

The Finality of God's Judgment

Text: Isaiah 24:1-18

Date: 7-18-21 @ 10:30 AM

Isaiah 24-27 span a section of judgment and salvation. Judgment that attends to all of humanity, yet infused with triumph, praise, and hope. Widespread judgment followed by widespread salvation. God will be the center of both the judgment and the salvation. The timeframe for this judgment is no doubt the tribulation or 70th week of Daniel with the blessings following in the future millennial kingdom.

Truth: God's perfect justice demands that man's transgression to His laws be judged in finality.

Isaiah's emphasis is not just judgment but on The One who acts in judgment.

No one will be spared. Whether you are high class or low class, a regular person or a priest, a servant or master, buyer or seller, lender or borrower, creditor or debtor, all will be affected by God's hand of judgment.

God's judgment is certain. We know that because Isaiah declares that it is the word of the Lord.

The word of the Lord will happen in the future just as it always has in the past because the Lord never lies and always keeps His promises.

The reasons for God's judgment (vs. 5-6)

The earth is defiled!

"The adjective denotes a godless man, a man who forgets God (Job 8:13) and lives in opposition to all that is right (Job 17:8; Isa 9:17; 10:6)".¹

Isaiah now gives specific reasons for the judgment:

1. Man had transgressed the laws
2. Man had changed the statutes.
Specific commands had been altered or violated as if they were not even in existence.
3. Man had broken the everlasting (long-duration) covenant.
This covenant refers to the eternal covenant that God had given via commands, beginning with Adam and continuing to all of mankind. God desired that mankind live according to His Word. It would seem, therefore, that insofar as they have perverted the meaning of life, they have frustrated the covenant that God made with man in order to set forth this truth" (Young 158). Ps. 9:17.

The result of man's blatant rebellion is the curse has swallowed up the earth. Man's desire to oppose God, and God's willingness to allow man to do that, has led to their demise. While the curse comes from God, man's choices have led to his downfall.

The violators of God's laws are deserving of God's judgment upon them.

¹ Goldberg, L. (1999). [696 הַנֶּחֱלָה](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 304). Chicago: Moody Press.

The effects of God's judgment (vs. 7-13)

Joy and gladness would be turned into sadness and loss.

All nature shares in the sorrow of the land as the curse devours the creation.

Not only do the *things* that once brought pleasure now bring destruction, but *cities* will be also destroyed.

No one will escape the wrath of God as war will ravage the cities of the earth. Universally sin and its consequences will come under God's judging power.

Joy will turn to gloom.

After the judgment has befallen the world, there will remain a few people, a remnant and some hope.

Song of Praise (vs. 14-16a)

In the midst of all the judgment, in the middle of all the doom and gloom, come words of hope and encouragement.

They praise God's majesty for He has cleansed the earth from sin. The remnant is grateful that they have been spared in the cleansing wave. The deliverance causes the remnant to sing and rejoice.

The remnant rejoiced for they saw the truth that there is but one God, the Lord of Israel. From the islands to the entire earth God's name is to be praised. Glory to the Righteous One for He has dealt righteously.

Cry of Distress (vs. 16b-18)

While the remnant rejoiced, there is no real conversion by the world.

No hope. The ending that Isaiah sees showed the judgment that was to fall on these wicked people.

No escape. Those people who would try to escape would fall into the pit. Those who tried to escape the pit would be caught in the snare. **Just as in the days of Noah's flood, no one would escape the wrath of God (Gen. 7:11).**