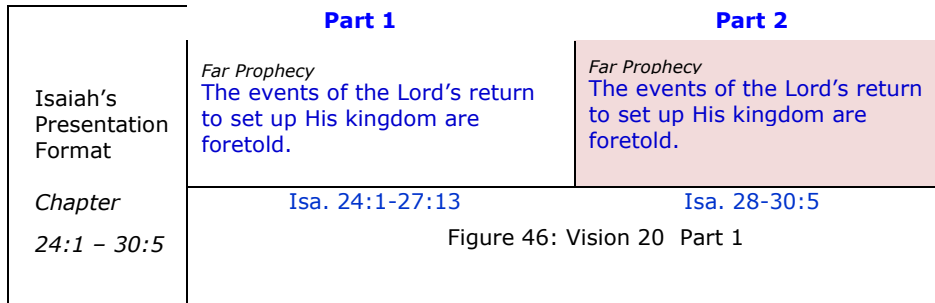


The Prophecies of Isaiah ⁴²

Lesson 18

Vision 20 - Part 1



With the close of chapter 23, nothing is left to be said that can save the Northern Kingdom. The year is 722 BC; Samaria has fallen to the Assyrian king. The south is in jeopardy of being overthrown and Isaiah has a Word from the Lord. The knowledge of the devastation in the Northern Kingdom sets the backdrop for Isaiah to foretell the devastation in Israel that will precede the Lord's arrival and reign on His throne in Jerusalem.

Far Prophecy

All Under God's Hand of Judgment

Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface, and scatters its inhabitants. ² And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor. ³ The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word. ⁴ The earth mourns *and* withers, the world fades *and* withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away.

When the Lord returns, not one person on earth will be exempt from His great Judgment. Rich or poor, popular or unpopular, all will be equal when the Lord burns the earth, changes its topography and separates the people who belong to Him from those who are against Him. Everyone will kneel to the Lord and those who hate Him will fade away.

Far Prophecy

Few Left After God's Judgment

Isaiah 24:5 The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. ⁶ Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.

Why will the Lord send a curse to devour the earth? His purpose is to rid the earth of all those who sin against Him; He will burn them all. Will any survive? Yes. The survivors will be those who have placed their trust in Him but they will be few in number.⁴³

⁴² All Scriptures in this lesson entitled "The Prophecies of Isaiah" are taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, Copyright (C) 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1988, by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

⁴³ On one-third of the Jews alive at the beginning of the Tribulation will survive to the setting up of the Kingdom of the Lord.

Far Prophecy

Drink Banished in God's Judgment

Isaiah 24:7 The new wine mourns, the vine decays, all the merry-hearted sigh. ⁸ The gaiety of tambourines ceases, the noise of revelers stops, the gaiety of the harp ceases. ⁹ They do not drink wine with song; strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. ¹⁰ The city of chaos is broken down; every house is shut up so that none may enter. ¹¹ There is an outcry in the streets concerning the wine; all joy turns to gloom. The gaiety of the earth is banished.

All the luxuries of Israel and the other nations that gather in the city will be banished including the vines. According to the book of Joel, locusts of all kinds will devour the vines and therefore cripple the wine production in the days leading up to the Lord's return. The city of chaos is Jerusalem. Today, she is a city of chaos with people of various religions claiming different parts of it. In the years before the Lord's return, it will be the home of the evil beast that will establish the Temple as his throne and set up an abomination there.

Far Prophecy

Shouts of Joy After God's Judgment

Isaiah 24:12 Desolation is left in the city, and the gate is battered to ruins. ¹³ For thus it will be in the midst of the earth among the peoples, as the shaking of an olive tree, as the gleanings when the grape harvest is over. ¹⁴ They raise their voices, they shout for joy. They cry out from the west concerning the majesty of the LORD. ¹⁵ Therefore glorify the LORD in the east, the name of the LORD, the God of Israel In the coastlands of the sea. ^{16a} From the ends of the earth we hear songs, " Glory to the Righteous One,"

When the Lord arrives, He will shake the land. Even though its gates are battered and the city is in shambles, He will bring His glory into Jerusalem. From the east to the west, those who belong to Him will rejoice.

Far Prophecy

Isaiah Sees God's Judgment

Isaiah 24:16b But I say, " Woe to me! Woe to me! Alas for me! The treacherous deal treacherously, and the treacherous deal very treacherously." ¹⁷ Terror and pit and snare confront you, O inhabitant of the earth. ¹⁸ Then it will be that he who flees the report of disaster will fall into the pit, and he who climbs out of the pit will be caught in the snare; for the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake. ¹⁹ The earth is broken asunder, the earth is split through, the earth is shaken violently. ²⁰ The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard, and it totters like a shack, for its transgression is heavy upon it, and it will fall, never to rise again.

Isaiah sees the struggles leading up to the Lord's return and grieves for his people. It is frightening for Isaiah to see the sin that brings about the need for the Lord's judgment. Those who could be saved if they would change will not do so because of their desire for sin. Sinners cannot escape the judgment of the Lord.

Far Prophecy

Heaven and Earth Experience God's Judgment

Isaiah 24:21 So it will happen in that day, that the LORD will punish the host of heaven, on high, and the kings of the earth, on earth. ²² And they will be gathered together like prisoners in the dungeon, and will be confined in prison; and after many days they will be punished. ²³ Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for

the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and *His* glory will be before His elders.

When the Lord begins the judgment that culminates with His establishment of His throne on earth, it includes more than just humans on earth and their kings; His judgment will include the punishment of the heavenly host of angels who have rebelled against Him. All the demons will be gathered with the evil kings and people of the earth to fight against the Lord at His return. Satan will be bound for 1,000 years and all the evil people will be cast into torment in Hades. "After many days," the Lord will resurrect those who are confined and finish His judgment on them. He will set His Great White Throne in Jerusalem and there He will be surrounded by 24 elders.

Far Prophecy

Isaiah Gives Thanks for the Lord's Plans

Isaiah 25:1 O LORD, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will give thanks to Thy name; for Thou hast worked wonders, plans *formed* long ago, with perfect faithfulness. ²For Thou hast made a city into a heap, a fortified city into a ruin; a palace of strangers is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore a strong people will glorify Thee; cities of ruthless nations will revere Thee.

Isaiah thanks the Lord for making Jerusalem a special city in the future. Isaiah is living in Jerusalem and he sees the sin within its walls; he knows the trouble of its past; he understands the need for its removal in its current condition. The Lord's Jerusalem will be far better than the city as it exists until His return.

Far Prophecy

Isaiah Gives Thanks for the Lord's Protection

Isaiah 25:4 For Thou hast been a defense for the helpless, A defense for the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a *rain* storm *against* a wall. ⁵Like heat in drought, Thou dost subdue the uproar of aliens; *like* heat by the shadow of a cloud, the song of the ruthless is silenced.

The Lord has always been considered the defender of the helpless and the needy; however, He helps only those who are in a right relationship with Him. As the days grow closer to the Lord's coming, the Jews will become helpless and needy with nowhere to turn except the Lord. He will rescue those who trust in Him and eliminate the rest who are His enemies.

Far Prophecy

Isaiah Gives Thanks for the Lord's Provisions

Isaiah 25:6 And the LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, *and* refined, aged wine. ⁷And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken. ⁹And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

When the Lord establishes His throne and kingdom, He will provide for all the needs of the people under His care. When Isaiah speaks of the "covering which is over all the peoples, even the veil ..." he is speaking of the threat of death that hovers over all human beings.

During the 1,000 year reign, death will occur only in rare cases of punishment from the Lord. The gloom that brings about tears will not exist. Life will be different. The nation of Israel will be the pristine nation of the world; all nations will look to Israel for leadership in that time. Israel will trust in the same Lord she missed when He died on the cross to offer salvation.

Far Prophecy

Moab Trodden Down

Isaiah 25:10 For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain, and Moab will be trodden down in his place as straw is trodden down in the water of a manure pile. ¹¹ And he will spread out his hands in the middle of it as a swimmer spreads out *his hands* to swim, But *the Lord* will lay low his pride together with the trickery of his hands. ¹² And the unassailable fortifications of your walls He will bring down, lay low, *and* cast to the ground, even to the dust.

Moab is east of Israel on the other side of the Dead Sea. Moab, as did many nations in the area, had a great quantity of straw which they would put on the ground and run over with iron wheels to chop and reduce to chaff. It would be placed in the manure pile to form compost which would be spread out to fertilize the fields. The Lord will stop all of this work when He destroys the Moabite land; most of the land will be changed into the plain of the Lord when the Mt. of Olives splits at His arrival and a 50-mile mountain begins to rise where the Lord will establish his throne and Temple on its top.

Far Prophecy

Judah's Song When the Lord Reigns

Isaiah 26:1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; He sets up walls and ramparts for security. ² "Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter, the one that remains faithful. ³ "The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in Thee. ⁴ " Trust in the LORD forever, for in GOD the LORD, *we have* an everlasting Rock. ⁵ "For He has brought low those who dwell on high, the unassailable city; He lays it low, He lays it low to the ground, He casts it to the dust. ⁶ "The foot will trample it, the feet of the afflicted, the steps of the helpless." ⁷ The way of the righteous is smooth; O Upright One, make the path of the righteous level. ⁸ Indeed, *while following* the way of Thy judgments, O LORD, we have waited for Thee eagerly; Thy name, even Thy memory, is the desire of *our* souls.

The song sung by Israel when the Lord establishes His kingdom, making Jerusalem His city, will express Israel's great joy when Jerusalem is finally looked upon as the city above all cities and everyone in that day will live in perfect peace because they fully trust in the Lord, having just observed His destruction of all His enemies. At that time, living will be easy compared to today as long as the people remember the power of the Lord.

Far Prophecy

Isaiah's Longing

Isaiah 26:9 At night my soul longs for Thee, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks Thee diligently; for when the earth experiences Thy judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

Isaiah could only long to experience the Lord's kingdom knowing that it will occur far in the future. He understands that when the Lord comes, the world, as well as Isaiah's people, will finally learn and live a life of true righteousness.

Far Prophecy

Majesty Unseen

Isaiah 26:10 *Though* the wicked is shown favor, He does not learn righteousness; He deals unjustly in the land of uprightness, and does not perceive the majesty of the LORD.

In Isaiah's song for Judah to sing that began in verse one of this chapter, he remembers the turmoil caused by the wicked people of the world including his own flesh and blood. It is impossible for the wicked to recognize the magnificent splendor of the Lord until they have entered into a relationship with Him. Even when the Lord provides a favorable environment, the wicked do not learn.

Far Prophecy

Wicked Burned

Isaiah 26:11 O LORD, Thy hand is lifted up yet they do not see it. They see *Thy* zeal for the people and are put to shame; Indeed, fire will devour Thine enemies.

Isaiah sees the continual rebellion of his people along with that of the world against the Lord. He is about to strike but they cannot see His uplifted hand that will cast burning fire to destroy His enemies. Surely they can see Him for He is present everywhere in creation; they do not want to see Him because they long to continue in their wicked ways.

Far Prophecy

Peace Established

Isaiah 26:12 LORD, Thou wilt establish peace for us, Since Thou hast also performed for us all our works.

The descendants of Israel/Jacob have longed for true peace throughout the centuries experiencing a glimpse of peace for only extremely short segments of time. When David writes in Psalm 122, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee ..." he desires for the city of peace he has built to live in peace when the House of the Lord is built by his son, Solomon. David has planned every aspect of the Temple and Solomon will build it. David has not lived in peace and that is one of the reasons the Lord will not let him build it. Solomon will build the temple but quickly subdue all the nations around him, providing a false peace. With Solomon's death, the nation of Israel is split into two sections and Jerusalem experiences peace in brief moments of its history. It is not a place of peace even today. In Isaiah 62:6, he says Jerusalem will never hold her peace; Ezekiel 13:16 reiterates that she will never have peace. Even so, peace is promised. When the Lord sits on His throne, the entire world will be at peace, Jerusalem will experience a millennium of peace and the Jews will be the recipients of the blessing.

Far Prophecy

Name Confessed

Isaiah 26:13 O LORD our God, other masters besides Thee have ruled us; *But* through Thee alone we confess Thy name.

Isaiah confesses the name of God as his Master but most of his kinsmen do not. Israel has been ruled by Egypt, Moab, Philistia, Ammon, Aram, and Assyria by Isaiah's time. Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and Britain will add to the mix until 1948 when Britain establishes Israel as her own nation again and, although she will never again lose her land, she will not live in peace until the Lord returns.

Far Prophecy

Wicked Forgotten

Isaiah 26:14 The dead will not live, the departed spirits will not rise; Therefore Thou hast punished and destroyed them, And Thou hast wiped out all remembrance of them.

What will happen to all the wicked? They will all die and be forgotten. They will not rise to meet the Lord; they will not rise to live with the Lord on earth; they will be punished without remembrance among the righteous.

Far Prophecy

Borders Increased

Isaiah 26:15 Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, Thou hast increased the nation, Thou art glorified; Thou hast extended all the borders of the land.

When the Lord returns, He will increase the boundaries of the Promised Land of His kingdom to the boundaries He established in His promise to Abraham. His kingdom will stretch from the Euphrates River to the Nile River.

Far Prophecy

Whispered Prayer

Isaiah 26:16 O LORD, they sought Thee in distress; they could only whisper a prayer, Thy chastening was upon them.

Just before the Lord returns to set up His kingdom, the Jews can only whisper prayers to Him but He will hear. He has chastened them to force them to turn to Him. Then, He will hear their call.

Far Prophecy

People's Pain

Isaiah 26:17 As the pregnant woman approaches *the time* to give birth, she writhes and cries out in her labor pains, thus were we before Thee, O LORD. ¹⁸ We were pregnant, we writhed *in labor*, we gave birth, as it were, *only* to wind. We could not accomplish deliverance for the earth nor were inhabitants of the world born.

Israel will not turn to the Lord until she is writhing in the pain of war outside Jerusalem and within her walls. Just before the point of annihilation, just before Armageddon, some of Israel will turn to the Lord and He will deliver them, it is not something that they can do on their own.

Far Prophecy

Dead Arise

Isaiah 26:19 Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits. ²⁰ Come, my people, enter into your rooms, and close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while, until indignation runs *its* course.

Those of Israel who have trusted in the Lord and died will rise to be with the Lord. It will be a while before the Lord comes so Isaiah can promise that the bodies of all who trust in the Lord and die during that time will be placed in a casket for a while, "until the indignation runs its course" and then they will be resurrected. It is the same promise given by John in the Revelation.

Far Prophecy

Lord's Return

Isaiah 26:21 For behold, the LORD is about to come out from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; and the earth will reveal her bloodshed, and will no longer cover her slain.

When the Lord returns, all the unjustly slain on the earth will be revealed to the world. All the enemies of the Lord will pay for their wrongdoings.

Far Prophecy

Serpent Killed

Isaiah 27:1 In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan the twisted serpent; and He will kill the dragon who *lives* in the sea.

When the Lord returns, He will punish the serpent with the sword of His mouth.⁴⁴ He is called the Leviathan which means twisted or coiled. In the eastern world it denotes a twisted dragon or snake. It is a reference to Satan, the old twisted dragon; he will be cast into the abyss and chained there for 1,000 years.

Far Prophecy

Lord's Vineyard

Isaiah 27:2 In that day, "A vineyard of wine, sing of it! ³ "I, the LORD, am its keeper; I water it every moment. Lest anyone damage it, I guard it night and day. ⁴ "I have no wrath. Should someone give Me briars *and* thorns in battle, *Then* I would step on them, I would burn them completely. ⁵ "Or let him rely on My protection, Let him make peace with Me, Let him make peace with Me."

In the Lord's kingdom, He is the ultimate farmer and no one will do anything to destroy His vineyard. Israel is the vine and the Lord promises to protect her. Anyone who tries to hurt Israel will have to deal with the Lord.

Far Prophecy

Israel Blossoms

Isaiah 27:6 In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout; and they will fill the whole world with fruit. ⁷ Like the striking of Him who has struck them, has He struck them? Or like the slaughter of His slain, have they been slain? ⁸ Thou didst contend with them by banishing them, by driving them away. With His fierce wind He has expelled *them* on the day of the east wind.

Through many centuries, Israel has struggled to survive. Only because of the Lord's grace has she continued to exist. But in the Lord's kingdom, Israel will be planted by Him on the Promised Land for a thousand years and will prosper and grow. Anyone who comes against Israel will be forced away by the fierce wind of the Lord.

Far Prophecy

Pardon's Price

Isaiah 27:9 Therefore through this Jacob's iniquity will be forgiven; And this will be the full price of the pardoning of his sin: When he makes all the altar stones like pulverized chalk stones; *When* Asherim and incense altars will not stand. ¹⁰ For the fortified city is isolated, a homestead forlorn and forsaken like the desert; there the

⁴⁴ Rev 19:21

calf will graze, and there it will lie down and feed on its branches. ¹¹ When its limbs are dry, they are broken off; women come *and* make a fire with them. For they are not a people of discernment, Therefore their Maker will not have compassion on them. And their Creator will not be gracious to them.

What is the price for the Lord's pardoning of Israel's sin? Israel must give up all her idols of whatever kind wherever they are situated or the Lord will not forgive them. When Israel turns to the Lord and just before His coming, they will put away all their graven images and idols, their false altars and their trust in the fortified strongholds.

Far Prophecy

Lord's Threshing

Isaiah 27:12 And it will come about in that day, that the LORD will start *His* threshing from the flowing stream of the Euphrates to the brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered up one by one, O sons of Israel.

Where will the Lord begin when He breaks through the eastern skies to arrive on earth and set up His kingdom? He will begin on the Euphrates, destroying Babylon and Nineveh; He will not stop until He has changed the land all the way to the Nile, covering over the tongue of the Red Sea with dirt and establishing a highway from one river to the other to enable the sons of Israel and the other nations to travel to Jerusalem to worship Him. All Jews will be gathered by the Lord to live on their land-grants with the rest of their tribal members at that time.

Far Prophecy

Worship in Jerusalem

Isaiah 27:13 It will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be blown; and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD in the holy mountain at Jerusalem.

By the time of this passage, the Jews of the Northern Kingdom are in exile in Assyria on the northern Euphrates. One hundred and twenty years later, Nebuchadnezzar will begin taking exiles from the Southern Kingdom to the lower Euphrates and Tigris River areas. When Cyrus allows the Jews to return to the Southern Kingdom area in 536 BC, only a small portion of the combined exiles in Assyria and Babylon choose to return. Jews are established and set in their ways throughout old Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Media and the surrounding countries. Between 606 BC and 586 BC, many Jews fled to Egypt, away from the threat of Nebuchadnezzar and there they stayed. In 331 BC, Alexander the Great moved hundreds of thousands of Jews into the areas controlled by Egypt such as Cyrene and Libya. By the time of Jesus, the largest population of Jews in the world outside Israel was in Babylon and the second largest in Egypt. Descendants of those Jews are still there today and will remain until the Lord comes. The roads from Assyria to Egypt will provide a way for all the Jews to travel to Jerusalem to worship the Lord at least once a year.