

BEHOLD, THE LORD WILL MAKE THE LAND AND THE EARTH EMPTY



(Isaiah 24)

The **land** and the **earth** shall be utterly laid waste and utterly pillaged; **for the Lord has said this** (Vs.3). This chapter of Isaiah is a mini book of Revelation. Throughout the Old Testament God's future judgements are predicted ultimately to destroy the earth and its wicked people with it. It is His final measure to deal with the stubborn, rebellious people. When this period of grace is past, His wrath will dominate the world and none who have rejected Him will escape. It will be merciless, with vengeance and no turning back. We see in this chapter, the character of His judgements, and the extent of it in verses 1-3: The scope of His judgements will include all peoples and all class of people. It shall be with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with this 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 creditor, so with the debtor. No class of people will escape with the exception of those who have accepted Him. YAHSHUA

said, For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth. But for those who have accepted Him He gave a word of warning: Keep awake then and watch at all times, praying that you may have the full strength and ability to escape all these things, that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man (Luke 21:35-36).

The truth of the matter for those who believe in the mid or post tribulation, believing God's miraculous protection over the believers, know for a fact that unless you are one of the chosen 144 thousand, you will not escape the fullness of the wrath of God. The 144 thousand Jews are the only people the Bible mentions to be protected in the tribulation through God's mark on their forehead. Why, do you think God will be inconsistent in His ways and abandon His bride to His own wrath when He had in the past delivered all those who feared Him before His judgement came? Wouldn't it be right for the bride of Christ to be marked with God's protection, as those 144 thousand Jews if she were to face God's wrath? Know then that the tribulation is precisely the reason for the rapture. Just as He saved Noah from the universal flood, and Lot from the burning of the city, even Israel from death, when the angel of death came to destroy the Egyptian's first-born, so He will do for His loved ones. For Noah, He provided an ark; for Lot, He sent an angel to guide him out of the destruction; for Israel their houses were marked with blood from a sacrificial lamb, and for His bride He will Himself come for her with a loud cry of summon, with the voice of an archangel, with the trumpet of God, and meet His bride in the air. God has marked every believer with His Holy Spirit, guaranteeing their redemption from the wrath to come.

From the time sin entered the earth, the earth became victim of God's wrath, and has been under a curse that will ultimately devour the **land** and the **earth** due to the fact that men have defiled it. It will suffer the consequences under the judgement of God. Isaiah so describe it in verses 4-13. The land and the earth mourn and wither, the world languishes and withers, the high ones of the people languish; man have transgressed the laws, disregarded the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant found in Genesis 9:1-17; Deuteronomy 29:20 (Verses 4-5). A curse is prepared to destroy the **land and the earth** *and those who dwell in it*. God's curse will scorch and it will be parched under God's punishment (verse 6). Peter, in his second letter, confirms this prophecy to his church: But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will vanish with a thunderous crash, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works

that are upon it will be burned up... but we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness is to abide (II Peter 3:10,13).

God's judgement is in particular for the land of Judah. Judah existed as an independent kingdom for three hundred years. It started when Israel broke up into two kingdoms, as a result of Solomon's sinful life, and collectively, for the earth. The days of Noah when men were marrying and women being given in marriage will soon be over. Blinded by their traditions, and pleasures of life, today's generation will be found surprised at the outcome of all things. "A polluted race pollutes the earth and chaos is the result." The Prophet Jeremiah cried over the suffering of nature due to men's sin. He asked, How long must the land mourn and the grass and herbs of the whole country wither? Through the wickedness of those who dwell in it, animals and the birds have been snatched away, because men have said, He will not see our latter ending (Jer. 12:4). Earth and men, men outside of God's scope of grace will suffer the plagues written in Revelation chapter six, after the Lamb opens the seven seals through chapter eleven, followed by seven trumpets, and the seven bowls of God's wrath in chapter 15.

At that time, nothing men will do will save the earth. The earth can never be saved outside God's mercy and judgement. The earth has been polluted by men in many ways in the physical and spiritual scopes of the matters. Paul made clear the extent of men's sin and the consequences following when he said, By your callous stubbornness and impenitence of heart you are storing up wrath and indignation for yourself on the day of wrath and indignation, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed, for He will render to every man according to his works; **to those who by patient persistence in well-doing see glory and honor and immortality, He will give eternal life (no tribulation here for the bride)**; but for those who are self-seeking and self-willed and disobedient to the Truth but responsive to wickedness, there will be indignation and wrath, and there will be tribulation and anguish and calamity and constraint for every soul of man who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek (Gentile) (Rom. 2:5-9).

In chapter one of Romans, Paul describes the sinful condition of men and why he is without excuses before God. He said, For ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature and attributes, that is, His eternal power and divinity, have been made intelligible and clearly discernible in and through the things that have

been made. So [men] are without excuse (Rom. 1:20). This chapter breaks down who will suffer under the wrath of God and why. There is no way the Bride of Christ is in this category, unless she is a fake bride. Nature was put under the curse of God, not because of fault of their own. Paul, in chapter eight of Romans verses 19-23 gives us a glimpse of nature's feeling toward their redemption: For creation waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known, for the creation was subjected to frailty, not because of some intentional fault of its part, but by the will of Him Who subjected it [yet] with the hope that nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God's children. We know that the whole creation [of irrational creatures] has been moaning together in the pains of labor until now.

While YAHSHUA was on the cross, on "the sixth hour darkness enveloped the whole land and the earth." It lasted three hours, that is, until the ninth hour. What was happening then was a preview of what is to come, when the land and the earth will experience the darkness caused by the coming tribulation of those days when the sun will refuse to give light. YAHSHUA, carrying all our sins of iniquity and guilt, represented man in his estate of punishment. He suffered the wrath of God, so we would not have to, provided that we accept His gift of salvation. Salvation is not through what we do; it is through what He did for us. It is through Him only and Him alone.