

Bible Study Notes - Isaiah Chapters 24 - 26

Chapter 24 Study Notes

The LORD Will Destroy the Earth - Verses 1-23

1 The LORD is going to completely destroy everything on earth. He will twist its surface. He'll scatter those who live on it. 2 Priests and people alike will suffer. So will masters and their servants. And so will women and their female servants. Sellers and buyers alike will suffer. So will those who borrow and those who lend. And so will those who owe money and those who lend it. 3 The earth will be completely destroyed. Everything of value will be taken out of it. That's what the LORD has said. 4 The earth will dry up completely. The world will dry up and waste away. The most important people on earth will fade away. 5 The earth is polluted by its people. They haven't obeyed the laws of the Lord. They haven't done what he told them to do. They've broken the covenant that will last forever. 6 So the LORD will send a curse on the earth. Its people will pay for what they've done. They will be burned up. Very few of them will be left. 7 The vines and fresh wine will dry up completely. Those who used to have a good time will groan. 8 The happy sounds of tambourines will be gone. The noise of those who enjoy wild parties will stop. The joyful music of harps will become silent. 9 People will no longer sing as they drink wine. Beer will taste bitter to those who drink it. 10 Destroyed cities will lie empty. People will lock themselves inside their houses. 11 In the streets people will cry out for wine. All joy will turn into sadness. All happiness will be driven out of the earth. 12 All of the buildings will be knocked down. Every city gate will be smashed to pieces. 13 That's how it will be on the earth. And that's how it will be among the nations. It will be as when workers knock all but a few olives off the trees. It will be like a vine that has only a few grapes left after the harvest. 14 Those who are left alive will shout with joy. People from the west will praise the LORD because he is the King. 15 So give glory to him, you who live in the east. Honor the name of the Lord, you who are in the islands of the sea. He is the God of Israel. 16 From one end of the earth to the other we hear singing. People are saying, "Give glory to the One who always does what is right." But I said, "I feel very bad. I'm getting weaker and weaker. How terrible it is for me! People turn against one another. They can't be trusted. So they turn against each other." 17 People of the earth, terror, a pit and a trap are waiting for you. 18 Anyone who runs away from the terror will fall into the pit. Anyone who climbs out of the pit will be caught in the trap. The LORD will open the windows of the skies. He will flood the land. The foundations of the earth will shake. 19 The earth will be broken up. It will split open. It will be shaken to pieces. 20 The earth will be unsteady like someone who is drunk. It will sway like a tent in the wind. Its sin will weigh so heavily on it that it will fall. It will never get up again. 21 At that time the LORD will punish the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens above. He will also punish the kings on the earth below. 22 They will be brought together like prisoners in chains. They'll be locked up in prison. After many days the LORD will punish them. 23 The LORD who rules over all will rule on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. The elders of the city will be there. They will see his glory. His rule will be so glorious that the sun and moon will be too ashamed to shine.

ISAIAH 24-27

These four chapters are often called "Isaiah's Apocalypse." They discuss God's judgment on the entire world for its sin. Isaiah's prophecies were first directed to Judah, then to Israel, then to the surrounding nations, and finally to the whole world. These chapters describe the last days when God will judge the whole world. At that time he will finally and permanently remove evil.

ISAIAH 24:4, 5

Not only the people suffered from their sins; even the land suffered the effects of evil and lawbreaking. Today we see the results of sin in our own land: pollution, crime, addiction, poverty. Sin affects every aspect of society so extensively that even those faithful to God suffer. We cannot blame God for these conditions because sin has brought them about. The more we who are believers renounce sin, speak against immoral practices, and share God's Word with others, the more we slow our society's deterioration. We must not give up: Sin is rampant, but we can make a difference.

ISAIAH 24:14-16

The believers who are left behind after God judges Judah will sing to the glory of God's righteousness. Isaiah grieved because of his world's condition. We, too, can become depressed by the evil all around us. At those times we need to hold on to God's promises for the future and look forward to singing praises to him when he restores heaven and earth.

ISAIAH 24:21

"The fallen angels in the heavens" refer to spiritual forces opposed to God. Nobody, not even the fallen angels, will escape due punishment.

Chapter 25 Study Notes

A Song of Praise - Verses 1-12

1 LORD, you are my God. I will honor you. I will praise your name. You have been perfectly faithful. You have done wonderful things. You had planned them long ago. **2** You have turned cities into piles of trash. You have pulled down the high walls that were around them. You have destroyed our enemies' forts. They will never be rebuilt. **3** Powerful nations will honor you. Even sinful people from their cities will have respect for you. **4** Poor people have come to you for safety. You have kept needy people safe when they were in trouble. You have been a place to hide when storms came. You have been a shade from the heat of the sun. Evil people attack us. They are like a storm beating against a wall. **5** They are like the heat of the desert. You stopped the noisy shouts of our enemies. You kept them from winning the battle over us and singing about it. You are like the shadow of a

cloud that cools the earth. **6** On Mount Zion the LORD who rules over all will prepare a feast for all of the nations. The best and richest foods and the finest aged wines will be served. **7** On that mountain the LORD will destroy the veil of sadness that covers all of the nations. He will destroy the gloom that is spread over everyone. **8** He will swallow up death forever. The LORD and King will wipe away the tears from everyone's face. He will remove the shame of his people from the whole earth. The LORD has spoken. **9** At that time they will say, "He is our God. We trusted in him, and he saved us. He is the Lord. We trusted in him. Let us be filled with joy because he saved us." **10** The LORD's powerful hand will keep Mount Zion safe. But he will walk all over Moab. Its people will be crushed, just as straw is crushed in animal waste. **11** They will try to swim their way out of it. They will spread their hands out in it, just as a swimmer spreads his hands out to swim. But God will bring down Moab's pride. None of their skill will help them. **12** He will pull down their high, strong walls. He will bring them down to the ground. He'll bring them right down to the dust.

ISAIAH 25:1

Isaiah exalted and praised God because he realized that God completes his plans as promised. God also fulfills his promises to you. Think of the prayers he has answered, and praise him for his goodness and faithfulness.

ISAIAH 25:4

The poor suffered because ruthless people oppressed them. But God is concerned for the poor and is a refuge for them. When we are disadvantaged or oppressed, we can turn to God for comfort and help. Jesus states that the Kingdom of God belongs to the poor (Luke 6:20).

ISAIAH 25:6

Here is a marvelous prophecy of "everyone around the world"—Gentiles and Jews together—at God's messianic feast, celebrating the overthrow of evil and the joy of eternity with God. It shows that God intended his saving message to go out to the whole world, not just to the Jews. During the feast, God will end death forever (25:7, 8). The people who participate in this great feast will be those who have been living by faith. That is why they say, "This is our God. We trusted in him, and he saved us" (25:9). See also chapter 55 for another presentation of this great feast.

ISAIAH 25:8

When the Lord speaks, he does what he says. It is comforting to know that God's plans and activities are closely tied to his word. When we pray according to God's will (as expressed in the Bible) and claim his promises (as recorded in the Bible), he hears us and answers our requests.

ISAIAH 25:8

Part of this verse is quoted in 1 Corinthians 15:54 to describe Christ's victory over death. God's ultimate victory is seen when death, our ultimate enemy, is defeated (see also Hosea 13:14). Another part of this verse is quoted in Revelation 21:4, which describes the glorious scene of God's presence with his people.

ISAIAH 25:10

Moab was a symbol of all who oppose God and are rebellious to the end. Moab was Israel's enemy for years

Chapter 26 Study Notes

Another Song of Praise - Verses 1-21

1 At that time a song will be sung in the land of Judah. It will say, "We have a strong city. God's saving power surrounds it like walls and towers. 2 Open its gates so that those who do what is right can enter. They are the people who remain faithful to God. 3 Lord, you will give perfect peace to anyone who commits himself to be faithful to you. That's because he trusts in you. 4"Trust in the LORD forever. The LORD is the Rock. The LORD will keep us safe forever. 5 He brings down those who are proud. He pulls down cities that have high walls. They fall down flat on the ground. He throws them down to the dust. 6 The feet of those who were crushed stomp on them. Those who were helpless walk all over them." 7 Lord, you are honest and fair. You guide those who do what is right. You lead them on a straight path. You make their way smooth. 8 Lord, we are living the way your laws command us to live. We are waiting for you to act. Our hearts long for you to be true to your name. That's what you are known for. 9 My heart longs for you at night. My spirit longs for you in the morning. You will come and judge the earth. Then the people of the world will learn to do what is right. 10 Grace is shown to sinful people. But they still don't learn to do what is right. They keep on doing evil even in a land where others are honest and fair. They don't have any respect for the majesty of the Lord. 11 Lord, you have raised your hand high to punish them. But they don't even see it. Let them see how much you love your people. Then they will be put to shame. Let the fire you are saving for your enemies burn them up. 12 Lord, you give us peace. You are the one who has done everything we've accomplished. 13 Lord, you are our God. Other masters besides you have ruled over us. But your name is the only one we honor. 14 Those other masters are now dead. They will never live again. Their spirits won't rise from the dead. You punished them and destroyed them. You wiped out all memory of them. 15 Lord, you have made our nation grow. You have made it larger. You have gained glory for yourself. You have increased the size of our land. 16 Lord, when your people were suffering, they came to you. When you punished them, they could barely whisper a prayer. 17 Lord, you made us like a woman who is having a baby. She groans and cries out in

pain. 18 We were pregnant. We groaned with pain. But nothing was born. We didn't bring your saving power to the earth. We didn't give life to the people of the world. 19 Israel, those among you who have died will live again. Their bodies will rise from the dead. You who lie in the grave, wake up and shout with joy. The dew of the morning gives life to the earth. So the earth will give up its dead people. 20 My people, go into your houses. Shut the doors behind you. Hide yourselves for a little while. Do it until the LORD's anger is over. 21 He is coming from the place where he lives. He will punish the people of the earth for their sins. The blood that has been spilled on the earth will be brought out into the open. The ground will no longer hide those who have been killed.

ISAIAH 26:1

People will praise God on the day of the Lord when Christ establishes his Kingdom (see chapter 12). Chapter 26 is a psalm of trust, praise, and meditation. Once more, God revealed the future to Isaiah.

ISAIAH 26:3

We can never avoid strife in the world around us, but when we fix our thoughts on God, we can know perfect peace even in turmoil. As we focus our mind on God and his Word, we become steady and stable. Supported by God's unchanging love and mighty power, we are not shaken by the surrounding chaos (see Philippians 4:7). Do you want peace? Keep your thoughts on God and your trust in him.

ISAIAH 26:7, 8

At times the "path" of the righteous doesn't seem smooth, and it isn't easy to do God's will, but we are never alone when we face tough times. God is there to help us, to comfort us, and to lead us. God does this by giving us a purpose (keeping our mind centered on him, 26:3) and giving us provisions as we travel. God provides us with relationships of family, friends, and mentors. God gives us wisdom to make decisions and faith to trust him. Don't despair; stay on God's path.

ISAIAH 26:10

Even wicked people receive God's benefits, but that doesn't teach them to do what is right. Sometimes God's judgment teaches us more than God's good gifts. If you have been enriched by God's goodness and grace, respond to him with your grateful devotion.

ISAIAH 26:16-19

The people realized the pain of being away from God's presence, and yet they were assured that they would live again. God turned his back on his people when they disobeyed, but a small number never lost hope and continued to seek him. No

matter how difficult times may be, we have hope when we keep our trust in him. Can you wait patiently for *God* to act?

ISAIAH 26:19

Some people say there is no life after death. Others believe that there is, but it is not physical life. But Isaiah tells us that our bodies shall rise again. According to 1 Corinthians 15:50-53, all the dead believers will arise with new imperishable bodies—bodies like the one Jesus had when he was resurrected.

ISAIAH 26:20, 21

When *God* comes to judge the earth, the guilty will find no place to hide. Jesus said that the hidden will be made known because his truth, like a light shining in a dark corner, will reveal it (Matthew 10:26). Instead of trying to hide your shameful thoughts and actions from *God*, confess them to him and receive his forgiveness.