

Isaiah's Little Apocalypse, continued Isaiah 26-27

Isaiah 26 – *“In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. ² Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps the truth may enter in. ³ You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. ⁴ Trust in the Lord forever, for in YAH, the Lord, is everlasting strength.”*

Background Notes

Chapters 24-27 are a subsection of the book of Isaiah that is sometimes called “Isaiah’s Little Apocalypse” because it is mostly about the End Times. Isaiah 24 described the future Tribulation period, and Isaiah 25 the future Millennial kingdom of Christ.

In chapters 26-27, Isaiah continued to foresee various aspects and features of the coming Millennium, that future 1000-year period of peace on this earth after the Lord returns and establishes His earthly kingdom.

Doctrinal Point

The victory song of the remnant will be sung during the Millennium.

The word “*remnant*” refers to the saved Jews who remain after the Tribulation period, who will become the restored Israel of the Millennial kingdom of Christ. Isaiah 26 is a victory song that this godly remnant will sing during the Millennium (v1).

Although this is the song of redeemed Israel in the future, it has plenty of spiritual lessons even now - for all believers. Do you want perfect peace in your life? Then remain faithful! In times of trial and chaos, trust the Lord. Focus your mind on the Lord and the things of God (v3). The hymn “Rock of Ages” was based on verse 4.

Isaiah 26:5-9 - *“For He brings down those who dwell on high, the lofty city; He lays it low, He lays it low to the ground, He brings it down to the dust. ⁶ The foot shall tread it down - the feet of the poor and the steps of the needy. ⁷ The way of the just is uprightness; O Most Upright, You weigh the path of the just. ⁸ Yes, in the way of Your judgments, O Lord, we have waited for You; the desire of our soul is for Your Name and for the remembrance of You. ⁹ With my soul I have desired You in the night; yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early, for when Your judgments are in the earth the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.”*

In the long run, through God’s dealing with mankind, the proud and wicked will be brought down - and the humble and righteous will triumph:

Isaiah 26:10-11 - *“Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness. In the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord. ¹¹ Lord, when Your hand is lifted up, they will not see. But they will see and be ashamed for their envy of people; yes, the fire of Your enemies shall devour them.”*

Verses 10-11 say that the wicked, in general, will not respond to the patient grace of God:

In verses 12-19 of this victory song, the godly remnant will acknowledge that God patiently endured Israel's unfaithfulness, and their "giving birth to wind" (as it were). Because of God's faithfulness, Israel will eventually enjoy peace and experience new life. All her enemies will be destroyed, never to rise again.

Isaiah 26:12-19 - *"Lord, You will establish peace for us, for You have also done all our works in us. ¹³ O Lord our God, masters besides You have had dominion over us; but by You only we make mention of Your name. ¹⁴ They are dead, they will not live; they are deceased, they will not rise. Therefore You have punished and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish. ¹⁵ You have increased the nation, O Lord, You have increased the nation; You are glorified; You have expanded all the borders of the land. ¹⁶ Lord, in trouble they have visited You. They poured out a prayer when Your chastening was upon them. ¹⁷ As a woman with child is in pain and cries out in her pangs when she draws near the time of her delivery, so have we been in Your sight, O Lord. ¹⁸ We have been with child, we have been in pain; we have, as it were, brought forth wind. We have not accomplished any deliverance in the earth, nor have the inhabitants of the world fallen. ¹⁹ Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead."*

Verse 14 does not teach that the souls and spirits of unbelievers will be annihilated and destroyed, or will pass out of existence after a certain time of punishment. The point of this verse is that all of Israel's enemies will be eliminated. Those enemy nations will never trouble Israel any more. Israel will possess all the land that God originally promised to them under the Abrahamic Covenant (v15-19).

Does verse 19 refer to a *physical* resurrection or the *national* resurrection of Israel? It most likely involves *both*, because restored Israel during the Millennium will include the resurrected saints of the Old Testament, as well as the resurrected Tribulation saints who were martyred. They will join the godly remnant of restored Israel during the Millennial kingdom of Christ. The victory song of the remnant will be sung during the Millennium.

Practical Application

Take heart, for it will all "come out in the wash"!

Isaiah 26:20-21 - *"Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you. Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. ²¹ For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity. The earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain."*

Right now it may seem to us that the wicked are getting away with their sin - even murder. But hold on. Wait, knowing that in the future, the Lord will judge all iniquity - including secret and hidden sin. Take heart, for it will all "come out in the wash"!

Background Notes

Isaiah 27:1 - *“In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent; Leviathan that twisted serpent; and He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.”*

Who or what is the Leviathan, and serpent, and reptile in the sea? We believe this is Satan who operates behind, manipulates, and tries to control all Israel's enemies. *“In that day,”* the Millennium, Satan and his forces will be bound for 1000 years.

“In that day” was the distinctive phrase Isaiah used so often when he was looking on to the End-Time Tribulation period and Millennial kingdom of Christ. Isaiah used the phrase *“in that day”* four times in this chapter – in verses 1, 2, 12, and 13.

Isaiah 27:12-13 - *“And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will thresh from the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt. And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. So it shall be in that day: the great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem”.*

At the present time Jews are returning to the land of Israel in increasing numbers, but Israel is still an unbelieving nation. But *in that day* (specifically the Tribulation period) the Lord will “thresh” Israel. He will sort between the true and the false throughout the extended land of Israel. Notice that this “threshing” is a sorting of individuals one by one. The true believers will be gathered up to form the godly remnant of Israel.

And then *in that day* (v13), believing Jews who were persecuted in foreign lands will come home to the Land that was given to them by God Himself (specifically looking on to the Millennium). They will constitute the restored nation of Israel, and will worship the Lord at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, where the Millennial Temple will be built.

The *“great trumpet”* (v13) is not the trumpet of the Rapture. It is the trumpet associated with the re-gathering of elect Israel. This is the return of the Lord to this earth to establish His Millennial kingdom.

Doctrinal Point

The new song of the vineyard will be sung during the Millennium.

Isaiah 27:2-6 – *“In that day sing to her, “A vineyard of red wine! ³I, the Lord, keep it. I water it every moment, lest any hurt it. I keep it night and day. ⁴Fury is not in Me. Who would set briars and thorns against Me in battle? I would go through them; I would burn them together. ⁵Or let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he*

shall make peace with Me.”⁶ Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.

Remember the Parable of the Vineyard back in Isaiah 5? Israel was the vineyard, but Israel did not produce good fruit - only wild grapes. But Isaiah 27 reveals the **new** song of the vineyard. This is the song that redeemed Israel will sing during the Millennium.

In verses 2-6, notice that the Lord Himself is singing! He sings of the care and protection for His vineyard, which will blossom and sprout and fill the whole earth with fruit (v6).

In verses 7-9, God had to discipline His people until they would cease from their worship of idols. But even in His discipline God showed restraint, compared to His dealings with the other nations.

What a contrast in verses 10-11, compared to the new song of the vineyard. Verses 10-11 probably refer to the destruction of Jerusalem and all her fortified cities by the Babylonians in 587 and 586 BC. All those conditions literally took place when the Babylonians completely conquered the kingdom of Judah, about 125 years after Isaiah penned this prophecy. The new song of the vineyard will be sung during the Millennium.

Practical Application

Make your peace with God!

In verses 4-5, unbelievers and the enemies of God were urged to make their peace with God before He would step on them and burn them and destroy them, because they were like briars and thorns that harmed His vineyard.

Make your peace with God before it's too late! There's only one way to make your peace with God. You can't get peace with God by trying to do good works, or just by saying you're "sorry" for your sins. The one and only way to make your peace with God is through coming to faith in Jesus Christ alone. Jesus died on the cross for your sins. He died as your substitute. He paid the penalty for your sin – death (Romans 6:23).

Romans 5:1 says, *“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* The only way to have peace with God is through Jesus Christ alone. So if you're still not a Christian, **don't delay. Make your peace with God!**