

Behold Our God
The End of the World
October 16th, 2011

Text - Isaiah 24 and 25

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 24:1-6

It seems to me that more and more people are wondering about the end of the world these days.

- When, what, why?
- People have always wondered and wonder seems to ebb and flow
- For whatever reason it seems to be ebbing today
 - o Deteriorating state of the economy, the environment, or our natural resources, the threat of terrorism, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, or the political unrest in the Middle East, famine in Africa or the number and scope of recent natural disasters
 - o Whatever the reason it seems to be on the minds of both Christians and nonChristians alike
- Evidence
 - o 2012 phenomenon surrounding the end of Mayan calendar
 - 2009 movie
 - o Harold Camping's May 21, 2011 prediction
 - o Many Christians I bump into
 - "What do you think about what's going on? Do you think the end is near?"

Though today's passage from Isaiah doesn't speak to the when of how the world will end, it does have some things to say about the what and the why.

Isaiah 24 comes on the heels of a series of judgment oracles against specific, individual nations.

- Babylon (13) - Tyre and Sidon (23) and six others in between including Jerusalem which we looked at last week.

The judgment oracles climax with chapter 24 "Judgment on the Whole Earth" (ESV)

- Apocalyptic or eschatological - having to do with the last days of the end of the world

We learn several things about the coming judgment, or the end of the world, from this passage.

- It has already begun
 - o Much of the language in this passage is present tense, and though it refers to the future judgment, I believe it refers to the present judgment as well.
 - o **Isaiah 24:20 (ESV)**
²⁰The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut;...
 - o **Isaiah 24:4-6 (ESV)**
⁴The earth mourns and withers; the world languishes and withers; the highest people of the earth languish. ⁵The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants;... ⁶....a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer...
 - o In 7-13 Isaiah describes this suffering as the end of a party or the destruction of a city
 - **Isaiah 24:7-13 (ESV)**
⁷...all the merry-hearted sigh. ⁸...the noise of the jubilant has ceased,...¹¹...all joy has grown dark; the gladness of the earth is banished.
 - o In 16 Isaiah expresses his own suffering
 - **Isaiah 24:16-17 (ESV)**
¹⁶...But I say, "I waste away, I waste away. Woe is me! For the traitors have betrayed, with betrayal the traitors have betrayed."
 - o **Romans 1:18 (ESV)**
¹⁸For the wrath of God is (being) revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
 - o **Romans 8:19-22 (ESV)**
²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility,...²¹that the creation itself (is in)bondage to corruption... ²²...the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.
- It will be comprehensive
 - o **Isaiah 24:1 (ESV)**
¹Behold, the Lord will empty the earth and make it

desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.

o **Isaiah 24:3 (ESV)**

³The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered;

o **Isaiah 24:19-20 (ESV)**

¹⁹The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken. ²⁰The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again.

o **Revelation 6:12-14 (ESV)**

¹²When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

o **Revelation 21:1 (ESV)**

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

• It will be indiscriminant

o **Isaiah 24:2-4 (ESV)**

²And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the slave, 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 creditor, so with the debtor... ⁴...the highest people of the earth languish.

o **Romans 2:6-11 (ESV)**

⁶He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does

good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.

o **Revelation 20:11-13 (ESV)**

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

• It will be terrifying

o **Isaiah 24:17-18 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Terror and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth! ¹⁸ He who flees at the sound of the terror shall fall into the pit, and he who climbs out of the pit shall be caught in the snare.

o **Amos 5:18-19 (ESV)**

¹⁸ Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹ as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

o **Matthew 24:22 (ESV)**

²¹ 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.

o **Revelation 6:15-17 (ESV)**

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

- It will be because of sin
 - o **Isaiah 24:5-6 (ESV)**

⁵The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.
 - o **Isaiah 24:20 (ESV)**

²⁰The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again.
 - o Why does the earth lie defiled? Why does a curse devour it? Why do its inhabitants suffer? Why does it stagger like a drunken man and sway like a hut? And why will it one day fall never to rise again? Because of sin. Because its people, those whom its Creator created in His own image, in His own likeness, to rule over it under His loving authority, have transgressed His laws, violated His statutes, and broken His everlasting covenant. Though He has clearly warned us, from the beginning, that if we eat of the forbidden fruit we will surely die and that the wages of our sin is death, we have opted to rebel against Him and go our own way nonetheless. What lies at the root of this sinful rebellion is pride.
 - **Isaiah 25:10-12 (ESV)**

¹⁰...Moab shall be trampled down in his place, as straw is trampled down in a dunghill. ¹¹...the Lord will lay low his pompous pride together with the skill of his hands. ¹²And the high fortifications of his walls he will bring down, lay low, and cast to the ground, to the dust.
 - o Sin is the reason the world is in the state it's in and sin is the reason the world will one day be no more.
- It will be executed God

- o **Isaiah 24:3 (ESV)**
³The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered; for the Lord has spoken this word.
- o **Isaiah 24:21-22 (ESV)**
²¹On that day the Lord will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. ²²They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished.
- o **Jude 1:5-7 (ESV)**
⁶And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he(Jesus) has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—
- o **Matthew 25:31-32 (ESV)**
³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

- It will be ok for those who trust in the Lord
 - o **Isaiah 24:16 (ESV)**
¹⁶...But I say, “I waste away, I waste away. Woe is me!...
 - o **Isaiah 25:1-4 (ESV)**
¹O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure... ⁴For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat;
 - o **Isaiah 25:9 (ESV)**
⁹It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”
 - o **Isaiah 25:6-8 (ESV)**
⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷

And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

o **Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV)**

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

How should we respond?

• **Revelation 22:17-20 (ESV)**

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price... ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

- If you've repented of your sins and put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ you have no reason to fear the coming judgment. Come Lord Jesus!
- If you haven't, you have reason to fear it. Bow your knee to Jesus and take the water of life today.