

## A BETTER KING, SERVANT, CONQUEROR

# *The Book of Isaiah*

## Isaiah 24—27

### Verse to Remember

*In that day they will say,*

*"Surely this is our God;*

*we trusted in him, and he saved us."*

Isaiah 25:9a

This section of Isaiah (chapters 24—27) serves as a grand finale for the oracles to the nations in chapters 13—23. Each of those oracles was limited to a specific people and largely described events that would take place in the near future, with occasional glances at the more distant Messianic age. In contrast, the prophecies and songs of chapters 24—27 consistently look ahead to the final Day of the Lord at the end of the world. Chapter 24 gives us a terrifying vision of the devastation the Lord

will wreak in his judgment “in that day.” Chapters 25—27 depict the effects of the judgment on that day as well, but show even more clearly the salvation God’s victory brings about for his people.

A recurring image in these four chapters is the city—not a specific city of a specific time, but a universal city that represents all the proud cities and nations of all times and places that have rejected the Lord. This city God judges – and destroys utterly. In contrast to that city stands Mount Zion, the “new Jerusalem” (Rev. 2), the “strong city” with “salvation [as] its walls and ramparts” (Is. 26:1). This is the lasting city into which God will bring all those he has saved.

## Day 1 — Read Isaiah 24.

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1. Scan back through Isaiah 24:1–20, focusing on what happens to the earth itself. Jot down words and phrases that show that God’s destruction of the earth will be *total* and *final*.
  2. Now focus on what chapter 24 says about the people of the world.
    - a. What do the following verses say will happen to the people?  
Is. 24:1  
  
Is. 24:6  
  
Is. 24:7–9
    - b. What do we learn from verse 2 about God’s judgment of the people of the earth?
    - c. What do verses 17–18a say about any hope of escape from God’s wrath?
  3. How does Isaiah describe the once-proud city? (Is. 24:10–12; see also 27:10–11)
  4. Why are the earth and its inhabitants under this sentence of judgment? (Is. 24:5)

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5. Isaiah has demonstrated that God will judge the entire world. How does 24:21 expand our view of God's judgment even further? (📖\* Eph. 6:12)

### Day 2 — Read Isaiah 24 and 25.

1. In 24:13 Isaiah uses two images of the harvest. Olives were harvested by shaking the trees; most of the olives would fall, but some might remain clinging to the tree. Any grapes left on the vine after the grape harvest were the gleanings.<sup>2</sup> What do you think this verse is saying about the judgment? (Hint: consider Is. 24:6b; Is. 10:20–22; Is. 17:6)
  
2. Given that the song of 24:14–16a follows right after Isaiah's mention of the gleanings in verse 13, who do you think the singers are?

Why are they singing? (Is. 25:9)

3. Chapter 24 closes with a picture of the One about whom they are singing. What does verse 23 convey about him? (See also the description of the New Jerusalem in Rev. 21:23.)
  
4. The singers of this song in chapter 25, like the singers of 24:14–16a, are the remnant, the people whom God has saved from the destruction.
  - a. For what are they praising the LORD? (Is. 25:1b)
  
  - b. It might at first seem strange for them to praise God for reducing the city to “a heap of rubble” (25:2). Why would they do this? (Hint: Is. 24:5, 16c; Is. 25:3–5; Is. 26:10, 21)

### Day 3 — Read Isaiah 25. (Suggested: Read Isaiah 26.)

1. We've seen abundant evidence of God's power and have gotten a glimpse of his glory and righteousness. How is he described in 25:4–5? (📖\* Compare the images in these verses with those of Is. 4:5–6.)



We have seen this **great mountain** before. To refresh your memory, look back at Is. 2:2–3, Is. 4:5–6, and Is. 11:9.

2. The mountain of 25:6–8 is Mount Zion. In these verses Isaiah gives us a beautiful picture of the salvation God will win for all his people from all corners of the world. Jesus accomplished this salvation through his death and resurrection. Use the chart below to show how the New Testament explains Isaiah’s prophecies more fully.

Isaiah	The New Testament
Is. 25:6	Rev. 19:6–9
Is. 25:7–8a	1 Cor. 15:51–57
Is. 25:8b	Rev. 21:3–4

3. Isaiah uses the titles “the LORD Almighty” and “the Sovereign LORD” for God in 25:6–8.
  - a. What do these titles convey?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What other aspects of God’s character do we see in these same verses?
  
4. Moab was a real nation, an enemy of Israel. In chapters 15 and 16, it received its own oracle of judgment for its pride, conceit, and insolence (16:6). But here Moab, like the “city,” also stands for any people that opposes God.
  - a. We recognize the image of the leveled city in 25:12, but what new image do we get in 25:10b–11 of God’s destruction of Moab?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How does this humiliation contrast with what God does for his people? (Is. 25:8c)

#### Day 4 — Read Isaiah 27.

Isaiah uses three images to represent evil powers in 27:1—the gliding serpent, the coiling serpent, and the monster of the sea. “Leviathan,” a mythological creature, symbolizes “an immense power...ranged against the Lord.”<sup>3</sup> Isaiah also uses three words to describe the Lord’s sword – fierce, great, and powerful. This three-fold description shows that **God is equal to the task of vanquishing these three foes.**

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1. In verses 2–5 Isaiah once again portrays the vineyard that represents his people. In the table below, contrast the vineyard as it was in Isaiah’s day with the vineyard as it will be “in that day” (27:2).

In Isaiah’s Day (chapter 5)	In That Day (chapter 27)
5:5	27:3
5:6a	27:4
5:6b	27:3
5:2b, 7	27:6

Verses 7–9 of chapter 27 are extremely difficult. Isaiah asks whether the Lord has ever dealt as harshly with Israel as he has with nations that have attacked her. We’re meant to understand that the answer is no. In punishing his people—for example, by the “warfare and exile” of 27:8—God always showed “a divine restraint.”<sup>4</sup> Through his punishments, God was always purging and purifying his people, seeking to rid them of their idolatry;<sup>5</sup> but true atonement for sin would not be possible before Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

2. Isaiah 27:12–13 shows the Lord assembling his saved remnant from the nations of the world.

- a. What two images does Isaiah use to describe this assembling?

Is. 27:12

Is. 27:13

- b. What will the people do once they are safely gathered? (Is. 27:13b)

## Day 5

1. In chapters 24–27, we have seen a pattern: God judges and wins victory over his enemies; God graciously saves a remnant; God receives his due worship and praise. We see the same pattern in the New Testament, which reveals Jesus, the Messiah, the One through whom God wins the ultimate victory. How do the following verses show this pattern?

Judgment and Victory (Col. 2:13–15; 1 Cor. 15:54b–57)

Remnant and Worship (Rev. 7:9–17)

2. Now add your own worship and praise to the Lord for what he has done.

\*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

<sup>1</sup> J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction & Commentary* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 204.

<sup>2</sup> Edward J. Young, *The Book of Isaiah*, Volume 2 Chapters 19–39 (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1969), 168.

<sup>3</sup> Motyer, 222.

<sup>4</sup> Motyer, 224.

<sup>5</sup> Motyer, 223; Young, 243.