

ISAIAH 24 vs 1

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The preface Matthew Henry wrote to this chapter is helpful. It is agreed that here begins a new sermon. Prophet Isaiah, according to the many promises, says to those doing right, it will be well with them; and, in many threats, he says, Woe to the wicked, it will be terrible for them; and these are intertwined, that they illustrate each other. This chapter is mostly threatening; and, as justice is very serious, so those threatened with justice are many. It is not the burden of any particular city or realm, but the burden of the whole earth. Many speculate this represents specific military actions already fulfilled.



M.H. writes: Since there are no particular nations named either by whom or on whom those destructions are brought, I do not see it refers to those events. The scripture has many fulfillments, and we ought to give it its full latitude; so I think the prophet, from similar instances which he saw, projects here in general the calamitous state of mankind, and the many miseries which human life is liable to, especially those that attend the wars of the nations. -- So then, certainly Isaiah speaks to our genius 21st century.

¹ Look, the LORD strips the earth, and turns it upside down, scattering its residents / in Hebrew: **eres**, we are to learn about the place **God created in the beginning**. This word appears 16 times in this chapter, more times than any other chapter Isaiah wrote: / in Hebrew: **balaq** and **paneh**. These words also describe the state of the earth, in the beginning, **without form** and **void**, as if God is going to undue the place that He created so long ago -- something that some speculate He did once before. Definitely, it sounds like the LORD has had enough, doesn't it?



I imagine the earth experiencing a pole shift; or some massive tectonic plates erupting. Well, actually many won't need to imagine it since Isaiah says: he saw it coming. WOW! what an awful, event...

had some weather fools been playing god with God's own creation? millions will be dead in an instant.

² And it will be, as with the people, so with the priest, as with the servant, 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 taker of loans, so with the giver of loans to

him / remember: the whole earth is in focus, so people all over the world along with their religious leaders get equal treatment; male workers and their employers, same action; female workers and their bosses, same conduct; patrons and merchants all over the world, same dealing; bankers and loan applicants all over the world, same; creditors and debtors; speculators and brokers, same, same, same. Now, that last example sounds like the mother of all money market crashes, doesn't it? Don't you love the equality and fairness being meted out? And God made it happen -- all the other times man did, so God is using their very own preferred methods to accomplish His purposes.

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M.H. summarizes this section: There are judgments short of the Day of judgment in which rich and poor meet together. Do not let those that are advanced in the world set their inferiors at too great a distance, because they do not know how soon they may be set upon a level with them.

³The **earth** will be entirely emptied, and entirely plundered: **the LORD has spoken this word** / does anybody want to argue with God?

⁴The **earth** mourns and withers, the world wastes away and withers, the conceited self-important people of the **earth** waste away.

⁵The **earth** also lies polluted by its residents / those of all ranks share the disaster; since...

[1] they transgressed the laws [2] they changed the rules [3] and they broke the everlasting covenant / the favorite pastime of all mankind, stepping over the line; always going beyond what is right and proper; having practiced ad nauseam, effecting care and concern for one another; being emboldened, in their own conceits and activity of fools, even effecting their concern for their God and His covenant given immediately **after the deluge in the cursed days of Noah.**

But notice they really don't get away with dethroning the eternal Father, so they can pretend they sit there. Our eternal Father can come to a place when He says: Enough, **Your will be done**, as He takes a break.

⁶And so a **curse** consumes the **earth**, as its residents are abandoned and the residents of the **earth** are scorched, and only a few men survive: like a terrible chain reaction, dominos fall... train cars collide, and dumbasses due to their arrogance are charred bumping into each other. **had someone been playing with the atmosphere?** children who play with matches, often get burnt. Will any learn their lessons?. Isaiah said a time is coming when **seven women will take hold of one man**; It seems heaven will be populated with women, in lopsided numbers favoring them. It seems there have always been **few men left**.

⁷The new wine turns to sour grapes, the vine withers, -- all the party-goers sigh. ⁸The festive tambourines **cease**, the noisy revelers **stop**, the joyous guitarist **is silenced**.

⁹They **no longer drink wine and sing; beer is bitter to those who drink it** / it truly sounds like the party is over, doesn't it? If the party is over, what about the hairdos and fancy party attire? Yep! Over!!! Notice, not one religious freak needed to create a teetotaler regulation -- at the pain of death... for the greater society's good, to figure out how to ignore.

In the Revelation given to John, when the final govt... **Babylon the Great has fallen and is unable to get up** the last professionals mentioned are the musicians – **verse 22**. The musicians are no longer heard... all the festivities of feigned fun are over; and then there is **verse 23 make sure to turn off the lights**.

John saw what Isaiah saw,

¹⁰ The city of chaos is broken down: every house is shut up, so none can enter. ¹¹ In the streets they cry for wine; as all joy goes dark, and the laughter of earth is gone. / so are we nearing this time?

¹² In the city ____ what city? Jerusalem?; better to put the name of **your city** in the space:

In Washington DC... in London... in Paris... in Madrid... in Toronto... in Beijing... in Moscow... in Tokyo... in Seoul... in Buenos Aires... in Quito... in Acapulco... in Honolulu... in Sydney... in Jakarta... in Berlin... in Johannesburg... in Rio... in Dar es Salam... in Cairo... in Amman... in New Delhi... in Phoenix... in L A... in Miami... in Chicago... in Houston... in New York City... in Seattle... in Juneau... in Yerevan... in Vienna... in Tehran... in Nairobi... in Stockholm... in Oslo... in Copenhagen... in Brussels and of course... in Rome...

the city ____ is left desolate, the gate is pummeled to ruin / the entrance was compromised.

¹³ For thus it will be at the center of the earth... among the nations, there will be as the violent shaking of an olive tree and as the gleaning grapes when the harvest is done / so Isaiah tells us **even those in Ephraim, Israel, and Manasseh and Jerusalem will know this shaking** destruction probably to see what if any fruit is left; the last 3 Days of the LORD **the harvest time on the LORD's calendar.**

After all that disappointment and horror, The Lord told Isaiah some great news; Perhaps, the LORD said, pay attention, **you who hear and see this**, be faithful, and even look up, because your redemption is near. It is not God's desire that any perish, but He knows many will. So He tells us about Brothers and Sisters in the East... in the islands of the sea... who heard the good news too; and they responded with **great joy!** If Vanuatu, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands have heard, then God says, the whole world is without excuse.

¹⁴ They raise their voice, they sing out praise to the majesty of the LORD, they joyously cry aloud from the sea / in the West.

¹⁵ So, in the East in the isles of the sea they adore the LORD, even the name of the LORD God of Israel / yes, they will sing His praise even in the East, in the Pacific Islands including the Indonesian archipelago.

¹⁶ From the furthest parts of the earth we have heard songs, even glory to the Righteous One. We in the West have heard the joyous songs of praise already being rehearsed by our Brothers and Sisters in the East... to the glory of our Messiah, who is their Messiah too!

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They may be driven by common calamities where they live, but there is comfort to the saints, they sing not sigh. Had Isaiah heard these Brothers and Sisters, he might have been a little more encouraged, as he wrote:

But I waste away, I waste away, woe is me! / suddenly, Isaiah is once again in pain, After a pause of joyous singing to the LORD, the prophet is horrified at what he sees,

the traitors deal seditiously; yes, the traitors deal very seditiously/ is this current events? false to one another, betraying one another; there is no faith in man, just universal dishonesty. The sacred bond of truth has departed; nothing is left but betrayal, disloyalty, and deception as they deal. And their children are all like them, dealing dishonestly with God departing from their allegiance to Him. **When men have been false to God,** how could they be true to any other? – Matthew Henry.

¹⁷ **Fear, a pit, and a trap with a noose, await you O residents of the earth /** wherever they are they fear to be caught.

¹⁸ **And it will happen, that the one who panics at the sound of fear will fall into the pit; and the one who escapes the pit will be snagged in the snare:** / it is common in our calamitous state of life that when we seek to avoid one mischief we fall into a worse, and the end of one trouble is often the beginning of another; the meaning is clear; the curse overtakes those who thought they escape one judgment, who do not know when the next gets them,

for the windows from on high are open and the foundations of the earth shake / God is in His heaven; He is watching; nothing is spared, even the heavens are being cleaned up, Prophet Haggai tells us, One more time the LORD will shake not the heavens only but the earth also; which suggests, He has done that at least once in the past, doesn't it?

¹⁹ **The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth greatly shaken.**

²⁰ **The earth staggers to and fro like a drunk, swaying like a shed; its stepping over the line, lies heavy upon it; it will fall, and not rise again /** it totters back and forth, from one side to the other, unable to carry its wrongdoings and damage any further.

²¹ And it will happen **on that day** / **the 6th Day of the LORD**, that the LORD will punish a bunch of the host of heaven on high, and the kings of the **earth, on earth**, / Moses told us about it, a terrifying Day afflicting souls and the Wrath of God. And is the LORD going to multitask and take care of all the business... cleaning up the fools both in heaven – most likely thrown down; and those on earth... on that great Day, it seems so doesn't it?

²² They will be gathered together as prisoners in the pit, and be locked up in the prison / perhaps the citizens of heaven will be deputized to officially round up the Asteroid of Eternity and all his fool-hearty buffoons,

and after many days they will be punished / like forever.

²³ Then the moon will be confounded, the sun will blush when the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, gloriously in the presence of His august ancients. / neither of the good and faithful lesser lights of His creation will know what to do... when the GLORIOUS LIGHT OF THE WORLD finally comes. In the presence of all His creation; including those in eternity who we don't know and never could imagine; as well as faithful men and women in both the Old and New Testaments... who will reign with Him.

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