

025



The Father Knows Best

School of the Bible Class

Isaiah

Zech 14

025

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Indian Hills Community Church



Detectives looking for Eschatological Clues in Isaiah

Tribulation and Kingdom Truth

Continuing

Last Week

- Last week we paused to look at Isa 29:20ff that explains how Isaiah 65:20 the “premature departure” of the “accursed” works.
- This speaks to the sticky point held by the classical view—the Kingdom is great but still has its flaws since the unredeemed spoil the otherwise perfect state—reconstruction must wait for the end of the 1000 years after evil men are removed and after the conflagration.

Last Week

- Sinner in the Kingdom—We looked at how three commentaries handled the question of the declared “full justice in the Kingdom.”
- Two of the three postulated that absolute justice was maintained. Whenever a crime (sin) **was committed**—the guilty criminal would always be met with merciless judgment.
- That is— a perfect execution of justice.

Last Week

- This is where the commentaries left it.
- But they did not answer what happens to the victims of these crimes?
- **Given full justice to the criminal does not make the person wronged—whole again!** A murdered person is still dead, the robbed is still bereft of his wealth. The pain of loss is not addressed.

Last Week

- To complete the circle of justice the murdered victim must be raised from the dead and the wealth lost must be repaid in reparations.
- This line of reasoning moves outside the definition of a Kingdom with no hurt pain or sorrow.
- This Kingdom is no better than any good king who would punish evil equally—but even a good king cannot restore the losses experienced in crimes.

Last Week

- The solution to the dilemma is as we have taught before the sinful act can be implemented the criminal will be “zapped away” in judgment **leaving no sin or crime committed in the Kingdom.**
- This is how “kingdom crime” has been dealt with by our pastor (Gil).
- **It is thus impossible to imagine social sinning in the Kingdom. Yet it is claimed not to be perfect—**

Addendum

- We have not dealt with another objection to a perfected Kingdom—the issue of no rain falling on the nations that do not bring their offering to Jerusalem each year. This is mentioned only because it needs an explanation.
- “Then it will come about that **any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem** will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.” (Zechariah 14:16)

Addendum

- “And it will be that whichever of the **families** of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, **there will be no rain on them**. If the **family** of Egypt does not go up or enter, **then no rain will fall on them**; it will be the plague with which the Lord smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. **This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.**” (Zechariah 14:16–19)

Pedagogical Moment A Hermeneutical Task

- This verse could put a wrench into the perfected Kingdom. Nations/families that refuse to pay their “taxes” are rebellious at the core.
- The King in the face of rebellion has the means by which to force compliance. No rain will doom the next years crop.
- The Law: Rather the nations give up 10% of this years crop than to suffer the loss a 100% next.

Pedagogical Moment A Hermeneutical Task

- Remember we are down to this one section that “must be explained.”
- Hermeneutical choice—1# Accept this passage and overturn (ignore) all other passage of perfection and no hurt, pain , etc., (objection). To do this— all the language of perfections ends up being only aspirational, figurative or even allegorical. For they (the bulk) cannot mean what they say—remember “the no rain rebellion” controls the interpretation of everything.
- I have called this the tail wagging the dog—approach.

Pedagogical Moment A Hermeneutical Task

- What other choice is there?
- Hermeneutical choice—2#. As in a debate class the student must defend a position he does not hold. Here for starters adopt that approach—make an argument that is not #1. **This allows for the mentally “impossible” to become possible.**
- Here then is the challenge of forcing a different interpretation than **the one first observed.**
- **Warning! We cannot twist text** we just need to challenge our idea of what the text is (actually doing) saying.
- There are no contradictions! Basic rule, nor allegories.

Pedagogical Moment A Hermeneutical Task

- **We know that the Kingdom will be ruled by a rod of iron. The laws will be perfectly enforced as we have noted by the instant removal of persons intending to offend—there is no problem with the modus operandi. (God can morally do this.)**
- **The rod of Iron is demonstrated in the extended example (we have another in Isa. 29:20, 65:20) —no rain on nations/families that refuse.**

Pedagogical Moment A Hermeneutical Task

- But does it not beg the question—**are there any that do not bring their offerings?**
- We have the law given in a narrative form. Egypt/family of/is used as an example of a threat of a “no rain” judgment.
- **But there is no statement that a nation actually will withhold their offering. The Kingdom has not arrived yet. Prophetic—** Egypt’s leaders may think of this but—will be wise and offer their sacrifice.
- So with this in mind “ALL THE NATIONS COMPLY.”
- **This then is an example of how the rule of the rod works.** No one avoids the payment. The Kingdom remains perfect. In support— there are no other (?) detailed examples given in the use of the rod of iron.

Pedagogical Moment A Hermeneutical Task

- You may not like my solution. Try another scenario one that is more satisfying than mine.
 - We are in “creative” Bible interpretation space.
- What we know is that we cannot upset the entire perfection scheme because of a “problem section.”
- We must put our minds to solve this problem even when the problem seems unsolvable. (Stick with the literal sense of the text our safety net.)

Pedagogical Moment A Hermeneutical Task

- The frame of the picture has been set. We can fill in the picture within the limits.
- We navigated one of the questions last week—sinning in the Kingdom.
 - The same technique was used to solve that problem.
- There may be a better solution here—give it a try but all the sides of the puzzle piece must fit the vacant place.
- The “art in interpretation” recognizes this approach.

Pedagogical Moment A Hermeneutical Task

- **Final Test: Can God write a law that everyone can keep! Can all the nations keep this law? It is their choice! Therefore—**
- **100% compliance is expected in the Kingdom or judgment zapping sets in.**
- **If you can master this principle you have a powerful tool to solve other Scriptural problems.**

Now to Isaiah 30-33

- We intend to treat this section summarily.
- The challenge in this section is to recognize the present enemy of Assyria for Israel and Judah and the possible assistance against Assyria from Egypt.
- Israel Judah are attacked by Assyria, Israel will fall and Judah will stand. The dependance on Egypt is a warning for Judah (only)—

Isaiah 30-33

- Also in hope Isaiah prophesies that Assyria will be eaten up, we know from history that to be by Babylon.
- Mixed in these warnings are some for Judah a promise of deliverance from Assyria and ultimately captured by Babylon.
- The far sighted Messianic Kingdom is the hope of both of these nations in their divided state.

Material from Isaiah Steveson

We skip over section 30:1-17— The futility of
relying on Man. (Egypt)

Pickup on v. 18-26 The Coming Kingdom

Kingdom Living

¹⁸ Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. ¹⁹ O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, **you will weep no longer.** He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

²⁰ Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, **He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.** ²¹ Your ears will hear a word behind you, “This is the way, walk in it,” whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Kingdom Living Comparison is with “now” and “then”

²² And you will defile your graven images overlaid with silver, and your molten images plated with gold. You will scatter them as an impure thing, and say to them, “Be gone!” ²³ Then He will give you rain for the seed which you will sow in the ground, and bread from the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plenteous; on that day your livestock will graze in a roomy pasture. ²⁴ Also the oxen and the donkeys which work the ground will eat salted fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork.

Transitioning? ²⁵ On every lofty mountain and on every high hill there will be streams running with water on the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. ²⁶ The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven days, on the day the Lord binds up the fracture of His people and heals the bruise He has inflicted. (Could be metaphoric, seems that way, or more energy comes from the sun in the Kingdom.)

Isaiah 30:27-30

The Coming King

²⁷ Behold, the name of the Lord comes from a remote place; Burning is His anger and dense is His smoke; His lips are filled with indignation And His tongue is like a consuming fire; ²⁸ His breath is like an overflowing torrent, Which reaches to the neck, To shake the nations back and forth in a sieve, And to put in the jaws of the peoples the bridle which leads to ruin.

Isaiah 63:1-3 (NASB95)

¹ Who is this who comes from Edom, With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."² Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press? 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.

Revelation 14:20 (NASB95)

²⁰ And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.

Isaiah 30:27-30 The Coming King

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Revelation 19:15–17 (NASB95)

¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God,

Isaiah 30:27-30 The Coming King

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Revelation 16:13–14 (NASB95)

13 And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; 14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.

The Coming Kingdom

²⁹ You will have songs as in the night when you keep the festival, And gladness of heart as when one marches to the sound of the flute, To go to the mountain of the Lord, to the Rock of Israel.

Hope in Relief: ³⁰ And the Lord will cause His voice of authority to be heard, And the descending of His arm to be seen in fierce anger, And in the flame of a consuming fire In cloudburst, downpour and hailstones.

Revelation 8:7 (NASB95)

⁷ The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

Revelation 16:21 (NASB95)


²¹ And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.

Assyria's Destruction Assumed

³¹ For at the voice of the Lord Assyria will be terrified, When He strikes with the rod. ³² And every blow of the rod of punishment, Which the Lord will lay on him, Will be with the music of tambourines and lyres; And in battles, brandishing weapons, He will fight them. ³³ For Topheth has long been ready, Indeed, it has been prepared for the king. He has made it deep and large, A pyre of fire with plenty of wood; The breath of the Lord, like a torrent of brimstone, sets it afire.

Isaiah 31 Mostly Historic

¹ Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help And rely on horses, And trust in chariots because they are many And in horsemen because they are very strong, But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord! ² Yet He also is wise and will bring disaster And does not retract His words, But will arise against the house of evildoers And against the help of the workers of iniquity. ³ Now the Egyptians are men and not God, And their horses are flesh and not spirit; So the Lord will stretch out His hand, And he who helps will stumble And he who is helped will fall, And all of them will come to an end together. ⁴ For thus says the Lord to me, “As the lion or the young lion growls over his prey, Against which a band of shepherds is called out, And he will not be terrified at their voice nor disturbed at their noise, So will the Lord of hosts come down to wage war on Mount Zion and on its hill.” ⁵ Like flying birds so the Lord of hosts will protect Jerusalem. He will protect and deliver it; He will pass over and rescue it.



⁶ Return to Him from whom you have deeply defected, O sons of Israel. ⁷ For in that day every man will cast away his silver idols and his gold idols, which your sinful hands have made for you as a sin.

⁸ And the Assyrian will fall by a sword not of man, And a sword not of man will devour him. So he will not escape the sword, And his young men will become forced laborers. ⁹ “His rock will pass away because of panic, And his princes will be terrified at the standard,” Declares the Lord, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

Next Section the Messianic Kingdom

Isaiah 32:1–2

¹ Behold, a king will reign righteously And princes will rule justly. ²
Each will be like a refuge from the wind And a **shelter from the storm**,
Like **streams of water in a dry country**, Like the shade of a huge rock in a parched land. (Hymn Lyrics)