

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 Look, the LORD is ready to devastate the earth
and leave it in ruins;
he will mar its surface
and scatter its inhabitants.
- 2 Everyone will suffer—
the priest as well as the people,
the master as well as the servant,
the elegant lady as well as the female attendant,
the seller as well as the buyer,
the borrower as well as the lender,
the creditor as well as the debtor.
- 3 The earth will be completely devastated
and thoroughly ransacked.
For the LORD has decreed this judgment.

The Tribulation—The Sinfulness of Men

- 4 The earth dries up and withers,
the world shrivels up and withers;
the prominent people of the earth fade away.
- 5 The earth is defiled by its inhabitants,
for they have violated laws,
disregarded the regulation,
and broken the permanent treaty.
- 6 So a treaty curse devours the earth;
its inhabitants pay for their guilt.
This is why the inhabitants of the earth disappear,
and are reduced to just a handful of people.

The Tribulation—Life Without God

- 7 The new wine dries up,
the vines shrivel up,
all those who like to celebrate groan.
- 8 The happy sound of the tambourines stops,
the revelry of those who celebrate comes to a halt,
the happy sound of the harp ceases.
- 9 They no longer sing and drink wine;
the beer tastes bitter to those who drink it.
- 10 The ruined town is shattered;
all of the houses are shut up tight.
- 11 They howl in the streets because of what happened to the wine;
all joy turns to sorrow;
celebrations disappear from the earth.
- 12 The city is left in ruins;
the gate is reduced to rubble.

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

- 13 This is what will happen throughout the earth,
among the nations.
It will be like when they beat an olive tree,
and just a few olives are left at the end of the harvest.
- 14 They lift their voices and shout joyfully;
they praise the majesty of the LORD in the west.
- 15 So in the east extol the LORD,
along the seacoasts extol the fame of the LORD God of Israel.
- 16 From the ends of the earth we hear songs—

the Just One is majestic.

The Tribulation—The Wicked, However, Cannot Escape

But I say, "I'm wasting away! I'm wasting away! I'm doomed!
Deceivers deceive, deceivers thoroughly deceive!"

- 17 Terror, pit, and snare
are ready to overtake you inhabitants of the earth!
- 18 The one who runs away from the sound of the terror
will fall into the pit;
the one who climbs out of the pit,
will be trapped by the snare.
For the floodgates of the heavens are opened up
and the foundations of the earth shake.
- 19 The earth is broken in pieces,
the earth is ripped to shreds,
the earth shakes violently.
- 20 The earth will stagger around like a drunk;
it will sway back and forth like a hut in a windstorm.
Its sin will weigh it down,
and it will fall and never get up again.

The Second Coming—Christ Returns

- 21 At that time the LORD will punish
the heavenly forces in the heavens
and the earthly kings on the earth.
- 22 They will be imprisoned in a pit,
locked up in a prison,
and after staying there for a long time,
they will be punished.
- 23 The full moon will be covered up,
the bright sun will be darkened;
for the LORD who commands armies will rule
on Mount Zion in Jerusalem
in the presence of his assembly, in majestic splendor.

The Millennium—Rejoicing in Messiah's Reign

- 25:1 O LORD, you are my God!
I will exalt you in praise, I will extol your fame.
For you have done extraordinary things,
and executed plans made long ago exactly as you decreed.
- 2 Indeed, you have made the city into a heap of rubble,
the fortified town into a heap of ruins;
the fortress of foreigners is no longer a city,
it will never be rebuilt.
- 3 So a strong nation will extol you;
the towns of powerful nations will fear you.
- 4 For you are a protector for the poor,
a protector for the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm,
a shade from the heat.
Though the breath of tyrants is like a winter rainstorm,
- 5 like heat in a dry land,
you humble the boasting foreigners.
Just as the shadow of a cloud causes the heat to subside,
so he causes the song of tyrants to cease.

The Millennium and the Eternal State—God's Joyous Feast

- 6 The LORD who commands armies will hold a banquet for all the nations on this mountain.

At this banquet there will be plenty of meat and aged wine—
tender meat and choicest wine.

- 7 On this mountain he will swallow up
the shroud that is over all the peoples,
the woven covering that is over all the nations;
8 he will swallow up death permanently.
The sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from every face,
and remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. [[1 Cor 15:54](#); [Rev 7:17](#); [21:4](#)]
Indeed, the LORD has announced it!

The Millennium—Praise for God’s Deliverance

- 9 At that time they will say,
“Look, here is our God!
We waited for him and he delivered us.
Here is the LORD! We waited for him.
Let’s rejoice and celebrate his deliverance!”
10 For the LORD’s power will make this mountain secure.
Moab will be trampled down where it stands,
as a heap of straw is trampled down in a manure pile.
11 Moab will spread out its hands in the middle of it,
just as a swimmer spreads his hands to swim;
the LORD will bring down Moab’s pride as it spreads its hands.
12 The fortified city (along with the very tops of your walls) he will knock down,
he will bring it down, he will throw it down to the dusty ground.

The Millennium—A Song of Trust in God

- 26:1 At that time this song will be sung in the land of Judah:
“We have a strong city!
The LORD’s deliverance, like walls and a rampart, makes it secure.
2 Open the gates so a righteous nation can enter—
one that remains trustworthy.
3 You keep completely safe the people who maintain their faith,
for they trust in you.
4 Trust in the LORD from this time forward,
even in Yah, the LORD, an enduring protector!
5 Indeed, the LORD knocks down those who live in a high place,
he brings down an elevated town;
he brings it down to the ground,
he throws it down to the dust.
6 It is trampled underfoot
by the feet of the oppressed,
by the soles of the poor.”

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

- 7 The way of the righteous is level,
the path of the righteous that you make is straight.
8 Yes, as your judgments unfold,
O LORD, we wait for you.
We desire your fame and reputation to grow.
9 I look for you during the night,
my spirit within me seeks you at dawn,
for when your judgments come upon the earth,
those who live in the world learn about justice.
10 If the wicked are shown mercy,
they do not learn about justice.
Even in a land where right is rewarded, they act unjustly;
they do not see the LORD’s majesty revealed.

The Present—Isaiah’s Anticipation of Future Salvation

- 11 O LORD, you are ready to act,
but they don’t even notice.
They will see and be put to shame by your angry judgment against humankind,
yes, fire will consume your enemies.
- 12 O LORD, you make us secure,
for even all we have accomplished, you have done for us.
- 13 O LORD, our God,
masters other than you have ruled us,
but we praise your name alone.
- 14 The dead do not come back to life,
the spirits of the dead do not rise.
That is because you came in judgment and destroyed them,
you wiped out all memory of them.
- 15 You have made the nation larger, O LORD,
you have made the nation larger and revealed your splendor,
you have extended all the borders of the land.
- 16 O LORD, in distress they looked for you;
they uttered incantations because of your discipline.
- 17 As when a pregnant woman gets ready to deliver
and strains and cries out because of her labor pains,
so were we because of you, O LORD.
- 18 We were pregnant, we strained,
we gave birth, as it were, to wind.
We cannot produce deliverance on the earth;
people to populate the world are not born.
- 19 Your dead will come back to life;
your corpses will rise up.
Wake up and shout joyfully, you who live in the ground!
For you will grow like plants drenched with the morning dew,
and the earth will bring forth its dead spirits.

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

- 20 Go, my people! Enter your inner rooms!
Close your doors behind you!
Hide for a little while, [\[Heb 10:37\]](#)
until his angry judgment is over!
- 21 For look, the LORD is coming out of the place where he lives,
to punish the sin of those who live on the earth.
The earth will display the blood shed on it;
it will no longer cover up its slain.

The Millennium—The Defeat of Satan

- 27:1 At that time the LORD will punish
with his destructive, great, and powerful sword
Leviathan the fast-moving serpent,
Leviathan the squirming serpent;
he will kill the sea monster.

The Millennium—The Future Blessing of Israel

- 2 When that time comes,
sing about a delightful vineyard!
- 3 I, the LORD, protect it;
I water it regularly.
I guard it night and day,
so no one can harm it.
- 4 I am not angry.
I wish I could confront some thorns and briars!

- Then I would march against them for battle;
I would set them all on fire,
5 unless they became my subjects
and made peace with me;
let them make peace with me.
6 The time is coming when Jacob will take root;
Israel will blossom and grow branches.
The produce will fill the surface of the world.

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

- 7 Has the LORD struck down Israel like he did their oppressors?
Has Israel been killed like their enemies?
8 When you summon her for divorce, you prosecute her;
he drives her away with his strong wind in the day of the east wind.
9 So in this way Jacob's sin will be forgiven,
and this is how they will show they are finished sinning: [[Rom 11:27](#)]
They will make all the stones of the altars
like crushed limestone,
and the Asherah poles and the incense altars will no longer stand.
10 For the fortified city is left alone;
it is a deserted settlement
and abandoned like the desert.
Calves graze there;
they lie down there
and eat its branches bare.
11 When its branches get brittle, they break;
women come and use them for kindling.
For these people lack understanding,
therefore the one who made them has no compassion on them;
the one who formed them has no mercy on them.

The Millennium—A Regathering to Worship

- 12 At that time the LORD will shake the tree, from the Euphrates River to the Stream of Egypt. Then you will be gathered up one by one, O Israelites.
13 At that time a large trumpet will be blown, and the ones lost in the land of Assyria will come, as well as the refugees in the land of Egypt. They will worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

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