

015



The Father Knows Best

School of the Bible Class

Isaiah

Isaiah 24-27
The World is Judged
015

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Information

- Last week Jesse talked about drinking at the fire hose of theological information.
- Surely we may have the same reaction to the information we are facing in the next four chapters about the End Times in Rev. 24-27.
- You are fortunate to be in a Dispensational church that accepts the literal sense of Scripture.

Tribulation Information

- For starters, the **Tribulation** (as a period of time vs. a state of being) is not widely accepted in Christian circles.
 - Tribulations are states of being! They say!
- A common trick used to strip the text of its real meaning is—**Proof texting. We see it used all the time.**
 - **Proof Text:** John 16: 33 “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.**”
- **PT:** This use of tribulation is used to negate the Tribulation as a period of time.

Tribulation Information

- **PT:** In deference to the literal interpretation a phase or even an idea is drawn from the text to be made the whole thing. Denying two uses of “tribulation.”
- Revelation 7: 14 “ I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of **the great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

distress (state) n. — an oppressive state of physical, mental, social, or economic adversity.

Arrogance in Humility

- We have seen a couple of these **PT** before—
- The phrase “**this age and the age to come.**” Matt. 12:32.
- Couple this with Matt. 24:26 “**the day and hour no one knows**”—
- This is all that is needed to ignore verses chapters even books that give us the details of The Great Tribulation.

Arrogance in Humility

- Emergent Church: Tony “Jones explained his humble hermeneutic in an essay he wrote for the book, *The Justice Project*. **"When faced with multiple interpretations of Truth, Justice, and Love . . . Christians must think carefully about our hermeneutical posture. Is ours the one, true interpretation? How do we deal with the diversities within our own Christian tradition? . . .**

Was Jesus a Fascist?

- Jones: “**Absolutist answers lead to fascism. But humble, circumspect answers lead to peace.** This is also, arguably, the most Christlike posture as well.””
- <https://preacherboy316pt2.blogspot.com/2019/03/true-and-false-humility-when-handling.html>

fas·cism | 'faSH₁iz(ə)m | (also Fascism) noun
an authoritarian and nationalistic right-wing system of government and social organization.
• *derogatory* extremely authoritarian, intolerant, or oppressive ideas or behavior: *an outright* [more](#)

Arrogance in Humility

- “So according to Jones, we can’t be completely certain about anything—except his assertion that we can’t be certain.”
- “And lest we think uncertainty is confined to only doctrines of secondary importance, Brian McLaren reveals that even the most fundamental Christian beliefs are still unsolved mysteries: “I don’t think we’ve got the gospel right yet. . . . I don’t think the liberals have it right. But I don’t think we have it right either. None of us has arrived at orthodoxy.”
- <https://preacherboy316pt2.blogspot.com/2019/03/true-and-false-humility-when-handling.html>

Arrogance in Humility

- **“McLaren’s right insofar as he doesn’t know the gospel. But to speak on behalf of everybody else in church history is a mountain of arrogance weakly concealed by a façade of humility.**
- **“ His comments place him right in the crosshairs of Paul’s strongest condemnation:**
- **“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;** which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! (Galatians 1:6–9)”
- <https://preacherboy316pt2.blogspot.com/2019/03/true-and-false-humility-when-handling.html>

Arrogance in Humility

- Last week someone told me that after having lunch with a local Sen. Pastor, who said that these things (like Dispensational Eschatology) are unimportant details—he dismissed any discussion of them. **Sad a church full of starving folks.**
- Then we have those who attempt to honor the Word and study it to find the answer **they are looking for—**

Arrogance in Humility

- The Minnereth Myer clinic use to say that they spent hours a day studying Scripture to support their psychological approach to living, attempting to make biblical teaching agree with.
- BTY: Passages on sanctification are not hidden in the Bible. But they were not looking at these for help. They wanted the “help” the psychology can offer. They just wanted support from the Bible—any support.

Arrogance in Humility

- As we approach a serious investigation of the “End Times,” understand that we are up against many scoffers who say, “Where is the promise of His coming” 2 Pet. 3:4.
- They cannot present an argument of denial but attack the “ignorant and superstitious” who honor the literal sense of Scripture.

Earth



Heaven

This Age

Age to Come

- Most Christians see a simple judgment coming in the future (distant)—Heaven or Hell.
- Since **no one knows the time**, they justify undisciplined living based on ignorance. Its just a matter of luck when the Lord “returns” to in judgment—fatalism!
- **Judged by a works standard they assure themselves—slipping past judgment into Heaven by just a hair!**
- **Of course, no one dares to claim excessive righteousness.**

Hope that Does Not Disappoint

- But can we know? We will spend some time (already have) discussing these matters. It is either a waste of time or a great benefit.
- We believe it is a benefit because it presents our hope. Hope of something better —this drives our perseverance. (Hope for tomorrow's justice!)
- If it is not going to ever get better —why continue? Despair is a primary cause of suicide!

Hope that Does Not Disappoint

- Hope is Important? How much of the Bible is given to our hope? Prophecy—
- Most of Revelation (6-22), Daniel we have Matt. (24-25), books like 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 Corinth. 15 (a long chapter), many sections, chapters in the prophets, Joel, Zechariah, Isaiah (24-27, others) has many chapters given to the subject.

Hope that Does Not Disappoint

- “By one count, about 27 percent of the Bible is predictive (Payne, J. B., *The Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy*, Baker Pub. Group, 1980, p. 675).
- “This means that, when written, over one-fourth of the Bible—more than one in four verses—was prophetic.
- “Professor and theologian J. Barton Payne lists 1,817 prophecies in the Bible (ibid., p. 674). The consistent relation of prophecy in the Bible is staggering; on top of that is the amazing accuracy of those detailed prophecies.

Hope that Does Not Disappoint

- “At least one half of all biblical predictions have already been fulfilled precisely as God had declared. Because of God’s faithfulness in fulfilling these prophecies, we can be assured that He will fulfill the rest of the prophecies in Scripture without fail.” Numbers 23: 19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

The Bible A Shell Game?

- For those who do not accept the literal prophetic text likely one-fourth of the Bible. The trend now is to—
- Also deduct the portion of the Bible that is historic, **seen as poetic untruth**, then even the Gospel is not clear to anyone says McClaren—the Bible is simply ancient literature that has been reduced to feelings for the people who see the imaginary in it.
- We wonder why anyone gives their life to its pursuit?

From the Voice DTS (2011)

- Addressing “The Pluralism Question” McLaren says that Jesus is not the way, the truth, and the life as people have understood it. Rather, all religions will be reconciled to God through living out the gospel message of love and fraternity as part of the kingdom of God. “Jesus “was not a gift to one religion, but to the whole world” (p. 215). “Evangelism would cease to be a matter of saving souls from a bad ending in the Greco-Roman soul-sort narrative. It would cease to be a proclamation of the superiority of the Christian religion. . . . No, instead, a reborn, post-imperial evangelism would mean proclaiming the same good news as the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed.” (p. 216). *Generous Orthodoxy* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004)

The Bible— There's the Meat

- **Therefore do not be impatient, uninterested in the coming section. It helps no one to assume a “humble” attitude that no one knows the time or the season!**
- **That kind of humility is arrogance in light of the space God has given to the prophetic Scripture.**
- **If God said it, it is important even if I may not appreciate the vigor it takes to learn it!**

World Judgment is Predicted

World Judgment is Predicted

- In the next section of Isaiah, chapters 24-27 four chapters, we have what is known as the small apocalypse (compared to the 17 chapters in Revelation 6-22).
- What is remarkable is that the same time period is offered in both of these books. Revelation is given a greater sense of chronology. Seals, Trumpets and Bowl judgments , etc. But Isaiah gives us the out-line—

World Restoration is Predicted

- Revelation (6-22) lays out the order (pattern)—
 - Judgment **destruction** of the earth, 6-18, → • Isaiah 24 **Destruction**
 - **Restoration** begins with 2nd Advent, 19 → • Isaiah 25 **Victory/Restor.**
 - **Resurrection** of the Righteous, 20. → • Isaiah 26 **Resurrection**
 - The Glory of the **Kingdom** 21-22 → • Isaiah 27 **Glory Restored**

World Restoration is Predicted

- **Isaiah's four chapters are written in poetry. But that does not distract from the message, it accentuates it, as poetry does. It grabs the imagination that prose cannot.**
- **One of the devices is to bounce between the four themes in all the chapters. The ideas of judgment, restoration, resurrection and glory are mixed in as all stories are told.**

The Day of the Lord

- There are seven uses of the phrase "in that day" in these four chapters. At least once in each of these chapters.
- The Day of the Lord starts with the Tribulation and continues through the first 1000 yr reign of Christ on earth.
- Contrasting to Is. 13-23, this section is without reference to specific nations as Assyrians, Babylonians or other "pesky" nations that have plagued Judah.

The Day of the Lord

- It is time for a general denouncement of all the nations/ people that have been aligned against God from the fall of Satan.
- Once and for all the nations of the earth will be brought to submission before the living God.
- This judgment will come at an extreme costs to the earth, its inhabitants and their systems.
- There are 22 references to the "earth" in these chapters.
- The earth represents the location of God's judgments.

Judgment in the Tribulation

Isaiah 24

Sore Spots

- The Rapture of the Church (Old T. Mystery)
- The Tribulation as a period of time (Old T truth)
- The Jews as having any national future (Old T truth.)
- The Kingdom as a Jewish Blessing. (Old T truth.)

Bible Exegesis —The Tribulation

- • Isaiah 24 Destruction
- • Isaiah 25 Victory/Restor.
- • Isaiah 26 Resurrection
- • Isaiah 27 Glory Restored

- The **Tribulation** is given a length of time in Daniel 9:27—one week is seven years. Then in the prophecy of the 70th week we have—
- (Revelation 7: 14) “I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the **great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Bible Exegesis —The Tribulation

- • Isaiah 24 Destruction
- • Isaiah 25 Victory/Restor.
- • Isaiah 26 Resurrection
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- Here is a rare one-time appearance of the 7 yr. truth—but it is developed in four verses. Here, a block of—
- 490 years are determined for the Jewish people.
(From 444 B.C.)
- This timeline presents a problem for those who believe God quit counting time after 483 years (at A.D. 33), at the crucifixion. (If they would be so bold.)

Bible Exegesis —The Tribulation

- ➔ • Isaiah 24 **Destruction**
 - ➔ • Isaiah 25 **Victory/Restor.**
 - ➔ • Isaiah 26 **Resurrection**
 - ➔ • Isaiah 27 **Glory Restored**
- **But we do not believe God did abandon the Jews after 483 years.**
 - **Even now, there are 7 years left.**
 - **The “time resumes” again soon after the Rapture.**
 - **How much after? Is not known. At least 3 ½ years, it could be longer.**

Dry Bones Returns Half?

- The promise of the Jews returning to the land is in two stages.
- 1st before the Tribulation: The first has already begun by 1948, when enough had returned to form a nation (again). It is now 74 years into the Dry Bones stage of Ezek 38-39. Patience is needed—
- Time: It was 40 years after the crucifixion that the Temple fell. It was another 60 years before the city fell!



We live as if we were unaware
of our impending destruction.

Søren Kierkegaard

The Judgment is Upon Us

- **As we stated last week there is an emotional push back when considering the total destruction of the earth—the earth we love.**
- **Think about your life and the things you have built to make it yours. Now to loose it? We know it means nothing—yet!**
- **To be sure we may have an urge to look back as Lot did when his home and city were destroyed.**
- **Is there a proleptic reaction, something anticipated as if it were already accomplished? This could dampen our hope!**

- **How did we get so callous to the teaching of Scripture and the matters of Judgment and Restoration?**
- **We live in the waters polluted by Augustine in the early fifth century.**
- **He abandoned the literal sense of Scripture for a “higher more spiritual reading of it” abandoning any earthly kingdom of the Messiah. The Roman church as well as all the Reformers adopted this eschatology.**

Thus far±