

Series: Isaiah

Title: The LORD Reigns in Zion Now!

Text: Isaiah 24: 1-23

Date: February 14, 2010

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Isaiah was sent with a vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem. The first verse of the book tells us that. It is a word concerning the physical nation and it is a word concerning God's true, spiritual nation. It is a word concerning judgment in Isaiah generation and it is word pointing to judgment at Calvary, as well as judgment to come in the end of the world.

Proposition: Right now the LORD of hosts reigns in Mt. Zion, in heavenly Jerusalem.

Isaiah is declaring the end of the earthly kingdom and the beginning of the spiritual reign of our Lord Jesus Christ, the true King of Israel. Brethren, we are now living in the gospel age, the 1000 year reign, spoken of in Revelation 20. The true King is reigning over his true kingdom and you who believe are reigning with him as his kings and priests in the earth right now. It is not a literal 1000 years but a definite period of time set by our God until the last of his elect Gentiles be called into the fold.

We just finished with the prophecies which declared the LORD was about to remove every nation and people—every support and supplier to Jerusalem and Judah: Chaldea, Moab, Damascus-Syria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Dumah, Arabia, and Tyre. So our text begins:

Isaiah 24: 1: Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

When Isaiah was sent of the LORD with the gospel the LORD said,

Isaiah 6: 11: Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, 12: And the LORD have removed men far away, and *there be* a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

In the next verse of our text, Isaiah declares the end of the physical nation is at hand.

Isaiah 24: 2: And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.

These are offices of government and commerce. When these civil offices and distinctions are removed within a nation, it means that nation exists no more. Isaiah declared in his generation that the earthly government God established in Israel is at its end. The earthly nation, Israel, which God made is at its end. The earthly kingdom God made is at its end. Isaiah declared this judgment up to chapter 10. Then in Isaiah 11, he said after all the nations had been broken up then would come forth the true King—the root of Jesse—Christ Jesus the son of David who reigns in righteousness.

All along, that nation and throne only typified God's true spiritual Israel and kingdom. Christ is King. His throne is in heavens Jerusalem. King Jesus reigns upon Mt. Zion—his mountain, his church. His kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, a spiritual nation. Christ has ascended to the throne of glory and his kingdom is now established. He is now ruling in righteousness and in judgment, drawing out his people unto true Zion.

But the LORD would clear the land before he planted it with Christ the choice Seed.

Isaiah 24: 3: The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word.

We have seen the LORD speak this word through Isaiah:

Isaiah 4: 5: And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; *and* break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: 6: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7: For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

The LORD spoke this word through Moses:

Deuteronomy 4: 26: I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong *your* days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. 27: And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you. 28: And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell;...32:26: I said, I would scatter them into corners, I would make the remembrance of them to cease from among men:

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO FULFILL HIS EVERY WORD.

Concerning the physical nation, the LORD God promised Abraham he would form a nation of his natural descendants—he did it. He promised he would deliver them out of Egypt--he did it. He promised he would bring them through the wilderness—he did it. He promised he would deliver them into the land of Canaan--he did it. He fulfilled every earthly promise he made to Israel while the inhabitants of the nation fulfilled none. The last promise to be performed was to destroy the nation as he promised he would when they would not submit and believe on him. And here is doing it.

THE PEOPLE DID NOT BELIEVE GOD

Isaiah 24: 4: The earth mourneth *and* fadeth away, the world languisheth *and* fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. 5: The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

Through this one nation, the LORD shows us what all men are by nature: proud and fading away. The Lord gave every earthly advantage to this one nation showing us that without the triune God in Christ Jesus effectually accomplishing our salvation and making us to believe on him through the Holy Spirit we all shall perish even as this nation. What are we in our flesh?

- They have transgressed the laws. By nature all men are law breakers. This is why Christ had to come to perfect obedience for his people and to justify his elect of all their sins.
- They have changed the ordinances. Man by nature takes the ordinances of God which are given to glorify Christ and we change them to glorify man.
- They have broken the everlasting covenant. When God made the covenant with Israel it was not as the everlasting covenant he makes in the heart of his people. The everlasting covenant leaves nothing to be done by the sinner. We see here why? The covenant God made said, "I will if you will." Israel after the flesh could not and would not.

1 Corinthians 2:14: But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

There is nothing about any sinner that is sound and pure by nature, everything is polluted and corrupted. Thanks be unto God the everlasting covenant is ordered in all things and sure because of our faithful God and Savior. It is "I will and they shall."

Isaiah 24: 6: Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left. 7: The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merryhearted do sigh. 8: The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth. 9: They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it. 10: The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in. 11: *There is* a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone. 12: In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction.

Hoshea 7:14: And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, *and* they rebel against me.

How this ought to be a sobering thought to us in our day! All this is taking place now, just as it did then. This world even recognizes it.

Illustration: Separated from Christ the Vine sinners are like those Valentine Flowers.

GOD SHALL SAVE THOSE HE HAS CHOSEN IN CHRIST BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN

Isaiah 24: 13: When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, *there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done.* 14: They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea. 15: Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, *even* the name of the LORD God of Israel
in the isles of the sea.

Before, when the LORD used this metaphor he said that a remnant would be left just as some fruit is left in the gleaning.

Isaiah 17: 6: Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two *or* three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four *or* five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel.

Here God declares this remnant is not only a chosen remnant from among the Jews but also the Gentiles

- they shall cry aloud from the sea.
- Isaiah 24: 15: Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires (valleys), *even* the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea.
- Isaiah 24: 16: From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, *even* glory to the righteous.

Make no mistake, it is not that the word of God returned unto him void. The natural descendants--Israel after the flesh--are not the chosen children of God, but rather, those he put in Christ before the world began and promised to save by himself through the person and work of Christ Jesus. They are made up of a people called out of every nation upon this earth.

Romans 9: 6: Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8: That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

THE GLORY GOES TO GOD THE FATHER AND HIS SON JESUS CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUS

Isaiah 24: 16: From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, *even* glory to the righteous.

Christ Jesus is the one in whom the righteousness of God is manifest. The believer's righteousness is Christ Jesus. The LORD God showed clearly through the nation Israel that no earthly king--no sinful man--could do what only his Son has done.

Isaiah 1: 21: How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. 22: Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: 23: Thy princes *are* rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them. 24: Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies: 25: And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: 26: And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. 27: Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

In Isaiah 10 the LORD declared he would use the king of Assyria to clear the land. In Isaiah 11, the LORD declared then the Righteous King would come forth and take the throne of his kingdom.

In chapters 13-24 the LORD gave great detail to the judgment which would ravish the whole land. Now in this chapter the LORD is declaring that the end of the earthly kingdom will mean salvation in Christ the King for his elect throughout the world. What Isaiah said in chapter 11, he is showing us here in this text.

Isaiah 11: 1: And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3: And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5: And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

There will not be a valley so remote or an isle of the sea too distant for our God to call out his elect, whom he has redeemed by the blood of Christ our Lord. The gospel of Christ Jesus the Righteous shall be sung by each of he redeemed from the uttermost part of the earth.

Isaiah 11: 10: And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. 11: And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12: And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth....16: And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt. (We are living in that day.)

THE FAITHFUL SERVANT MOURNS

Isaiah 24: 16:...But I said, My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.

As a faithful servant of God, Isaiah mourned for those in his country who were perishing in unbelief. King David said:

Psalm 119:158: I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word.

The apostle Paul said:

Romans 9: 1: I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, 2: That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3: For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

But there is something else in this statement! We have seen before in the book, Isaiah speak the words of THE FAITHFUL ONE, Christ Jesus. For example:

Isaiah 8: 18: Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me *are* for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

These are the words of our Savior as we see in Hebrews 2:

Hebrews 2: 11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12: Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. 13: And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

In our text, verse 16 means "Leanness to me or my secret to me." From the uttermost parts of the earth his redeemed sing, "Glory to the Righteous!" But it is because the treacherous dealers dealt treacherously with our Savior. Back in Isaiah 21: 1-3, a grievous vision is declared which is the cause of severe pain, soul agony. In verse 4 of the same chapter we read: "My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me."

That night our Savior enjoyed the last supper with his apostles. We see him at the table feasting and enjoying the fellowship of his friends. But soon, the same night was turned into a night of soul agony as he was betrayed into the hands of treacherous dealers. Here in our text, the following verse describe the inescapable judgment of those who attempt to save themselves. At the end of the verse, it describes the windows of the Father's judgment opened and the foundations of the earth shaken, just as it was as our Substitute bore the judgment of God on behalf of his elect in his own body on the tree.

Isaiah 24: 17: Fear, and the pit, and the snare, *are* upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. 18: And it shall come to pass, *that* he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.

For those outside of Christ there is no escaping the judgment of God. We saw it In Noah's Day:

Genesis 7:11:...the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Those inside the ark--a type of Christ--perished not because the ark bore the flood of judgment delivering them from the curse. That is exactly what happened when Christ bore the wrath of God as the Substitute of

his people at Calvary. But those inhabitants of the earth who fled, those who ran from the fear of the judgment of God, found no refuge and perished.

We see the judgment of God here, concerning Judah and Jerusalem after the flesh. The whole government and nation is dissolved. Isaiah's message is,

Isaiah 8: 13: Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and *let him be* your fear, and *let him be* your dread.
14: And he shall be for a sanctuary

Sinner, here these words, see these two bold examples of God's wrath. There is a judgment to come in the last day, when the heavens and the earth shall melt with fire.

2 Peter 3:10" But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Isaiah 24: 21: And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones *that are* on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. 22: And they shall be gathered together, *as* prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

When this judgment came upon that nation, the highest ranking ones, and the kings of the earth, the proud and haughty, were taken captive in the various lands into which they went. As Isaiah describes in chapter 2, and as we have seen throughout the descriptions of these judgments the people tried every way to escape and save themselves, to no avail.

We see here a figure of both our day and the day to come as sinners attempt to flee the inevitable and save themselves apart from Christ, to no avail. It is figurative of Christ's victory over his enemies at Calvary when he laid hold on the dragon, the old serpent, the devil, Satan, and bound him.

Over the next few chapters will see a description of the joy of the saints in this gospel age as we reign on earth with Christ our King as he rides forth conquering and to conquer (Is 25-26;). We will see that Christ our King has indeed bound leviathan (Is 27). And in all we get a description of that full and final victory when our Lord shall return and create a new heavens and a new earth wherein all shall be righteous.

Colossians 2: 15: *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Christ is right now raised to the right hand of the Father

Ephesians 1: 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, 23: Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Now, return to the context. Isaiah describes what it shall be like when the earthly kingdom is dissolved and Christ came forth the first time to take dominion of his spiritual kingdom.

Isaiah 24: 23: Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

When the LORD had finished this work of clearing that physical nation, his vineyard, then just as he said in Isaiah 11, the True King, Christ Jesus came forth.

Mark 1: 15:...saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

He said, "I am the Light of the world." The sun and the moon may have reference to the darkness that covered the earth as he bore the wrath of God for his people. It also has reference to the fact that no more will the powers and principalities prevail over his people--not even the gates of hell--because Christ the Light, the glorious King of kings reigns in splendor.

He fulfilled the whole law of God. HE justified his people by his own blood. He is risen from the dead seated in glory reigning in Mt. Zion, in heavenly Jerusalem and before his ancients gloriously.

Isaiah 9: 7: Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

He began by assembling his outcasts of Israel: his apostles and his elect from among the Jews--he set up judges as at the first--faithful men who preached the gospel.

Isaiah 11: 12: And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Through persecution as they were scattered abroad and through the apostle Paul, our King sent forth the word to the Gentiles just as Isaiah said he would, here. Right now, by creating his people anew in the heart through his gospel he is making the wolf dwell with the lamb, and the leopard with the kid.

Isaiah 11: 9: They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

NOW LET'S BRING THIS HOME TO WHERE WE LIVE

We have heard the saying, "History repeats itself." Fact is the LORD of hosts repeats history to teach his chosen people scattered throughout all the earth. In scripture and in providence, the LORD has repeated this message of judgment upon all men and of salvation only in Christ Jesus the Lord, the Son of God, two specific times. One is in the destruction of the old world before the flood. The other is in the land of Canaan with the nation Israel.

Noah declared the flood of the judgment of God is coming upon the old world in the form of rain—Isaiah declared the flood of the judgment of God is coming in the form of the armies God would send. Both came to pass exactly as the LORD said they would.

Noah declared that those in the Ark would find refuge as the Ark bore the flood of judgment—Isaiah declared that the Lord would be a sanctuary to those who put their trust in him. Both came to pass exactly as the LORD said it would.

When the flood waters subsided the Ark rested on the highest mountain—after Christ drank the cup of God's wrath dry for his people, he sat down in mount Zion, in heavenly Jerusalem, before his ancients gloriously.

In both cases those who trusted in themselves perished under the judgment of God. In both cases, those who believed the word of the LORD were saved.

Right now things continue in a lamentable shape just as Isaiah describes them here. But the Lord is reigning. Condemnation is put away for those Christ died for. He is coming again then shall be final judgment.

Just as God shook the whole world in Noah's day, just as Isaiah described the shaking of judgment to his generation, just as the LORD shook the earth when Christ bore the judgment of his people at Calvary so the Lord will do so once more. The only things that shall not be moved are those created in righteousness and true holiness by God through the righteousness of Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12: 16:...but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27: And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Oh, sinner where will you be found? Will you be found abiding in Christ, trusting all your eternal well-being into his hands or will you be found attempting to flee, attempting to save yourself, meeting God in the filthy rags of your self-righteousness? Brethren, heed the word of the Lord.

Hebrews 12: 28: Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29: For our God *is* a consuming fire.

AMEN!