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Isaiah 24.

(2015)

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Isaiah 24.

Topics.

- The LORD will twist and empty the earth and scatter its Inhabitants.
- The earth lies defiled its inhabitants have broken the everlasting covenant.
- A curse devours the earth its inhabitants suffer for their guilt.
- Desolation is left in the city; the gates are in ruins in the midst of nations.
- Coastlands of the sea sing for joy and give glory to the majesty of the LORD.
- We hear songs of praise to the Righteous One, but traitors have betrayed.
- The foundations of the earth tremble, the earth is violently shaken.
- The sun will be ashamed; the LORD reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: Isaiah is the exciting story of the Old Testament and the New Testament compacted into one book. It covers the wonder and splendour of Bible prophecy and echoes of the Lord Jesus Christ resound throughout Isaiah's visions and his messages. It teaches history as it affects God's people and constantly points to a future age when righteousness, justice, joy and peace will be established on earth. Isaiah prophesied about 740–700 B.C. He lived during the decline of Israel in the shadow of the powerful Assyrian Empire. He spoke the word of God to a people who were "deaf and blind" (Isaiah 6:10) who refused to listen to his warnings of looming disaster.

Isaiah warned the people of Judah's that their sin would bring God's judgment (i.e., seventy-years captivity) and declared that God is sovereign and would use Cyrus the Persian to return the people from exile. He spoke also of a servant and man of sorrows who would be wounded for our transgressions faithfully accomplishing God's purposes of salvation (Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12).

The final chapters give a beautiful description of a new creation in which Christ will rule as King, judging the wicked and establishing God's Kingdom on earth. Following are four points that will help the reader understand the book of Isaiah as they travel through it: -

1. The history of Israel and Judah. At this time in the story Assyria has taken the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria into captivity and marched up to Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) to destroy it, but failed. Later in the story Babylon attacks Jerusalem and conquers the city and takes the people of Judah into captivity. After this victory Babylon conquers Assyria which resulted in Israel and Judah being brought under the submission of Babylonian rule and the tribes being brought together during the seventy year Babylonian captivity.
2. Many of Isaiah's visions are written as though they have already taken place, but a majority of these visions are predicting future events that are about to happen during Isaiah's generation while others will come to pass in a future age. Though these visions are of future events Isaiah speaks them in the present tense, because he spoke them as they came to his mind and as he saw the events unfolding before him. They are often spoken in this manner because of the certainty of it and because God had ordained them and revealed them to his prophets who spoke them to His people so they must come to pass, because God cannot lie.(Titus 1:2).

3. Though Isaiah is primarily speaking to Judah (the two tribes at Jerusalem) much of what he says applies to Israel (the ten tribes in Samaria) because both Judah and Israel are in the same corrupt spiritual condition.
4. All the promises to Israel are now in Christ. God's promises to Israel now include the Jews and the Gentiles. This is because under the New Covenant God is building an entirely new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles of which Christ is the head. In this new nation that God is creating in the Lord Jesus Christ Jews have no advantage over Gentiles since all are one in Christ Jesus.

The apostle Paul wrote: Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (i.e., one nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Eph. 2:1-22). The practical application of what this means, is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel through Isaiah also apply to Gentiles who by faith belong to Christ.

This chapter through to chapter twenty-seven inclusive are a continuous prophecy of the overthrow of Babylon during the days of Nebuchadnezzar its king and in their widest sense the overthrow of the great world-powers which arrayed themselves against God and His people.

The LORD will Twist and Empty the Earth and Scatter its Inhabitants.

Isaiah 24:1-3 ----- ¹Behold, the LORD will empty the earth and make it desolate (waste in KJV), and he will twist its surface (turneth it upside down in KJV) and scatter its inhabitants. ²And 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. ³The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered; for the LORD has spoken this word.

Behold: comes from the Hebrew word (*idou*) it literally means to see, consider, know, perceive, understand, to have knowledge of and beware or sure of a thing. It is used in Scripture to call absolute and focused attention and indicates that what the prophet is about to say would be something unusual, remarkable, and not what would be expected in the ordinary course of events.

Earth: comes from the Hebrew word (*'erets*) it literally means to be firm and can refer to the earth at large, to land, a country or field, the ground, to nations, the wilderness and the world.

NOTE: it helps in understanding this chapter if the word earth in some verses is thought of as land, (i.e., replace the word earth with land).

Behold, the LORD will empty the earth: (v1) since the Hebrew word earth can refer to the whole earth as a planet, a particular region of land, a country, nation or to the global world there are many different thoughts amongst various commenters as to what Isaiah had in mind when he prophesied that the LORD would empty the earth; make it desolate; twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants, following are the most common thoughts as to what the expression, "the earth" refers to : -

- The captivity of the ten tribes of Israel by Shalmaneser king of Assyria.
- Rome, the Papal world and all the antichristian states
- All the nations collectively that set themselves against the LORD and His people.

- The land of Canaan when it was emptied of all the tribes of Israel and of Judah when they were carried into captivity, by the Assyrians and the Babylonians and made even more, empty and desolate by the great destruction of their cities and their capital city Jerusalem. This best fits the scope of the whole chapter especially when the following verses are taken into account: -

- Its inhabitants have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. (v5)

The inhabitants refers to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the everlasting covenant refers to the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their offspring, clearly showing the focus here is the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

- Few men are left (v6)

This refers to the survivors left at Jerusalem after Babylon had taken its inhabitants in chains captive to Babylon.

- The wine mourns, the vine languishes (v7); the mirth of the tambourines is stilled (v8)

This is the language of the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the people of Judah.

- The wasted city is broken down; every house is shut up (v10)

This refers to the city of Jerusalem after Babylon had burned the city and pillaged the temple.

- There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine (v11)

This refers to the siege of Babylon against the city of Jerusalem.

- Desolation is left in the city; the gates are battered into ruins (v12)

This refers to the gates of the city of Jerusalem and the ruin and destruction of the city after Babylon had entered its gates.

- For thus it shall be in the midst of the earth among the nations (v13)

From heavens perspective and biblically the city of Jerusalem is seen as the centre of the earth.

- As an olive tree is beaten, as at the gleaning when the grape harvest is done. (v13)

This is the language of the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the people of Judah. Based upon these Scriptures and the language used in this chapter the destruction of Jerusalem and Judah by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon best fits the context and in its widest sense all the great world-powers which arrayed themselves against God and His people. To add further support to Babylon and Judah being the focus verse five says, "The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants for they have broken the everlasting covenant," the everlasting covenant refers to the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all their offspring and not to the people of the Gentile nations.

The LORD will empty the earth and make it desolate: (v1) refers firstly to the fierce armies of Assyria invading of the land of Samaria (the ten tribes of Israel) and taking them captive and to the mighty armies of Babylon breaking down the gates of Jerusalem, burning the city, pillaging the temple and taking the inhabitants captive for seventy years.

- Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. (Isaiah 1:2)

The expression, "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken," is poetic language, Judah is referred to as, "O Heaven," because generally and symbolically they were considered the faithful ones while Israel was addressed as, "O earth" because they were regarded as the unfaithful ones.

Likewise when Isaiah in this chapter said, "The LORD will empty the earth and make it desolate" he is using the same poetic language as he used in chapter one.

It shall be, as with the people, so with the priest: (v2) this verse and the following ones highlight the fact that everyone is going to be affected when the LORD empties the earth and makes it desolate. It will matter not whether they are a king or a citizen, a priest or a disciple, noble or lowly, rich or poor, famous or a common man or woman on the street all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the people of Judah and of Israel will all be affected when God bring His judgment upon them. This same principal will of course apply in the latter days when God pours out His judgment on the whole globe of the earth.

NOTE: when the word day is used prophetically it is not limited to a single day, but can refer to a number of days, months, years or too seasons of time, periods of time or to a particular age of time. Likewise the prophetic expression, "In that day," rarely refers to one day, in most contexts it embraces a series of event over a particular period of time that are working together to bring about a specific result or outcome.

Two fulfilments of prophecy: often the language of the same prophecy allows the prophecy to fit different events. Many of the prophecies of Isaiah contain a partial fulfilment to be fulfilled during the generations of that time and also contain a reference to a far more perfect fulfilment in the distant future.

This prophecy should be regarded as one of those prophecies in that Babylon during the era of Nebuchadnezzar can be seen as a prelude of the ultimate and more perfect and complete fulfilment in a future period when God pours out His judgment upon the Babylon spoken of in the following verses which will affect the entire globe of the earth and the populations of all nations.

- Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. (Rev. 18:2).
- The kings of the earth will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come." (Rev. 18:10).
- Alas, alas, for the great city Babylon that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls! ¹⁷For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste. (Rev. 18:16).
- The kings of the earth threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste." (Rev. 18:19).
- Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more." (Rev. 18:21).

The Earth Lies Defiled its Inhabitants Have Broken the Everlasting Covenant.

Isaiah 24:4-5 ----- ⁴The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish. ⁵The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant.

This is exactly what happened when the land of Israel and of Judah was laid waste and the city of Jerusalem brought to ruin. Naturally at this time there was great wailing throughout all the land of Israel and Judah. Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist, but the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

Though this prophetic vision aptly fits the time of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon it is not limited to this time period. The prophetic language used in this prophecy allows for the message to rest there for a period of time then take up wings and soar through history until this prophecy of Isaiah arrives in the latter days at the following words the angel spoke: -

- Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. ³For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living. (Revelation 18:2-3).
- They (the kings of the earth) will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come." (Rev. 18:10).
- They (the kings of the earth) threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city Babylon where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste. (Rev. 18:19).

Turn it upside down; carries the idea of all things being thrown into utter confusion and chaos such as governments, civil organisations, religious institutions and cities being demolished, towns ruined, fields laid waste, and the people being slain and removed from their land so that it is void of all its inhabitants and nothing looks like what it was.

Bible prophecy and present tense: even though this prophetic vision is yet future it is spoken in the present tense, because of the certainty of it. Often a prophecy is spoken as though the event has already happened when in actual reality the fulfilment of it may still be many years away. This is because the prophet is seeing the vision in the present moment and speaks it as he sees it in present time.

The people the prophet is speaking to know when the prophecy is a future event, but sometimes it can be difficult for those reading it thousands of years later to realise, because of the tense it is written in.

When a prophet speaks he is often speaking as the voice of God, therefore the words he speaks are guaranteed to come to pass. This is another reason the prophet can speak the words of God in the present moment because they are certain to happen at the right time in the future.

Another reason many future prophecies are spoken in the present tense, is because the prophet is speaking the words of God or the vision as they come to him in his time. The prophet himself may not always be aware of the echoes contained in his prophecy or that the words he is speaking, actually have contained within them the ability to transcend time and travel thousands of years through history to a future age or a future person.

A Curse Devours the Earth its Inhabitants Suffer for their Guilt.

Isaiah 24:6-10 ----- ⁶Therefore 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. ⁷The wine mourns, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh. ⁸The mirth of the tambourines is stilled, the noise of the jubilant has ceased, the mirth of the lyre is stilled. ⁹No more do they drink wine with singing; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. ¹⁰The wasted city is broken down; every house is shut up so that none can enter.

The curse on the earth: when reading these verses it should be kept in mind that that the Hebrew word earth (*'erets*) can refer to the entire globe of the earth or to an area of land, a country or nation. Because of this the language of these verses allows the principal taught concerning the curse taught in these verses to apply to Israel, Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the entire world as a whole. The earth is seen as having a progressive curse upon it which causes the inhabitants of the earth to suffer.

This curse is devouring the earth's inhabitants and escalating in strength as each generation passes and time goes on. This curse is manifested in the following troubles that bring grief and sorrow to the inhabitants of the earth: -

- The earth is scorched with excessive heat bringing fruitful land to waste.
- The earth is rampant with wars, murder, crime and death.
- The earth is covered with natural disasters, pestilence and diseases that bring suffering and death to its inhabitants from all nations.
- The earth is filled with troubles that cause great anxiety, fear and suffering so that those who used to be happy are brought to mourning.
- The earth is filled with great nations and cities that were once prospering and rich in trade that have come to ruin (mostly by greed and debt).
- The earth is filled with men, women and families that suffer daily under corrupt governments and oppression.

This curse brings grief, suffering and sorrow through the following three things: -

1. Circumstances that are beyond mankind's control such as pestilence, diseases and natural disasters (i.e., storms, earthquakes and floods etc.).
2. Sickness, mental illnesses, disasters, pestilence and diseases that bring suffering and death to its inhabitants in all countries and nations.
3. Mankind's greed, selfishness and corrupt, wicked and dishonest behaviour.
4. Oppressive and corrupt governments and the global world's oppressive financial system of credit.

Sin has turned the earth upside down it has become horribly different to what it was when God first made it to be mankind's habitation. The world we live in is a world of hardships and troubles, sorrow and disappointment, a valley of tears and those born into it are but of a few days. Sin brings calamities that pollute the earth and therefore instead of attracting God's favour it brings His judgments.

The earth's inhabitants suffer for their guilt: (v6) most understand that any guilt that troubles their mind stems from their own personal wrong-doing (i.e., sin), but not everyone understands that from heavens perspective the sin of all earth's inhabitants is seen collectively as a dark cloud that pollutes the earth. The darker the cloud becomes the further away the hand of God's favour is removed from the planet and because of this the populations of the world suffer troubles and hardships.

Few men are left: (v6) the following verses show that this was literally true after the invasion of the land by the Babylonians: -

- He carried away all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valour, 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest people of the land. ¹⁵And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the chief men of the land he took into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. ¹⁶And the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon all the men of valour, 7,000, and the craftsmen and the metal workers, 1,000, all of them strong and fit for war. (2 Kings 24:14-16).

The wine mourns, the vine languishes, all the merry-hearted sigh: (v7) Isaiah under the inspiration of God sees in vivid clearness in this prophetic vision the utter ruin of the city of Jerusalem after the armies of Babylon burned the city, pillage the temple of its sacred items, slaughtered the people and took the survivors captive. The vineyards are laid waste, music and songs are no longer heard in the streets, times of merriment are a thing of the past and all God's people who look upon Jerusalem sigh with heartfelt sorrow and deep grief.

At the end of fleshly joy and sensual delights is heaviness, anguish of mind and ruin in contrast to this those who put Christ first in their life and follow him will have hidden abiding joy in the heart and mind that no one can take from them and at their end eternal life.

The wasted city is broken down: (v10) clearly this refers to the city of Jerusalem after the fierce armies of Babylon entered its gates and brought the city to ruin and laid it waste.

Desolation is Left in the City; the Gates are in Ruins in the Midst of Nations.

Isaiah 24:11-13 ----- ¹¹There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine; all joy has grown dark; the gladness of the earth is banished. ¹²Desolation is left in the city; the gates are battered into ruins. ¹³For 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 (when the vintage is done in KJV).

In the midst of the earth among the nations: (v13) from heavens view Jerusalem is seen as the centre of the earth this is why the Scriptures when referring to Jerusalem use expressions such as, "in the midst of the earth," meaning in the middle and centre of the earth (the earth in this context and others can also refer to the land of Canaan, the Promised Land). When this judgment is executed upon Jerusalem the gates of the city will be broken down, the city will be left in ruin and instead of joy there will be great mourning.

The gladness of the earth is banished: (v11) means the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be banished (exiled, displaced, evicted and sent away) from their beloved city. This is exactly what happened. The armies of Nebuchadnezzar brought the city to ruin and took its inhabitants in chains captive to Babylon for seventy years.

As when an olive tree is beaten: (v13) an olive tree was shaken or beaten with a stick until the olives dropped from its branches. This was the usual way of gathering olives. As the good olives were gathered by shaking the branch of the tree likewise a remnant will be saved through chastisement. The idea is that the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be severely chastised, but at the end of their punishment godly fruit will come, which is exactly what happened at the end of their seventy year captivity.

As at the gleaning when the grape harvest is done: (v13) (when the vintage is done in KJV) this means when the chastisement is over, the people have repented, forsaken their wicked ways and their idols and pagan gods and turned to the LORD their God then they will be gathered into their own land as healthy and ripe grapes are gathered into the winery. This is also exactly what happened at the end of their seventy year captivity. While in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar, Israel and Judah went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods.

Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) and took by His right hand (Isaiah 45:1) to conquer the Empire of Babylon gave written permission for Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again)

Multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations returned to Jerusalem and the land of Israel with triumphant joy and rejoicing. When the temple of God was completed their faith was once again established and a golden time of prosperity and peace followed. Sadly Israel as a nation never recognised their Messiah the Christ when he came, but even this was in the LORD'S sovereign will. The prophet Zechariah tells us when, the Lord returns in glory: -

- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10-14).

Coastlands of the Sea sing for joy and give Glory to the Majesty of the LORD.

Isaiah 24:14-15 ----- ¹⁴They lift up their voices, they sing for joy; over the majesty of the LORD they shout from the west (they shall cry aloud from the sea in KJV). ¹⁵Therefore in the east give glory to the LORD (wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires in KJV); in the coastlands of the sea, (isles of the sea in KJV) give glory to the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

They shout from the west (they shall cry aloud from the sea in KJV) (v14) from the sea means from the coastlands and isles of the Western or Mediterranean sea as is expressed in verse fifteen.

During the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions many Jews were scattered to these regions. The great distresses brought upon Israel and Judah by Assyria and Babylon drove the people from their land, and dispersed them throughout the surrounding countries.

The previous verses ended with the olive tree being beaten and the olives being gathered, and the grapevine being harvested. Now in this vision Isaiah's sees beyond the chastisement of Israel to them being gathered to their own land and all the Jews that had been scattered throughout the land glorifying the LORD God of Israel after the fires of their persecution and captivity.

We hear Songs of Praise to the Righteous One, but Traitors have Betrayed.

Isaiah 24:16 ----- ¹⁶From the ends of the earth (uttermost part of the earth in KJV) we hear songs of praise, of glory to the Righteous One. But I say, "I waste away, I waste away (my leanness, my leanness in KJV). Woe is me! For the traitors have betrayed, with betrayal the traitors have betrayed." (The treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously in KJV).

The words, "I waste away, I waste away," signify extreme grief. The fact it is repeated twice magnifies how deeply Isaiah feels this sorrow. The language of these prophetic words of Isaiah allows what he is saying to embrace the following two things: -

- 1 After viewing the future glory of what Israel and the city of Jerusalem will be Isaiah is brought back to the present wicked and rebellious state that it actually is at the time of proclaiming this prophecy and is brought to extreme grief when he looks upon its corrupt rulers and priests who do not heed the word of the LORD and in this way act as traitors to God and betrayers to His people.
- 2 When it is kept in mind that this is a vision of future things yet to happen and that Isaiah under the inspiration of God is seeing into the future. The vision can be seen as soaring through time to the New Testament age of the Lord Jesus Christ, "the Righteous One." Isaiah now beholds not just the people of Israel praising the glory of Israel's Messiahs the Christ and Righteous One, but people from all parts of the earth even in the uttermost parts of it praising the Lord.

Since visions have no time limit and are not bound by time as we are Isaiah is now seeing past his present age to the age of the Gospel of grace by which Jews and Gentiles from all nations are entering the Kingdom of God and giving praise and glory to their Redeemer Israel's Messiah the Christ and Saviour of the world the Righteous One.

The traitors in this scenario of course would refer to the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) who plotted behind closed doors the murder of Jesus the Righteous One. It is easy to understand Isaiah's deep grief and anguish of heart as he beheld such a horrific sight in this vision that passed before his eyes or he beheld in his mind.

The following verses show that Lord Jesus Christ was frequently referred to as the Righteous One by the Old Testament prophets: -

- Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:11).

- Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jer. 23:5).
- Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zech. 9:9).
- Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous (just in KJV) and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zech. 9:9).
- Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:11).
- You denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you. (Acts 3:14)
- Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One (the Just One in KJV), whom you have now betrayed and murdered. (Acts 7:52).
- He said, "The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One (the just one in KJV) and to hear a voice from his mouth." (Acts 22:14).

Many who compare Christianity to ancient religions feel Christianity is a relatively new religion since they believe it only began at the birth of Christ, but these verses show that this is not so and that Christianity began in the eternal mind of God before time began.

The faith and salvation Christians hold today in their mind and heart as their most treasured possession was planned and purposed in the eternal mind of God before the foundations of the world were laid. (There are of course multitudes of other stunning, brilliant and very detailed prophetic Old Testament Scriptures concerning Christ that prove this statement to be true.

This should be of great comfort to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ especially when it is seen that the Christian faith stems back to God's eternal promise spoken of in the amazing prophecy contained in (Genesis 3:15). For further information concerning this brilliant prophecy, see: -

- Genesis 3:15 in, Commentary Old Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Foundations of the Earth Tremble the Earth is Violently Shaken.

Isaiah 24:17-21 ----- ¹⁷Terror and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth! ¹⁸He 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. For the windows of heaven are opened, and the foundations of the earth tremble. ¹⁹The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken. ²⁰The 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. ²¹On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven (the host of the high ones that are on high in KJV), and the kings of the earth, on the earth.

The foundations of the earth: (v18) refers to the following two things: -

1. To Israel as a nation, because they were God's chosen people and given the commandments, the promises and the Scriptures that hold the keys to being united with God, delivered from death and the way to eternal life. Because of these things they are seen as the foundations of the world from heavens perspective.
2. To the kings, rulers and governments of the world and the financial system of credit, commerce and trade our world is built upon.

All of the terrors spoken of in these verses are a result of mankind turning away from God and denying His existence. It is very much like a natural father who is supporting his son and paying the mortgage on his home. If the son says to his father he wants nothing to do with him because he wants to live his own life, then for that father to grant his son his desire he has to withdraw all the support he has been giving his son, and the son will suffer because of it. When the inhabitants of the earth turn away from God and deny His existence, God is forced to allow mankind to go their own way so He is forced to withdraw His hand of blessing and favour.

The earth staggers like a drunken man: (v20) embraces the following regions of land and two periods of history: -

1. To all the land of Israel (i.e., the land of Canaan the Promised land) on the day Babylon (the terror and death) comes upon the inhabitants of the land. At this time there will be no escape from the fierce armies of Babylon, because God is using Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon as His servant (Jer. 25:8-9) to bring His judgment upon His people because of their rebellion, gross wickedness and worship of idols and pagan gods. It is in this sense the windows of heaven have been opened against Israel.
- 2 To the entire globe of the world as a whole, the earth will stagger like a drunken man when the seventh angel blows his trumpet and pours out the final bowl of wrath in the air, and a loud voice from the throne of the temple says, "It is done, the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 11:15) (Rev. 16:17). On this day there will be terror and utter destruction the global world's financial system will collapse and will not recover and no one will be able to escape the effects of it.

The LORD will punish the host of heaven and the kings of the earth: (v21) obviously there is no evil in heaven to be punished, if there was it could hardly be called heaven, because of this truth the King James Bible is a better translation, "the host of the high ones that are on high." The host of heaven (i.e., the high ones) in this context means, God will punish all those in high places of religious authority, the priests, religious leaders and teachers who are leading His people astray and using their position of privilege for their own gain. They are referred to as the host of heaven because they have the keys to heaven (supposing they are people of integrity and of true faith).

The Sun will be Ashamed; the LORD Reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 24:22-23 ----- ²²They (the priests, religious leaders and the kings of the earth) (v21) will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. ²³Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders.

Prison: in this context does not necessarily refer to a literal prison, but rather signifies the following ideas: being confined and taken from ones natural home; being stripped of freedom to live as one pleases; being controlled and oppressed by the authority of others and being taken from all the things and people that one loves.

This group of verses can be applied to the following two events: -

1. To the priests, religious leaders and the king of Jerusalem being taken prisoners into Babylon (the pit) and being punished and shut up (i.e., shut out of their land) for seventy years after which they returned united as one nation to worship the LORD their God on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem before the elders and priests of God.
2. To the end of Christ's millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords on earth when the sea and the grave give up the dead and they stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment and those counted unworthy are cast into the lake of fire Rev. 19:20). For further information concerning this judgment, see the title: -

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed: (v23) this is a Jewish idiom saying, when the Lord Jesus Christ is reigning in Jerusalem on mount Zion his glory (light) will be so glorious even the moon and sun will feel that the light they give is nothing compared to the glory of God's Son, the Saviour of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.

After many days they will be punished: (v23) the word, "they" here refers to the priests, religious leaders and the kings of the earth (v21). The statement, "they will be punished," firstly refers to the LORD punishing the kings, priests and religious leaders of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the people dwelling in the land of Judah and secondly to all kings and rulers of the earth and to all who are in religious places of authority of all generations, but using God for their own gain and leading people away from the Gospel and the Lord Jesus Christ as Israel's religious leaders lead the people away from the LORD their God.

The LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem: (v23) in a limited sense this could apply to that period of time when Israel returned to Jerusalem, rebuilt the city and the temple of God and as one united nation worshipped only the LORD their God and no other gods, at this particular time it would be right and proper to say that, "The LORD of hosts reigned on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem."

But in its fullest sense it is better to understand that this prophetic vision that Isaiah is seeing pass before his eyes or in his mind surpasses his generation and travels through time until it arrives at its true and perfect fulfilment when the earth is harvested and the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce (Isaiah 65:17-25). All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote: -

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.