

## Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Isaiah's Apocalypse (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 24–27

### The Tribulation—God's Judgment on a Wicked World

24:1 Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants.

2 And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor.

3 The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word.

### The Tribulation—The Sinfulness of Men

4 The earth mourns *and* withers, the world fades *and* withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away.

5 The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.

6 Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.

### The Tribulation—Life Without God

7 The new wine mourns,  
The vine decays,  
All the merry-hearted sigh.

8 The gaiety of tambourines ceases,  
The noise of revelers stops,  
The gaiety of the harp ceases.

9 They do not drink wine with song;  
Strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.

10 The city of chaos is broken down;  
Every house is shut up so that none may enter.

11 There is an outcry in the streets concerning the wine;  
All joy turns to gloom.  
The gaiety of the earth is banished.

12 Desolation is left in the city  
And the gate is battered to ruins.

### The Tribulation—A Righteous Remnant Will Survive God's Judgment

13 For thus it will be in the midst of the earth among the peoples,  
As the shaking of an olive tree,  
As the gleanings when the grape harvest is over.

14 They raise their voices, they shout for joy;  
They cry out from the west concerning the majesty of the LORD.

15 Therefore glorify the LORD in the east,  
The name of the LORD, the God of Israel,  
In the coastlands of the sea.

16 From the ends of the earth we hear songs, "Glory to the Righteous One,"

### The Tribulation—The Wicked, However, Cannot Escape

But I say, "Woe to me! Woe to me! Alas for me!  
The treacherous deal treacherously,  
And the treacherous deal very treacherously."

17 Terror and pit and snare  
Confront you, O inhabitant of the earth.

18 Then it will be that he who flees the report of disaster will fall into the pit,  
And he who climbs out of the pit will be caught in the snare;  
For the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake.

19 The earth is broken asunder,  
The earth is split through,  
The earth is shaken violently.

20 The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard  
And it totters like a shack,  
For its transgression is heavy upon it,  
And it will fall, never to rise again.

**The Second Coming—Christ Returns**

- 21 So it will happen in that day,  
That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high,  
And the kings of the earth on earth.
- 22 They will be gathered together  
*Like* prisoners in the dungeon,  
And will be confined in prison;  
And after many days they *will be* punished.
- 23 Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed,  
For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,  
And *His* glory will be before His elders.

**The Millennium—Rejoicing in Messiah’s Reign**

- 25:1 O LORD, You are my God;  
I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name;  
For You have worked wonders,  
Plans *formed* long ago, with perfect faithfulness.
- 2 For You have made a city into a heap,  
A fortified city into a ruin;  
A palace of strangers is a city no more,  
It will never be rebuilt.
- 3 Therefore a strong people will glorify You;  
Cities of ruthless nations will revere You.
- 4 For You have been a defense for the helpless,  
A defense for the needy in his distress,  
A refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat;  
For the breath of the ruthless is like a *rain* storm *against* a wall.
- 5 Like heat in drought, You subdue the uproar of aliens;  
*Like* heat by the shadow of a cloud, the song of the ruthless is silenced.

**The Millennium and the Eternal State—God’s Joyous Feast**

- 6 The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain;  
A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow,  
*And* refined, aged wine.
- 7 And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples,  
Even the veil which is stretched over all nations.
- 8 He will swallow up death for all time,  
And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces,  
And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; [[1 Cor 15:54](#); [Rev 7:17](#); [21:4](#)]  
For the LORD has spoken.

**The Millennium—Praise for God’s Deliverance**

- 9 And it will be said in that day,  
“Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”
- 10 For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain,  
And Moab will be trodden down in his place  
As straw is trodden down in the water of a manure pile.
- 11 And he will spread out his hands in the middle of it  
As a swimmer spreads out *his hands* to swim,  
But *the Lord* will lay low his pride together with the trickery of his hands.
- 12 The unassailable fortifications of your walls He will bring down,  
Lay low *and* cast to the ground, even to the dust.

**The Millennium—A Song of Trust in God**

26:1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

“We have a strong city;

- He sets up walls and ramparts for security.  
 2 “Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter,  
 The one that remains faithful.  
 3 “The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace,  
 Because he trusts in You.  
 4 “Trust in the LORD forever,  
 For in GOD the LORD, *we have* an everlasting Rock.  
 5 “For He has brought low those who dwell on high, the unassailable city;  
 He lays it low, He lays it low to the ground, He casts it to the dust.  
 6 “The foot will trample it,  
 The feet of the afflicted, the steps of the helpless.”

#### **The Present—Isaiah’s Lament While Waiting for God’s Salvation**

- 7 The way of the righteous is smooth;  
 O Upright One, make the path of the righteous level.  
 8 Indeed, *while following* the way of Your judgments, O LORD,  
 We have waited for You eagerly;  
 Your name, even Your memory, is the desire of *our* souls.  
 9 At night my soul longs for You,  
 Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently;  
 For when the earth experiences Your judgments  
 The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.  
 10 *Though* the wicked is shown favor,  
 He does not learn righteousness;  
 He deals unjustly in the land of uprightness,  
 And does not perceive the majesty of the LORD.

#### **The Present—Isaiah’s Anticipation of Future Salvation**

- 11 O LORD, Your hand is lifted up *yet* they do not see it.  
 They see *Your* zeal for the people and are put to shame;  
 Indeed, fire will devour Your enemies.  
 12 LORD, You will establish peace for us,  
 Since You have also performed for us all our works.  
 13 O LORD our God, other masters besides You have ruled us;  
*But* through You alone we confess Your name.  
 14 The dead will not live, the departed spirits will not rise;  
 Therefore You have punished and destroyed them,  
 And You have wiped out all remembrance of them.  
 15 You have increased the nation, O LORD,  
 You have increased the nation, You are glorified;  
 You have extended all the borders of the land.  
 16 O LORD, they sought You in distress;  
 They could only whisper a prayer,  
 Your chastening was upon them.  
 17 As the pregnant woman approaches *the time* to give birth,  
 She writhes *and* cries out in her labor pains,  
 Thus were we before You, O LORD.  
 18 We were pregnant, we writhed *in labor*,  
 We gave birth, as it seems, *only* to wind.  
 We could not accomplish deliverance for the earth,  
 Nor were inhabitants of the world born.  
 19 Your dead will live;  
 Their corpses will rise.  
 You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy,  
 For your dew *is as* the dew of the dawn,  
 And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

#### **The Present—Isaiah’s Warning of Hardship Before the End**

- 20 Come, my people, enter into your rooms

And close your doors behind you;  
Hide for a little while [[Heb 10:37](#)]  
Until indignation runs *its* course.

- 21 For behold, the LORD is about to come out from His place  
To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;  
And the earth will reveal her bloodshed  
And will no longer cover her slain.

#### **The Millennium—The Defeat of Satan**

- 27:1 In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent,  
With His fierce and great and mighty sword,  
Even Leviathan the twisted serpent;  
And He will kill the dragon who *lives* in the sea.

#### **The Millennium—The Future Blessing of Israel**

- 2 In that day,  
“A vineyard of wine, sing of it!  
3 “I, the LORD, am its keeper;  
I water it every moment.  
So that no one will damage it,  
I guard it night and day.  
4 “I have no wrath.  
Should someone give Me briars *and* thorns in battle,  
*Then* I would step on them, I would burn them completely.  
5 “Or let him rely on My protection,  
Let him make peace with Me,  
Let him make peace with Me.”  
6 In the days to come Jacob will take root,  
Israel will blossom and sprout,  
And they will fill the whole world with fruit.

#### **The Present—Judah Will Be Exiled for Her Sin / Blessing Comes After Judgment and Discipline**

- 7 Like the striking of Him who has struck them, has He struck them?  
Or like the slaughter of His slain, have they been slain?  
8 You contended with them by banishing them, by driving them away.  
With His fierce wind He has expelled *them* on the day of the east wind.  
9 Therefore through this Jacob’s iniquity will be forgiven;  
And this will be the full price of the pardoning of his sin: [[Rom 11:27](#)]  
When he makes all the altar stones like pulverized chalk stones;  
*When* Asherim and incense altars will not stand.  
10 For the fortified city is isolated,  
A homestead forlorn and forsaken like the desert;  
There the calf will graze,  
And there it will lie down and feed on its branches.  
11 When its limbs are dry, they are broken off;  
Women come *and* make a fire with them,  
For they are not a people of discernment,  
Therefore their Maker will not have compassion on them.  
And their Creator will not be gracious to them.

#### **The Millennium—A Regathering to Worship**

- 12 In that day the LORD will start *His* threshing from the flowing stream of the Euphrates to the brook of Egypt, and you will be gathered up one by one, O sons of Israel.  
13 It will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD in the holy mountain at Jerusalem.