

**The New World Order
(Part 2)
Global Regime Change
Isaiah 24:4 – 13**

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We are in Isaiah's Apocalypse. A four-chapter high level summary of Revelation. These four chapters focus upon the coming worldwide triumph of God at the end of the age.

This is a change from the oracles we covered earlier, now the whole world is doomed.

In the first three verses we are introduced to what YAHWEH will be doing at the end of the age. Judgement, complete and total.

Isaiah 24:1–3

"Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants. 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. The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word." (NASB95)

So far as the eschatological and apocalyptic contents, which seem to point to a very late period, are concerned, we would simply call to mind the wealth of eschatological ideas to be found even in Joel, who prophesies of the pouring out of the Spirit, the march of the nations of the world against the church, the signs that precede the last day, the miraculous water of the New Jerusalem. The revelation of all the last things, which the Apocalypse of the New Testament embraces in one grand picture, commenced with Obadiah and Joel; and there is nothing strange in the fact that Isaiah also, in Isa. 24–27, should turn away from the immediate external facts of the history of his own time, and pass on to these depths beyond. (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 276)

Isaiah 24:4–6

"The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. 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." (NASB95)

Isaiah uses two words for earth. First, he uses *erets* for earth which we discussed last time. He uses the same term here in verse 4. Then he says, “the world fades,” this is a different word. This word points at earth dwellers, a theme we see developed in Revelation.

World – תֵּבֵל – *tebel* – fertile and inhabited earth, the habitable globe, the whole earth, especially where the creation of the world is mentioned, the inhabitants of the earth. (Gesenius and Tregelles 2003, 855)

The implication is the earth as created by YAHWEH and entrusted to man, has been subjected to the curse because of the inhabitants of the earth. Those inhabitants have not done a very good job at being a steward of what it is that YAHWEH left under mans stewardship. The earth dwellers are in trouble. A future is coming.

Revelation 8:13

“Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”” (ESV)

This warning to those who “dwell on the earth” is immediately before demons torture and then ultimately kill 1/3 of the remaining of the population of the planet. Those who inhabit the earth fade and wither.

Notice in this section the terms used in connection with the inhabited earth.

The earth, the same as created by YAHWEH in Genesis 1, mourns and withers. Again recall that due to the curse all of creation groans waiting for our redemption as we can see in Romans 8:19 – 23. It mourns and is dried up because of how it has been treated. From our study in Revelation, we are aware that with the seal judgements comes global war, possibly thermonuclear and all that goes with it. Yes, there will be global warming, nuclear winter, pestilence (biological warfare) and more.

The inhabited world fades and withers away. In terms of timing this is after the removal of the church from earth.

In the book of Revelation, the door of safety, the transition from chapter 3 to 4, has already seen the church go through it. There will be some who are supernaturally protected as we move forward in Revelation, like the 144,000, but everything is different. Those who come to Christ after the rapture are not part of the church.

The first seal in Revelation introduced us to the antichrist, the great pretender, who is armed to the teeth with modern weaponry, but conquers without having to use them, or at least that is what it looks like initially.

The second seal shows that false and phony peace ending and with it the inhabited world fading, withering, and the exalted fading away.

Revelation 6:3–4

When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come.” And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him. (NASB95)

The problem is the continuing actions of those who have been given stewardship over the planet. The other side of the coin involves the unseen realm, the fallen members of the unseen realm who are still influencing the actions of those who allow it to take place. “The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.” (Isaiah 24:5, NASB95)

We see the continuing contrast of those who are earth dwellers versus those who are not.

The pollution is not exactly the type of pollution that the ecowarriors of today would understand as being the source of pollution. The sources of pollution are carefully lined out for us by Isaiah.

- They transgressed laws
- The violated statutes
- The broke the everlasting covenant

Is this the Mosaic law the nations have broken? No. The natural revelation are the laws transgressed. Paul explained it in Romans 1.

The Hebrew verb rendered polluted refers to religious impurity, not environmental pollution. Several translations render it “defiled” (NIV, NJB, NJPSV) or “desecrated” (REB, GECL). Under its inhabitants is an unusual expression. The Septuagint is clearer with “through/by those who inhabit it” (similarly NIV, REB). GNB gives a helpful model for the first two lines, saying “The people have defiled the earth.” (Ogden and Sterk 2011, 637-638)

Isaiah 24:4–6

“The land mourned, and the inhabited world was ruined; the exalted of the land mourned. And the land acted lawlessly because of those inhabiting it, because they transgressed the law and changed the ordinances, an eternal testament. Because of this, a curse will devour the land, because those inhabiting it sinned; because of this, those living in the land will be poor, and few people will be left.” (Lexham Press 2020, IS 24:4-6)

The Hebrew word translated as “polluted” in the NASB is הִנְפַח (honpah.) “The concept lying behind the ’ereš passages leads us to the concrete and figurative meaning “make dirty,” “pollute,” hence “desecrate,” which emerges primarily from Isa. 24:5.” (Seybold 1986, 38)

What is it that has been pointed out by Paul as the natural condition of those who are about the business of ignoring God and desecrating polluting through their lawlessness, the planet?

Romans 1:18–20

“For God’s wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and wickedness of those who in their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God himself has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes—his eternal power and divine nature—have been understood and observed by what he made, so that people are without excuse.” (ISV)

The desecration, the spiritually based pollution, is an intentional act as far as YAHWEH is concerned. The condition comes from intentionally suppressing the truth.

The Greek word translated suppress in Romans 1:18 is the word κατεχόντων (katechonton.) This comes from the word κατέχω (katexo) - to prevent the doing of something or cause to be ineffective, prevent, hinder, restrain...to hold someone back from going away hold back, hinder, prevent from going away...hold down, suppress something. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 532)

This is the state of the unbeliever who has reached the point of being given over to exactly what they want to include the results that go with it. For YAHWEH, that is the imposition of judgement.

Psalms 19:1–6

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the sky displays his handiwork. Day after day it speaks out; night after night it reveals his greatness. There is no actual speech or word, nor is its voice literally heard. Yet its voice echoes throughout the earth; its words carry to the distant horizon. In the sky he has pitched a tent for the sun. Like a bridegroom it emerges from its chamber; like a strong man it enjoys running its course. It emerges from the distant horizon, and goes from one end of the sky to the other; nothing can escape its heat.” (NET)

Romans 2:14–15

“For whenever the Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature the things required by the law, these who do not have the law are a law to themselves. They show that the work of the law is written in their hearts, as their conscience bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or else defend them,” (NET)

So, what is the everlasting covenant? The idea is one that is hard to pinpoint as there are multiple covenants referred to in that manner in the scriptures.

The covenant God made with mankind after the flood, never to judge the world again by water is called an everlasting covenant (Genesis 9:16). The covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants is called an everlasting covenant (Genesis 17:7, 13, 19). The covenant God made with Israel and the priesthood is called an everlasting covenant (Leviticus 24:8). The covenant God made with David, to bring the Messiah from his line, is called an everlasting covenant (2 Samuel 23:5). The New Covenant is called an everlasting covenant, both prophetically (Jeremiah 32:40) and after its establishment (Hebrews 13:20). (Guzik 2000, Is 24:4-6)

Some commentators take the view though that this is a reference to the Noahic covenant back in Genesis 9.

The question is: Which covenant is he speaking of in this passage? The answer is that this is the covenant that was made with the world in general. Specifically, it is the Noahic Covenant, found in Genesis 9:1–17. By violating the statutes and the specific commandments of the Noahic Covenant, the earth has been polluted by man. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 4)

The language is best interpreted against the background of God’s mandate to Noah (and through him to human society in general), which is viewed here in covenantal terms (Gen. 9:16 uses the phrase “everlasting covenant” in conjunction with God’s promise to Noah.) The people of the earth have rebelled (cf. Isa. 24:16, 20) against the mandate to multiply and to respect God’s image in mankind (Gen. 9:1–7) by indiscriminately shedding blood (cf. Isa. 26:21) and thereby polluting the land (cf. 24:5; Num. 35:33, which refers to a land being “polluted” by bloodshed—the word rendered “pollute” there is translated “defiled” in Isa. 24:5). (Zuck 1991, 321)

Genesis 9:1–17

“Then God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Every living creature of the earth and every bird of the sky will be terrified of you. Everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea are under your authority. You may eat any moving thing that lives. As I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. But you must not eat meat with its life (that is, its blood) in it. For your lifeblood I will surely exact punishment, from every living creature I will exact punishment. From each person I will exact punishment for the life of the individual since the man was his relative. Whoever sheds human blood, by other humans must his blood be shed; for in God’s image God has made humankind. But as for you, be fruitful and multiply; increase abundantly on the earth and multiply on it.” God said to Noah and his sons, “Look! I now confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, including the birds, the domestic animals, and every living creature of the earth with you, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature of the earth. I confirm my covenant with you: Never again will all living things be wiped out by the waters of a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the guarantee of the covenant I am making with you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all subsequent generations: I will place my rainbow in the clouds, and it will become a guarantee of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, then I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures of all kinds. Never again will the waters become a flood and destroy all living things. When the rainbow is in the clouds, I will notice it and remember the perpetual covenant between God and all living creatures of all kinds that are on the

earth.” So God said to Noah, “This is the guarantee of the covenant that I am confirming between me and all living things that are on the earth.”” (NET)

We already know that at Babel, YAHWEH judged man for violating Genesis 9:7. This is one of the reasons why YAHWEH divided up the nations. That was a violation of the Noahic or everlasting covenant and resulted in YAHWEH divorcing mankind and giving them over to the administration of members of the Divine Council.

This led to those members corrupting themselves in rebellion to YAHWEH which resulted in a change of employers for them. They began demanding worship from those who they were assigned to overwatch. Thus, the promise from YAHWEH seen in Psalms 82 to judge them. That judgement is part of what Isaiah is discussing here.

There is another violation though that has not been addressed on a worldwide basis by YAHWEH and it is one that has been an issue throughout the ages. In the middle east it appeared in Baal worship or the worship of Molech, in the Americas it was the worship of Quetzalcoatl, and others worldwide. It continues today, it is the indiscriminate murder of children and others as sacrifices. Baal and Molech continue to be worshipped today under the moniker of reproductive rights. Isaiah addressed this problem earlier in His indictment charges of chapter 5. “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20, NASB95)

Or as stated by Dwight Longenecker, “First we overlook evil. Then we permit evil. Then we legalize evil. Then we promote evil. Then we celebrate evil. Then we persecute those who still call it evil.” Our culture has arrived at this location and is ripe for judgement.

We already see it beginning.

Chuck Colson

Many remember Ruth Graham’s quip of a few years ago: “If God doesn’t bring judgment on America soon, he will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.”

To be sure, her words were tongue-in-cheek, but truth contained in sarcasm is all the more biting for the humor that masks it. Soaring divorce and crime rates, the mounting death toll of slaughtered unborn, sexual mores so permissive as to be perverted are but the most visible manifestations of our decadence.

The fact is, we are a nation overrun by hordes of little tin gods all made in our own image, their charge led by the crown prince of self riding his shiny golden calf. Our various sins spring from one common cause: we do precisely what we want to do, answering only to the whims of our desires.

Mrs. Graham is right. What in the world is God waiting for? (Colson 1982, 20)

The sin problem is not just limited to this nation, it is worldwide pandemic that is 100% fatal.

Isaiah 24:6

“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.” (NASB95)

God has pronounced a curse upon the earth on account of man’s perversity; and hence the calamities which the earth is about to suffer. (Spence-Jones 1910, 384)

This curse eats at the earth and due to it, all who live on earth are guilty. But then we see, as in Genesis 6:8, the grace of God.

There are those who are faithful followers of YAHWEH still on the earth. There are those tribulation saints who are still alive as well as those of His people the Jews who survive. The judgement will be severe, but in His grace..."few men are left." Isaiah has already hinted at this.

Isaiah 13:12

"I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold And mankind than the gold of Ophir." (NASB95)

Are we ripe, we are experiencing more and more that Israel experienced in the days of the Judges. Anarchy, violence, crime. Jesus warned about these days. Why?

Judges 17:6

"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes." (NLT)

We have government that turns the other way and advocates evil and the slaughter of babies and, as we are now learning, the elderly as well. It releases murderers yet arrests pastors. It says it is okay to riot and destroy property, but don't you dare go to church. Jesus called it.

"Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold." (Matthew 24:12, NLT)

I find the phrase Isaiah uses, "the inhabitants of the earth are burned" to be interesting and highly prophetic. We do know that based on the seal judgements it appears that global thermonuclear war maybe taking place before the midpoint of the Tribulation. The impact of multiple warheads at the same time could possibly help strip the ozone layer removing the protection from UV light waves. We also know from the sixth trumpet that fire again figures predominately as a judgement.

By the time we get to the fourth bowl judgement, we see the sun scorching men with fire (Revelation 16:8.) YAHWEH promised to never again flood the earth with water, He said nothing about flame.

2 Peter 3:3-7

"Above all, understand this: In the last days blatant scoffers will come, being propelled by their own evil urges and saying, "Where is his promised return? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation." For they deliberately suppress this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water. Through these things the world existing at that time was destroyed when it was deluged with water. But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, by being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly." (NET)

Isaiah 24:7-13

"The new wine mourns, The vine decays, All the merry-hearted sigh. The gaiety of tambourines ceases, The noise of revelers stops, The gaiety of the harp ceases. They do not drink wine with song; Strong drink is bitter to those who drink it. The city of chaos is broken down; Every house is shut up so that none may enter. There is an outcry in the streets concerning the wine; All joy turns to gloom. The gaiety of the earth is banished. Desolation is left in the city And the gate is battered to ruins. 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." (NASB95)

Sin has brought a curse on the earth. This curse is from YAHWEH and for those who are earth dwellers, there is no escape. Starting with verse 7, we see the progress of the curse. This is in the form of a song. Version 1.0 of the song It's the End of the World as We Know It. Only no one will feel fine. Not at all.

Verse seven kicks it off for us by showing the attitude reflected earlier "Instead, there is gaiety and gladness, Killing of cattle and slaughtering of sheep, Eating of meat and drinking of wine: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we may die."" (Isaiah 22:13, NASB95) is gone. Remember, we are talking about the events taking place during the tribulation. We are near the end of that time per Isaiah.

Let's refamiliarize ourselves with what has taken place during the Tribulation and Great Tribulation so we can understand why it is not possible to make the pain go away through substances, music, and strong drink.

Let's pick up with the 4th seal in Revelation 6.

- Seal 1 – False peace
 - Seal 2 – Global war
 - Seal 3 – Famine
 - Seal 4 – Death
- Authority given for those to be killed in the 4th seal judgement is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world's population at the time.
 - At present, the world population is 7.8 billion and climbing.
 - Let's say 600 million are raptured.
 - Of the remaining population there are about 675 million below the age of 4 and another 664 million between 4 and 9.
 - So let's conjecture that the remaining world population, post rapture on day one is around 5.8 to 6.5 billion people.
 - That means the 4th seal death toll is 1.46 to 1.63 billion people.

The largest death toll disaster in history to that time.

Then there is the 6th Trumpet judgement. How big is the demon army in the Revelation 9? 200,000,000 we think.

The number reflected in the Greek is the word *δισμυριάδες μυριάδων*.

Literally - "and the number of the armies of cavalry [was] twenty thousands of ten thousands; I heard the number of them." (Thomas 1995, 45)

This is a number that did not exist in antiquity. John hears the number and reports it to us.

Trying to visualize this demonic army, demonic cavalry, "when one tries to visualize such a cavalry, which at one mile wide would be about eighty-five miles long! Thus John simply concludes, I heard their number." (Fee 2011, 135)

It could be even larger than 200,000,000 since it is not a specific number. Remember, with the fifth trumpet John simply used the term locust. John sees this cavalry and he will provide a description of the combatants.

...the safest interpretation is to see this as a literal 200 million strong army, but a demonic army invading earth. This continues the idea of the demonic army like locusts described earlier in the chapter. (Guzik, Revelation, David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible 2013, Re 9:16-19)

So post 4th seal judgement, the world population is roughly 4.3 to 4.9 billion.

Being conservative with numbers from the remaining seals as well as the first four trumpet judgements and let's conjecture that at the beginning of the 6th seal, the world population, which only covers $\frac{2}{3}$ of the planet by this time, consists of 3.5 to 4.2 billion people.

This trumpet judgement will account for another 1.4 billion dead, earth dwellers only (Rev 8:13,) further reducing the world population. As we approach the middle of the tribulation, the population is down to between 2.1 and 2.8 billion people, this is assuming 7.8 billion prior to the rapture taking place. I have not accounted for the births taking place during the Tribulation.

Why no joy from wine? Why no music and revelry? Why does strong drink no longer make the pain go away? Simple.

In less than 4 years, 2/3 thirds of the population has either gone missing, been murdered through persecution, or killed as a result of judgements which involve catastrophic world altering disasters as well, global war and supernatural war.

“Why would a God of love do this? Because year after decade after generation, this God of love has been speaking to mankind—extending grace, love, and compassion. But man has rejected it all. So God, in His wisdom, will pour out His wrath to shake up the world. Some who would not respond to grace and love will turn to the Lord in that day. But most will die in their sin.

That’s why God devotes one-fourth of His Word to not only telling us of His love, grace, and mercy, but warning us of the consequences if we don’t respond. Sin must be judged or else God would not be just or holy. Therefore, man has a choice: to submit to the One who bore the judgment for his sin on the Cross of Calvary or to face the judgment that will be hurled upon him the day of Tribulation.” (Courson 2006, 379)

Isaiah 24:10–12

“The city of chaos is broken down; Every house is shut up so that none may enter. There is an outcry in the streets concerning the wine; All joy turns to gloom. The gaiety of the earth is banished. Desolation is left in the city And the gate is battered to ruins.” (NASB95)

We see the term the “city of chaos.” What city is that?

The word translated as chaos in Hebrew is תֹהוּ (tohu.) It means “formlessness, confusion, unreality, emptiness.” (Brown, Driver and Briggs 1977, 1062)

According to Meier, the root tahah has the meaning “make dense, make firm, draw together”; the primary meaning of tōhû is “that which is drawn together; dense heap; rough, chaotic mass; jumble.” This meaning develops into “devastation, destruction, and desolation,” figuratively “desolation = emptiness, nothingness.” (Gorg 2006, 566)

According to 24:10, the “tōhû city,” probably Jerusalem, will be a place of desolation, representing the state to which the “earth” has descended when Yahweh has twisted its surface and scattered its inhabitants (v. 1; cf. also vv. 3–6). (Gorg 2006, 568-569)

This is not about Jerusalem. The Hebrew word tohu point us back to Genesis 1:2 where it is one of two words to describe the conditions existing just prior to creation.

Genesis 1:2

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” (ESV)

The word translated without form is tohu

Void in the Hebrew is בְהוּ (bohu) – emptiness. (Brown, Driver and Briggs 1977, 96)

Emptiness, wasteness. (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 111)

By using one of the two terms a Jew would connect with creation, Isaiah is signaling what the conditions of the city of tohu (chaos) are like. The conditions are like the conditions existing pre-creation.

...the city of Chaos is the city of idolatry, of sham gods, in contrast to Jerusalem, “the city of God”; it is essentially, as the capital of the world-empire which is in rebellion against God, the embodiment of those powers which claim to be somewhat, but are truly unreal (cp. vv. 21–23). (Gray 1912, 412)

The city of chaos may describe conditions before or after divine judgment. On the one hand, it may express the idea that the city of Man had always been a place of disorder and confusion, a place of revolt against divine order (v. 5; Gen. 1:2). Certainly a city in festival presents such a picture. Now it is quiet desolation. On the other hand, it is also possible that the city has become chaotic in destruction; it has been reduced to chaos, a jumble of ruins incapable of supporting life (34:11; cf. also Deut. 32:10; Ps. 107:40). But perhaps both ideas were intended. (Oswalt 1986, 448-449)

This city, or all remaining cities extant after the events of the seventh bowl of wrath in Revelation 16 have this issue. The rubble is such that it may be virtually impossible to go door to door to see who is left; or, everyone may be so frightened that they will not open up to anyone?

Those who were reliant upon an altered chemically induced state of mind to get by can no longer depend upon that. There is no wine, nothing is left to provide for artificial joy. In fact, "all joy turns to gloom."

Revelation 9:20–21

"The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts." (ESV)

What is left behind is utter devastation. There is no joy.

In this picture the city becomes in actual fact what it already was in nature. Through their sins its inhabitants had introduced desolation and confusion into the world, and so the place of their dwelling becomes a desolation like the beginning. The nature of the city was desolation; the destiny and final end of the city will also be desolation. (Young 1969, 164)

What a contrast from peace and safety. As the world clamors for and looks for peace and safety, what is coming is doom.

The desolation seen in verse 12 shows that not is the city destroyed and desolate, but it is also now without any defense at all. The gate, the sign of defensive security for a Jew, is gone.

Again, we need to remember the condition of the world at the point that Christ steps in and takes over.

"The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe." (Revelation 16:19–21, ESV)

Isaiah 24:13

"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." (NASB95)

The conditions worldwide after the judgement of YAHWEH, a post tribulation population that could be as low as a few hundred million. Literally, gleanings left after the harvest is over. The harvest picture is one that carries over into Revelation 19. It will also reflect later in Isaiah as well as in Joel.

Revelation 19:15

"From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty." (ESV)

Isaiah 63:3

“I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment.” (NASB95)

Joel 3:13–14

“Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.”(NASB95)

Jesus made it clear in His briefing on the last days to the disciples in Matthew 24 just how complete the judgement would be.

Matthew 24:21–22

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.” (ESV)

Isaiah 13:12

“I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir.” (ESV)

There is more to come in this section of Isaiah. The message though is not going to be a happy one. It is a message of judgement, but as we saw in verse 6, God’s grace is still at work. Just as He brought Noah and 7 others through the flood on a barge, He will do the same for those who are His during the tribulation. But as we have studied in Revelation, the number of martyrs will be huge.

The time to decide for Christ is now. “for He says, “AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU.” Behold, now is “THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,” behold, now is “THE DAY OF SALVATION”—” (2 Corinthians 6:2, NASB95)

The way there is simple, just accept the free gift that Jesus is offering. Acceptance is not complicated...“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9–10, NASB95) That’s it. Turn to Him today before it is too late.

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