

ISAIAH – Chapter 26

Vs. 1 In that Day – not today.

In contrast to Moab or the gentile nations. Isa. 25:2, 10-12

Judah and Jerusalem will be strong with walls and ramparts built up, a strong city.
Zech. 2:8-17

Vs. 2 The city of Jerusalem is described as being built by God, prepared, and the nation is invited to enter in. This nation has been positioned to enter her blessing by the individuals (remnant) being saved prior to their entrance at Christ's return.
Rom. 11:26-27

The nation of Israel is referred to as “the one that remains faithful.”

- 1) Not all Israel is Israel. Rom. 9:6-29; 4:13-16; 11:11-24 Believing Israel within Israel will be the recipient of the promise.
- 2) All individual Israelites alive at the time of the return of Christ will be saved – national salvation of Israel.
- 3) “Remaining faithful” is as much the product of the grace of God as the initial salvation experienced by the believer. Eph. 2:1-10

(What do we receive from the hand of God that is the product of what we “deserve”?) Ps. 24:1-6 must be seen through the eyes of Eph. 2:1-10!

Question: Whom is God speaking to when He commands them to “open the gates” – angels?

Vs. 3 The “steadfast” of mind (James 1:5-8) will be kept by God in “perfect peace.” Phil. 4:6-7 Not the product of positive thinking, but the result of a faithful God. Isa. 25:1 – because he trusts in you! The **object** of faith is the key, not the **act** of faith.

Vs. 4 Continue in this frame of mind of trust, for the God of the Bible never changes (He, which began a good work, will complete it – the security of the believer rests in the God he has believed in and not his actions of belief – if you would just believe).

The God we have placed our trust in is called “Ja Jehovah, an everlasting Rock.”
Isa. 12:2; Deut. 32:3-4, 15, 18, 30-31

Vs. 5 Those who persist in their pride – will be abased.

NOTE: God has a real problem with human pride. Isa. 10:12; 13:11; 16:6-7ff
His problem is not with humans alone. Isa. 14:11-15ff

Vs. 6 The feet of the afflicted (helpless) will trample down the proud (in that day).
Today the afflicted and helpless will remain in our midst. Mk. 14:7

Vs. 7 The way of the righteous is smooth...God smoothes it before them.

Question: How do we put together the passages, which extol human holiness with N.T. passages, which teach that such a life style is not possible apart from the indwelling Holy Spirit who “enables” a believer to live righteously – a ministry that did not begin until Pentecost?

SEE NOTES: “THE LAW OF MOSES”

Vs. 8-9a Verse 7 presented a “generalization” that being, that there are consequences which flow from our actions, i.e.: if a person lives according to God’s directions as found in His Word, there will be favorable consequences? Mt. 6:32-34; (I Cor. 7:26-28); John 16:33 And if he disregards God’s Word, he will experience negative consequences. Ps. 73:1-28

Vs. 9b Those who refuse to heed God’s ways learn of His righteousness when they are eventually judged. I Tim. 5:24

Vs. 10

- 1) God shows mercy to the wicked – they do not learn righteousness.
- 2) The wicked person continues in his life of sin and never sees God in it. A favorable environment does not necessarily produce a favorable result. Ecc. 8:10

Vs. 11

- 1) The people are insensitive (unconcerned) about God’s majesty and hand (works).
- 2) The evidence of God’s person surrounds them and a day will come when they will be held accountable! Indeed, fire will devour them. Rev. 6:12-17; 16:13-16

NOTE: Isaiah’s perspective, anticipation would not be fine tuned to awaiting the tribulation period. In his time they “saw in part” and not as we see “when the perfect comes...” I Cor. 13:9-10

Vs. 12 “Lord, You will establish peace for us (Israel).” I Thes. 5:3-11; Jer. 31:31-40; Zech. 14:20-21

Since – all that we have is the work of your hand.

Vs. 13 Over the millennia, many masters have ruled over Israel, but God alone is recognized as the “determiner” of all that has happened to them. God’s work on behalf of Israel will finally be recognized.

Vs. 14 Those who seek to dominate the remnant will be dead! The departed spirits of the lost will not be returned to the earth. God will:

- 1) Punish them.
- 2) Destroy them (does not mean annihilation).
- 3) Cause the remembrance of them to be wiped out.

In contrast to Israel's future. Isa. 26:19

Vs. 15 God has been faithful to His word! Gen. 15:3-5, 18-21

God is glorified. Eph. 1:6, 12, 14

Vs. 16 Israel has sought (future action spoken in the past tense) the Lord in the most difficult time this world has seen since there has been a creation. In fact, she is the center of that difficulty! The "time of Jacob's trouble" will be such a time of distress on Israel that she will only be able to "whisper a prayer."

Vs. 17 The tribulation will be a time of "labor" for Israel. Childbirth, once it begins, must continue until it is finished! The anticipation of the birth carries the woman into the labor. The pain of the birth leads to forgetting why the process was begun.

Vs. 18 Israel is facing a 7-year labor.

- 1) Writhing in pain.
- 2) Giving birth...to wind – no way that which is to be born will ever arrive.
- 3) Israel's travail will continue but will avail nothing. It will not result in deliverance! The world will perish.

Vs. 19 Israel's dead will live – resurrection. Dan. 12:2; Ezk. 37:1-14 – as the dew. Hos. 14:4-7

"The earth will give birth to the departed spirits." I Cor. 15:12-24ff;
Rev. 20:11-15

Overview:

- 1) I Corinthians speaks of all men being raised with believers being the focus.
- 2) Isaiah speaks of Israel's resurrection, which occurs after the tribulation period (see verse 20-21).
- 3) Revelation speaks of the resurrection of the lost, which occurs after the millennium.

Vs. 20 The tribulation period.

Vs. 21 A day is slated for God to set matters right.

1) He will punish the wicked.

2) All sins will be made known.

The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her. Gen. 4:10

3) God's people must hide until God's wrath is poured out.

4) Until tribulation will end – God's kingdom will come.