

Isaiah Series Part 8

Chapters 24-25

From Devastation to Celebration



Introduction

Have you ever noticed how every feast, no matter how joyful, eventually comes to an end? The food runs out, the laughter fades, the dishes pile up, and we go home. That's the story of this broken world: its joys are temporary, its celebrations incomplete, and its sorrows unending. Isaiah 24 shows us the sobering truth—the world, corrupted by sin, is heading for devastation. No one escapes. But Isaiah doesn't leave us in despair.

In chapter 25, he lifts our eyes to a greater hope: a feast that never ends, where tears are wiped away, death is swallowed up, and joy is complete. This is the banquet of salvation God Himself prepares for His people.

Universal Judgment of the Lord (24:1-23)

Main Idea: God's judgment is comprehensive, impartial, and inevitable.

The Scope of Judgment (24:1–3)

Earth laid waste and utterly emptied (Oswalt: emphasizes the cosmic scale).

No distinction between people groups—priest, master, servant, buyer, seller—everyone affected (Motyer: God's justice is impartial).

Universal Judgment of the Lord (24:1-23)

The Cause of Judgment (24:4–6)

Earth languishes under curse because of human guilt.

Transgressed laws, violated statutes, broken covenant.

Motyer: The reference is not just to Israel but to universal accountability under God.

Universal Judgment of the Lord (24:1-23)

The Terror of Judgment (24:7–20)

Joy of wine gone, music silenced, cities desolate.

Cosmic shaking: earth reels like a drunkard.

Oswalt: Sin is not just a private issue—it destabilizes the entire created order.

Universal Judgment of the Lord (24:1-23)

The Certainty of Judgment (24:21–23)

The Lord punishes powers in heaven and kings on earth.

God reigns gloriously on Mount Zion.

Motyer: Judgment is not the last word; it prepares the way for God's eternal reign.

Song of Praise for Salvation (25:1-5)

Main Idea: The righteous respond to God's mighty acts with worship.

Personal Praise (25:1)

“O LORD, you are my God.”

Oswalt: The movement from universal to personal—faith claims God personally amid global upheaval.

Song of Praise for Salvation (25:1-5)

Praise for God's Plans (25:1b)

Purposes formed long ago fulfilled with faithfulness and truth.

Motyer: God's sovereignty ensures His plan of redemption unfolds as intended.

Song of Praise for Salvation (25:1-5)

Praise for God's Power (25:2–3)

Strongholds of ruthless destroyed.

Nations revere God.

Song of Praise for Salvation (25:1-5)

Praise for God's Protection (25:4–5)

Refuge for the poor and needy.

Shelter from the storm, shade from heat.

Oswalt: God's justice and mercy meet—He destroys the oppressor while protecting the oppressed.

Banquet on Mount Zion (25:6-8)

Main Idea: God's salvation culminates in joyful fellowship, victory over death, and universal blessing.

The Great Feast (25:6)

Rich food, aged wine—symbol of abundance and joy.

Motyer: Banquet points to eschatological hope fulfilled in Christ (cf. Rev. 19:9).

Banquet on Mount Zion (25:6-8)

The Removal of the Shroud (25:7)

God removes the “covering” over all nations—ignorance, sin, separation.



Banquet on Mount Zion (25:6-8)

The Destruction of Death (25:8a)

“He will swallow up death forever.”

Oswalt: Ultimate reversal of curse from Gen. 3.

Echoes Paul (1 Cor. 15:54).

Banquet on Mount Zion (25:6-8)

The Comfort of God (25:8b)

Wiping away tears, removing reproach from His people.

Motyer: The heart of salvation is not just external deliverance but personal healing.

Joy of God's People (25:9-12)

Main Idea: God's redeemed rejoice in His salvation, while the proud are humbled.

Confession of Trust (25:9)

“This is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us.”

Oswalt: The contrast between those who trust in self vs. those who trust in God

Joy of God's People (25:9-12)

Celebration of Salvation (25:9b)

Rejoicing in God's deliverance.



Joy of God's People (25:9-12)

Judgment on the Proud (25:10–12)

Moab as representative of arrogant opposition to God.

Motyer: Human pride must be brought low before God's kingdom can be fully established.



Conclusion:

Isaiah 24–25 shows the two sides of God's character: holy judgment and gracious salvation.

The devastation of sin (ch. 24) is not the final word—God's final word is a feast (ch. 25). This passage invites us to: Acknowledge God's universal reign. Place personal trust in Him amid world upheaval. Look forward to the ultimate banquet where death is defeated and tears are wiped away in Christ.