One True God and His Laws will disappear; the city of God appears, and the songs of the redeemed will be heard. The prophet wants to make it plain that God is sovereign, and it is not he who react to the nations, but it should be them reacting to Him. Thus, for Israel and all God's people, hope is not in the city of humans and things. They will all wither away in a moment under God's wrath. Hope is in the Lord, who is the Master of all below and above.

We saw from the last lesson that even from a destroyed world the Lord can have a remnant (Is. 1-13). Human beings in sin are the supreme environmental threat. God has cursed sin (Gen.3:17-19) so when people sin, they set His curse to work, and it devours the earth. God promised to not to destroy the world by flood (Gen.9:11). In 2 Pt.3:10-12 do tell us that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

II. **The Lesson: The Day Will Come When God Shakes the Earth**

1. **vv.13-16.**

- a) God's judgment of the earth will be like a harvest in which He will strip away things and people as if He was harvesting olives from the trees or grapes from the vines (Is.1:5-6; Rev. 14:19-20). But there will be a remnant left at the end of the harvest that He will glean; a few will survive during the Apocalyptic, who will praise and rejoice in the Lord (Matt.24:13; Matt.25:21;23. They shall lift their voices and, they shall sing. Even in the midst of great judgment, God will take care of those who will praise Him (Rev.7:9-14). As Sister. McQueen indicated last Sunday, God will remove all His people, but many will come to believe and trust in Jesus during the Great tribulation before the Tribulation. In verse 15, Isaiah said there will be praise for God, going on in the east, (believe to be talking about Judah). Praise in the West should be happening. The people who were the farthest away from Mt Zion need to praise Him. Their response will be the beginning of a great pilgrimage to Zion to honor the Lord (Is.2:2-3; Micah 4:1).
- b) Glory to the righteous: They will praise God because perhaps in His judgments, He shows His Majesty and His Glory. He gave them Grace when they turned their hearts toward Him. The godly can see His goodness, his greatness and His glory even in judgment. Even in the judging of the world there is hope for those who turn their hearts to except the Lord Jesus.
- c) Isaiah was grieved because of his world condition (Is.6:5). Even though God was judging the world, most people became more treacherous as ever (Is.21:2; Rev.9:20-21). We can become depressed by evil all around us. At those times we need to hold to Gods' promises for the future and look forward to singing praises to Him when He brings the new heaven and new earth. No more sin, sickness or death will be present ever.

2. **vv.17-20.** Those who are the object of Gods' judgment, will not be able to escape, because He will use the forces of nature to judge them, below and above (Gen.7:11; Rev.8:5; Rev.11:19; Rev.16:18;21). Windows above and foundations below indicates totality and God, Himself, will be the Agent of their destruction (Ps.139:1-12; Amos 5:19).

Like a tall building that sways back and forth during an earthquake, the earth will crack and begin to sway (Rev.6:12-15). What was created in the ordered world, would again become chaos (Is.24:10; Gen.1:2). This is what man has chosen for themselves; a world without the ordering hand of God, so they will receive the faithful divine justice as a payment. Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord (Deut.32:35). Isaiah compared the earth under divine judgment to a reeling drunkard about to collapse and an old shack about to fall. What causes the destruction? It is the guilt of transgression that weighs heavily on the earth (Jer.4:28; Hos.4:2; Joel 1:10; Matt.24:30). This fall will be irrevocable. This section of Isaiah vision of God's victory over the earth (v.1-20), provides the basis for the next verses, which elaborates on features of the judgments previously described.

3. **vv.21-23.** The judgment of the Lord will touch everyone.
- a) When God brings universal judgment on the world again, He will sovereignly punish all the unfaithful authorities, both in the heavenly realm (evil angels: Dan.10:13; Eph.6:12) and in the earthly realm (Matt.8:29; Rev.12-13; Rev.19:19-21; Rev20:2-3 &10. Rulers are in view particularly. The Lord will punish the host of the exalted ones.

One of the most frustrating aspects of life is seeing the rich, powerful and wicked escape the present consequences of their sins. But in His great judgment during the Tribulation, no one will be able to buy a high-priced lawyer or bribe a politician.

- b) The kings of the earth... will be gathered... Under Gods' great and final judgment, their status on His earth will buy them nothing. No degree of earthly greatness will help them on that day and no degree of heavenly greatness will help an angelic being either.
- c) The Lord of Hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem.

At the end of the Great Tribulation, God will usher in a thousand years of His glorious reign over all. God's purpose in judgment isn't just for vengeance or vindictiveness, it is to bring back a world as He had original designed it to be. A world that honors Him as their Creator and Lord. A world that communes with Him as Adam did before the Fall.

In verse 22, it says that they will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon and be punished after many days. Before God punishes them, He will confine them in a pit (2Pet,2:4; Rev.17:8; 18:21; 19:17-18; 19:20) and are judged, it is believed at the end of the Millennium (Rev.20:1-10). Isaiah in verse 23, poetically states that even the sun or the moon will not be able to be compared to the glory of the Lord as He appears. His light will outshine all the celestial lights. This will be the Millennium. A time when the Messiah will rule from Mt Zion in Jerusalem. He also speaks of the elders in heaven giving praise and honor to the Lord Jesus in His Throne room (Rev. 4:4; 20:4)

III. **Conclusion:**

Mount Zion is not just an important historical and a spiritual landmark for Israel. From the time the Ark of the Covenant was moved into the City of David, then later moved into the Temple which Solomon built, Zion became a hub of worship that represented the presence of God. The gift of God's presence is not limited to those of Jewish descent. When we accept Christ as our Savior, we are grafted into the inheritance of Zion as our place of refuge, protection and communion with Him (Heb.12:22).

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant that transformed Mt Zion into an eternal city. On Mt Zion, we will live in His Holy presence forever.

One day every person will stand before the Great White Throne and be judged for their deeds. When Christ returns the earth, and the heavens as we know it will perish (Matt.24:35; 2 Pet.3:10) but His words will by no means pass away.

Trusting Jesus is wiser than trusting anything or anyone in this world. The current universe will be replaced by a brand new one that will not know the contamination of sin. A beautiful new day awaits us if we just cling to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.