

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 24 — The Lord's Judgment on the Whole Earth

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 24 marks a major expansion in the prophetic vision.

The previous chapters focused on specific nations:

Babylon.

Moab.

Damascus.

Cush.

Egypt.

Tyre.

But now Isaiah looks beyond individual kingdoms.

The subject becomes:

The whole earth.

The scope is:

Universal.

The chapter describes:

Judgment.

Desolation.

Mourning.

Broken social structures.

Silenced celebrations.

Shaken creation.

Punishment of earthly and heavenly powers.

And finally:

The glorious reign of the Lord.

Isaiah begins with a terrifying announcement:

“Behold, the Lord lays the earth waste, makes it desolate, turns it upside down, and scatters its inhabitants.”

No class of people escapes.

Priest.

People.

Servant.

Master.

Buyer.

Seller.

Borrower.

Lender.

The judgment reaches:

Everyone.

Why?

Isaiah gives the spiritual reason:

“The earth is defiled by its people.”

Humanity has:

Broken God’s laws.

Violated His decrees.

Broken covenant obligations.

Sin has not remained private.

It has affected:

People.

Society.

Creation.

The earth itself is pictured:

Mourning.

Withering.

Staggering.

Breaking apart.

The chapter also shows the collapse of human joy apart from God.

Music stops.

Parties end.

Wine becomes bitter.

Cities are ruined.

Gates are destroyed.

Yet in the middle of judgment:

A remnant sings.

Voices rise from the west.

The east glorifies the Lord.

The islands praise His name.

Songs are heard from:

The ends of the earth.

The refrain becomes:

“Glory to the Righteous One!”

This is one of the great truths of Isaiah 24:

Judgment does not silence worship.

Even while the world shakes:

God has worshipers.

The chapter then intensifies.

Terror.

Pit.

Snare.

The earth shakes violently.

The foundations tremble.

The earth staggers like a drunkard under the weight of sin.

Finally, God judges not only:

Earthly kings.

But also:

The powers in the heavens.

The chapter concludes with the Lord reigning:

On Mount Zion.

In Jerusalem.

In glory.

The central truth of Isaiah 24 is:

Human sin has defiled the earth and brought universal accountability before God, yet even amid worldwide judgment God preserves worshipers, defeats earthly and spiritual powers, and ultimately reigns in glory as the righteous King over all creation.

I. THE LORD LAYS THE EARTH WASTE

Isaiah 24:1 — Worldwide Judgment

“Behold, the Lord lays the earth waste, makes it desolate, turns it upside down, and scatters its inhabitants.”

The chapter begins with:

The Lord.

He is not reacting helplessly.

He is:

Acting.

Judging.

Scattering.

The scope is:

The earth.

Cross References

Jeremiah 4:23

Jeremiah sees the land in prophetic vision as empty, disordered, and devastated, using language that recalls the formless condition of creation.

Zephaniah 1:2

The Lord announces a sweeping judgment in which He will remove people, animals, birds, and other living things from the face of the land.

Revelation 6:14

In apocalyptic judgment, the sky is pictured withdrawing like a scroll while mountains and islands are moved from their places.

Spiritual Principle

God's authority is not local.

He is Lord of:

The whole earth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who created the world has authority to judge the world.

II. JUDGMENT REACHES EVERY SOCIAL CLASS

Isaiah 24:2 — No Class Is Exempt

“It will be the same for everyone: for people and priests, for servants and masters, for maids and mistresses, for buyers and sellers, for lenders and borrowers, for creditors and debtors.”

Isaiah names:

Religious leaders.

Ordinary people.

Workers.

Employers.

Business people.

Financial classes.

Judgment does not respect:

Title.

Income.

Position.

Status.

Cross References

Hosea 4:9

God declares that priest and people alike will be judged according to their conduct because religious office does not excuse rebellion.

Ezekiel 7:12

In the day of judgment, normal economic distinctions between buyer and seller lose their significance because wrath reaches the entire society.

Job 3:19

In death, both small and great are together, and servants are released from the authority of earthly masters.

Spiritual Principle

God does not judge according to social rank.

Key Truth

The ground is level before divine accountability.

III. THE LAND WILL BE EMPTIED

Isaiah 24:3 — The Lord Has Spoken

“The land will be completely emptied and utterly plundered, for the Lord has spoken this word.”

The certainty comes from:

God’s Word.

Not merely:

Political probability.

Military analysis.

Human speculation.

Cross References

Nahum 2:10

A conquered city is pictured emptied, plundered, devastated, with hearts melting and courage disappearing.

Zephaniah 1:18

Neither silver nor gold will be able to deliver people when the day of the Lord's wrath comes upon the land.

Jeremiah 25:33

Those struck under divine judgment are pictured scattered throughout the earth without ordinary mourning or burial.

Spiritual Principle

When the Lord has spoken, the issue is certainty.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's Word does not need favorable circumstances in order to come true.

IV. THE EARTH MOURNS AND WITHERS

Isaiah 24:4 — Even the Proud Languish

“The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and wastes away; even the proud people of the earth languish.”

Isaiah personifies creation.

The earth:

Mourns.

Withers.

Fades.

Even those considered:

High.

Influential.

Proud.

Are weakened.

Cross References

Hosea 4:3

Because of sin in the land, the earth mourns and living creatures suffer as human rebellion affects the created order.

Jeremiah 12:4

Jeremiah asks how long the land must mourn and vegetation wither because of the wickedness of those living in it.

Amos 1:2

The Lord's voice in judgment causes pastures to mourn and productive places to dry up.

Spiritual Principle

Sin never remains contained within the sinner.

V. THE EARTH IS DEFILED BY HUMAN SIN

Isaiah 24:5 — Laws Broken, Covenant Violated

“The earth is defiled by its people; they have broken God's laws, violated His decrees, and broken the everlasting covenant.”

This is the spiritual diagnosis.

The problem is not merely:

Politics.

Environment.

Economics.

War.

The deepest problem is:

Rebellion against God.

People have:

Broken laws.

Violated decrees.

Broken covenant.

Cross References

Genesis 9:16

God speaks of His everlasting covenant concerning the earth and living creatures, remembered through the sign of the rainbow.

Hosea 6:7

God's people are accused of breaking covenant faithfulness and dealing treacherously with Him.

Jeremiah 3:9

Persistent spiritual unfaithfulness is described as defiling the land through idolatry.

Spiritual Principle

Moral rebellion has consequences that reach beyond individual experience.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A polluted heart eventually contributes to a polluted world.

VI. A CURSE DEVOURS THE EARTH

Isaiah 24:6 — Only a Few Remain

“Therefore a curse devours the earth; its people bear their guilt. Its inhabitants are burned up, and only a few are left.”

The word:

Therefore.

Connects:

Sin.

To:

Consequences.

The judgment is not arbitrary.

Humanity bears:

Guilt.

Yet:

A few remain.

Again we see:

Remnant.

Cross References

Malachi 4:6

God warns of judgment coming upon the land if hearts remain hardened and unreconciled.

Zechariah 5:3

A curse is described going out over the land against persistent lawbreaking and falsehood.

Deuteronomy 29:22

Future generations will see the severe consequences brought upon a land because of covenant rebellion.

Spiritual Principle

Grace preserves a remnant even when judgment is widespread.

VII. THE VINE WITHERS

Isaiah 24:7 — Joy Turns to Groaning

“The new wine dries up, the vine withers, all who were once joyful now groan.”

The things associated with:

Celebration.

Harvest.

Abundance.

Are gone.

Joy becomes:

Groaning.

Cross References

Joel 1:10

Fields are ruined, grain is destroyed, wine fails, and oil dries up because devastation has struck the land.

Jeremiah 12:10

Foreign rulers are pictured destroying God’s vineyard and turning a pleasant field into desolation.

Amos 5:11

Those who oppressed others may plant pleasant vineyards but will not enjoy their wine.

Spiritual Principle

Material abundance cannot guarantee lasting joy.

VIII. THE MUSIC STOPS

Isaiah 24:8 — Celebration Is Silenced

“The sounds of tambourines have ceased, the noise of revelers has ended, the joyful music of the harp is silent.”

The world once had:

Music.

Celebration.

Noise.

Now:

Silence.

Cross References

Jeremiah 7:34

God warns that songs of joy, celebration, and marriage will cease because the land will become desolate.

Ezekiel 26:13

God declares that songs and musical instruments will be silenced when judgment falls.

Hosea 2:11

God promises to bring an end to celebrations, festivals, and seasons of rejoicing connected with unfaithfulness.

Spiritual Principle

Joy that ignores God is temporary.

IX. WINE BECOMES BITTER

Isaiah 24:9 — Pleasure Loses Its Sweetness

“No longer do they drink wine with song; strong drink tastes bitter to those who drink it.”

Something once associated with:

Pleasure.

Now tastes:

Bitter.

Judgment changes the experience.

Cross References

Amos 8:10

God warns that festivals can be turned into mourning and songs into lamentation.

Joel 1:5

Those addicted to wine are called to mourn because the supply has been removed.

Isaiah 5:11

Isaiah condemns those who pursue strong drink from morning into night while ignoring the works and ways of God.

Spiritual Principle

Sin can turn what once brought pleasure into bitterness.

X. THE RUINED CITY IS SHUT UP

Isaiah 24:10 — Desolation Replaces Community

“The ruined city lies desolate; every house is shut up, with no one allowed to enter.”

The city once symbolized:

Life.

Community.

Commerce.

Safety.

Now:

Shut doors.

Empty houses.

Desolation.

Cross References

Genesis 1:2

Before God formed and ordered creation, the earth is described as formless, empty, and covered in darkness.

Jeremiah 4:23

Jeremiah uses creation-like language to describe land devastated by judgment, appearing empty and disordered.

Revelation 18:19

Merchants and seafarers mourn the collapse of a great city because its economic glory disappears suddenly.

Spiritual Principle

Cities are not permanent simply because they are full today.

XI. JOY IS BANISHED

Isaiah 24:11 — Gladness Turns to Gloom

“People cry out for wine in the streets; all joy turns to gloom, gladness is banished from the earth.”

The people still desire:

Pleasure.

But:

The source of their joy is gone.

Cross References

Lamentations 5:15

Joy disappears from the heart, and dancing is replaced by mourning.

Amos 5:16

Wailing fills streets and public places because judgment has replaced ordinary life with grief.

Jeremiah 48:33

Joy and gladness disappear from fields and vineyards, and the normal celebrations of harvest cease.

Spiritual Principle

A world that seeks joy apart from God eventually discovers how fragile that joy is.

XII. THE CITY’S GATES ARE DESTROYED

Isaiah 24:12 — Defenses Fall

“The city is left in ruins, its gates battered and destroyed.”

Gates represented:

Security.

Administration.

Access.

Defense.

Now:

They are broken.

Cross References

Ezekiel 26:10

An invading army is pictured overwhelming city defenses with horses, chariots, and military force.

Lamentations 2:9

Jerusalem's gates sink into ruins and its defenses are destroyed under judgment.

Micah 5:11

God promises to cut down fortified cities and destroy the strongholds in which people trusted.

Spiritual Principle

Human defenses have limits.

XIII. ONLY GLEANINGS REMAIN

Isaiah 24:13 — A Remnant Among the Nations

“So it will be throughout the land among the nations—like the shaking of an olive tree, like the gleaning of grapes after harvest.”

Again:

The remnant.

Most of the harvest is gone.

A few remain.

Cross References

Isaiah 17:6

Isaiah previously compared survivors to a few olives remaining on the highest branches after the tree has been beaten.

Micah 7:1

Micah compares himself to someone searching after harvest and finding almost no fruit remaining.

Deuteronomy 24:20

God instructed Israel to leave some olives behind after harvest for the poor and vulnerable.

Spiritual Principle

God can preserve a faithful remnant in worldwide crisis.

XIV. VOICES RISE IN PRAISE

Isaiah 24:14 — The Majesty of the Lord Proclaimed

“Yet they lift up their voices, they shout for joy; from the west they proclaim the majesty of the Lord.”

This word matters:

“Yet.”

Judgment is severe.

Yet:

Praise.

Voices still rise.

Cross References

Psalms 93:3

The floods and mighty waters lift their voices, but the Lord remains mightier than their roar.

Zephaniah 3:14

God’s people are called to sing, shout, rejoice, and celebrate because the Lord acts on their behalf.

Psalms 98:4

All the earth is called to shout joyfully to the Lord and break into songs of praise.

Spiritual Principle

Worship can survive what comfort cannot.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When everything else is shaken, true worship still has a voice.

XV. THE LORD IS GLORIFIED FROM EAST TO WEST

Isaiah 24:15 — Worship Among the Nations

“Therefore, glorify the Lord in the east, the name of the Lord, the God of Israel, in the islands of the sea.”

Worship expands:

East.

West.

Islands.

Nations.

The God of Israel receives:

Global praise.

Cross References

Malachi 1:11

God declares that His name will be great among the nations from sunrise to sunset.

Psalms 50:1

The mighty God calls the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Revelation 7:9

John sees an innumerable multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before God in worship.

Spiritual Principle

God’s name is destined for global honor.

XVI. SONGS COME FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Isaiah 24:16 — “Glory to the Righteous One”

“From the ends of the earth we hear songs: ‘Glory to the Righteous One!’ But I said, ‘I waste away, I waste away! Woe to me! The traitors betray—with treachery they deal treacherously.’”

Two realities appear at once.

Praise.

Pain.

God is glorified.

Yet:

Evil still grieves Isaiah.

Cross References

Habakkuk 1:13

The prophet struggles with how the holy God can permit treacherous and wicked people to continue acting for a time.

Micah 7:2

Faithfulness seems to disappear as violent and corrupt people pursue one another.

Jeremiah 9:2

Jeremiah longs for distance from a society filled with unfaithfulness and betrayal.

Spiritual Principle

Worship does not require pretending evil is not painful.

XVII. TERROR, PIT, AND SNARE

Isaiah 24:17 — No Easy Escape

“Terror, the pit, and the snare await you, people of the earth.”

The imagery becomes intense.

Escape from:

One danger.

Leads to:

Another.

Cross References

Jeremiah 48:43

Jeremiah uses the same sequence of terror, pit, and snare to describe unavoidable judgment.

Amos 5:19

Trying to escape judgment is compared to fleeing from a lion only to meet a bear, then reaching home only to be bitten by a serpent.

Lamentations 3:47

Terror, ruin, destruction, and traps are described as surrounding the suffering people.

Spiritual Principle

Judgment cannot be avoided merely through human maneuvering.

XVIII. THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH SHAKE

Isaiah 24:18 — Heaven and Earth Respond

“Whoever flees at the sound of terror will fall into a pit; whoever climbs out of the pit will be caught in a snare. For the windows of heaven are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake.”

The language recalls:

The Flood.

Cosmic upheaval.

Divine judgment.

Cross References

Jeremiah 48:44

Whoever escapes one danger falls into another because judgment continues to pursue the rebellious.

Genesis 7:11

During the Flood, the fountains of the great deep broke open and the windows of heaven released overwhelming waters.

Psalms 82:5

When justice collapses and rulers walk in darkness, the foundations of the earth are pictured as shaken.

Spiritual Principle

When God judges, even what seems foundational can move.

XIX. THE EARTH IS BROKEN APART

Isaiah 24:19 — Violent Shaking

“The earth is broken apart, it is split open, it is shaken violently.”

The repetition emphasizes:

Total instability.

Broken.

Split.

Shaken.

Cross References

Nahum 1:5

Mountains quake before the Lord, hills melt, and the earth trembles at His presence.

Haggai 2:6

God promises another great shaking of heaven, earth, sea, and dry land.

Revelation 16:18

A final judgment scene includes an earthquake of extraordinary magnitude unlike previous earthquakes.

Spiritual Principle

Creation itself is not beyond God’s authority.

XX. THE EARTH STAGGERS UNDER THE WEIGHT OF SIN

Isaiah 24:20 — Like a Drunkard

“The earth staggers like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind. Its sin weighs heavily on it; it falls and will never rise again.”

The reason is stated:

“Its sin weighs heavily on it.”

Sin is pictured as:

A crushing load.

The earth cannot bear it indefinitely.

Cross References

Amos 8:8

The land is pictured trembling and rising and falling like the Nile because of judgment.

Job 12:25

God can cause people to grope in darkness and stagger like a drunkard without direction.

Revelation 6:13

The heavens and earth are shaken in apocalyptic judgment as stars fall like fruit shaken from a tree.

Spiritual Principle

Sin is not weightless.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The world may treat sin lightly, but Isaiah pictures it as heavy enough to make the earth stagger.

XXI. GOD JUDGES HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY POWERS

Isaiah 24:21 — Powers Above and Kings Below

“In that day the Lord will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below.”

Judgment reaches:

Earthly rulers.

Spiritual powers.

This reveals:

Cosmic scope.

Cross References

Revelation 6:15

Kings, rulers, commanders, wealthy people, powerful people, and ordinary people all seek to hide when divine judgment arrives.

Ephesians 6:12

Paul explains that spiritual conflict includes rulers, authorities, powers of darkness, and spiritual forces of evil.

Zephaniah 1:5

God condemns those who worship heavenly bodies and combine worship of the Lord with allegiance to false gods.

Spiritual Principle

No earthly or spiritual power stands outside God's authority.

XXII. THE REBELLIOUS POWERS ARE IMPRISONED

Isaiah 24:22 — Judgment After Many Days

“They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and after many days they will be punished.”

The imagery is:

Capture.

Confinement.

Final accountability.

Those who once exercised power become:

Prisoners.

Cross References

Revelation 20:1

An angel is pictured descending with authority to bind and imprison the great spiritual adversary.

1 Peter 3:19

Peter refers to imprisoned spirits in connection with Christ's victorious proclamation.

2 Peter 2:4

Peter teaches that rebellious angels were not spared but were confined awaiting judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual powers remain creatures under divine authority.

Key Truth

The strongest rebel in creation is still weaker than the Creator.

XXIII. THE LORD REIGNS IN GLORY

Isaiah 24:23 — Zion and Jerusalem

“The moon will be disgraced, the sun ashamed; for the Lord Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before His elders with great glory.”

This is the climax.

After:

The earth shakes.

Kings fall.

Spiritual powers are judged.

God:

Reigns.

His glory surpasses:

Sun.

Moon.

Created light.

Cross References

Matthew 24:29

Jesus describes cosmic signs in which the sun and moon are darkened and heavenly powers are shaken.

Revelation 21:23

The holy city needs no sun or moon to provide its ultimate light because God’s glory illuminates it and the Lamb is its lamp.

Micah 4:7

The Lord promises to reign over His restored people from Mount Zion from that time onward.

Spiritual Principle

The end of judgment is not chaos.

It is:

God reigning.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The final picture of history is not a ruined throne.

It is the Lord on His throne.

XXIV. TEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 24

1. Judgment Is Universal

No class escapes.

Principle:

Status cannot shield anyone from God.

2. Sin Defiles Creation

Human rebellion affects more than individuals.

Principle:

Sin always reaches farther than the sinner expects.

3. Joy Apart from God Is Temporary

Music stops.

Wine becomes bitter.

Principle:

Pleasure cannot survive forever when separated from its Giver.

4. Human Cities Are Temporary

The city becomes:

Ruins.

Principle:

Civilization is not the same as permanence.

5. God Preserves a Remnant

A few remain like:

Olives.

Grapes.

Principle:

God keeps worship alive even in judgment.

6. Worship Can Rise in Crisis

Songs come from:

The ends of the earth.

Principle:

True worship is stronger than circumstances.

7. God Judges Earthly Rulers

Kings are accountable.

Principle:

No political office is above God.

8. God Judges Spiritual Powers

Heavenly powers are punished.

Principle:

No unseen power rivals God's sovereignty.

9. Sin Has Weight

The earth staggers beneath it.

Principle:

What humanity calls light, God reveals as crushing.

10. The Lord Ultimately Reigns

The chapter ends with:

Glory.

Principle:

Judgment clears the stage for the open display of God's righteous reign.

XXV. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT SIN

Sin:

Defiles.

Breaks.

Weighs down.

Destroys.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never measure sin only by how it feels in the moment.

Measure it by what God says it does.

XXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT CREATION

The earth is pictured:

Mourning.

Withering.

Shaking.

Staggering.

Creation suffers under human rebellion.

Spiritual Principle

Human sin and creation's brokenness belong to the same fallen story.

XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT EQUALITY BEFORE GOD

Priest.

People.

Master.

Servant.

Buyer.

Seller.

All face accountability.

Key Truth

Privilege changes responsibility.

It does not eliminate judgment.

XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT COVENANT

The earth's inhabitants violate:

God's laws.

His decrees.

Covenant obligations.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human freedom never means freedom from the Creator's moral authority.

XXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT JOY

The world's music ends.

But:

The remnant still sings.

This creates two kinds of joy:

Joy built on circumstances.

Joy built on God.

Spiritual Principle

When circumstantial joy disappears, worship-based joy can remain.

XXX. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT THE REMNANT

The remnant is pictured as:

Gleanings.

Few.

But still:

Singing.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A small worshiping remnant can carry a louder testimony than a large rebellious crowd.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT WORSHIP

Praise comes from:

West.

East.

Islands.

Ends of the earth.

Spiritual Principle

God is building a worshiping people from every direction.

XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT JUDGMENT

Judgment reaches:

Society.

Economy.

Creation.

Cities.

Kings.

Spiritual powers.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Divine judgment is comprehensive because sin's corruption is comprehensive.

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Verse 21 reaches beyond:

Human kings.

There are:

Powers in heavenly realms.

But:

God judges them.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual warfare should never produce fear of demons greater than reverence for God.

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 24 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM

The final image is:

The Lord reigning.

Not:

Human empire.

Not:

Chaos.

Not:

Satanic power.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every prophecy of shaking should ultimately direct the believer toward the unshakable King.

XXXV. THE EARTH TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Verse 1 pictures a total reversal.

What appeared:

Stable.

Becomes:

Disordered.

Spiritual Principle

God can overturn structures humanity assumes are permanent.

XXXVI. NO SOCIAL EXEMPTIONS

The list in verse 2 is deliberate.

God names:

Opposites.

Everyone in between is included.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's judgment cannot be bought, borrowed, negotiated, or outranked.

XXXVII. THE CURSE AND THE REMNANT

Judgment devours.

Yet:

A few survive.

Spiritual Principle

Even severe judgment does not erase God's ability to preserve.

XXXVIII. WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS

Isaiah imagines:

No tambourines.

No revelers.

No harp.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not build your soul on a soundtrack that can be silenced.

XXXIX. THE RUINED CITY

Human civilization often says:

We built this.

It will continue.

Isaiah says:

Cities can empty.

Spiritual Principle

Culture is fragile.

God is eternal.

XL. SONGS AMID THE RUINS

This is one of the chapter's greatest contrasts.

Earth:

Mourns.

Remnant:

Sings.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The believer's song comes from who God is, not merely from what the world looks like.

XLI. “GLORY TO THE RIGHTEOUS ONE”

God remains:

Righteous.

Even in:

Judgment.

Spiritual Principle

God’s holiness does not change when His judgments become severe.

XLII. ISAIAH STILL GRIEVES

Even while hearing songs:

Isaiah says:

“I waste away.”

The prophet holds together:

Praise.

Grief.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Spiritual maturity can worship God and grieve evil at the same time.

XLIII. THE PIT AND THE SNARE

The imagery shows:

No escape through cleverness.

Spiritual Principle

Repentance is safer than attempting to outmaneuver judgment.

XLIV. THE EARTH STAGGERS

Imagine:

The planet itself.

Reeling.

Why?

Sin.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sin carries more weight than humanity wants to admit.

XLV. THE POWERS ABOVE

Isaiah's vision goes beyond:

Human politics.

There is a spiritual dimension.

Yet even there:

The Lord reigns.

Spiritual Principle

The unseen world is not outside God's courtroom.

XLVI. KINGS BELOW

Earthly rulers can appear:

Untouchable.

But in verse 21:

They stand under judgment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every earthly throne exists beneath heaven's throne.

XLVII. THE PRISON OF REBELLION

The rebellious powers are confined.

Their freedom:

Ends.

Spiritual Principle

Evil may operate for a time, but it does not possess unlimited freedom.

XLVIII. THE SUN AND MOON ASHAMED

This is poetic language of:

Superior glory.

The Lord's glory outshines:

Creation.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Even the brightest created light appears dim beside the glory of its Creator.

XLIX. THE LORD REIGNS

These three words answer the chapter:

The Lord reigns.

Spiritual Principle

When everything else shakes:

His throne does not.

L. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What is the scope of Isaiah 24?

The whole earth.

Question 2

Who experiences judgment?

Every social class and level of society.

Question 3

Why is the earth judged?

Because humanity has defiled it through rebellion against God's laws and covenant order.

Question 4

What happens to the earth?

It mourns, withers, is emptied, shaken, and devastated.

Question 5

What happens to human celebrations?

Music stops, wine becomes bitter, and public joy disappears.

Question 6

Does anyone remain?

Yes.

A remnant remains like olives or grapes left after harvest.

Question 7

What does the remnant do?

They praise the Lord.

Question 8

Where is God glorified?

From west to east and from the islands to the ends of the earth.

Question 9

What title is used for God in the songs?

“The Righteous One.”

Question 10

What does Isaiah feel while hearing praise?

He still grieves deeply over treachery and evil.

Question 11

What awaits the rebellious?

Terror, pit, and snare.

Question 12

How is the earth described in verses 19–20?

Broken, split, shaken, staggering, and weighed down by sin.

Question 13

Who is punished in verse 21?

Heavenly powers and earthly kings.

Question 14

What happens to them?

They are confined and later punished.

Question 15

How does the chapter end?

With the Lord reigning in glory on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem.

LI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 24 asks several searching questions.

Do I Take Sin Seriously?

Or have I allowed culture to redefine what God calls rebellion?

What Kind of Joy Am I Building?

Would my joy survive if:

Music stopped?

Money disappeared?

Comfort changed?

Am I Living as Part of the Worshiping Remnant?

Will I praise God when others abandon Him?

What Am I Treating as Unshakable?

Government?

Economy?

Home?

Health?

Society?

Do I Remember That Every Leader Is Accountable to God?

Am I more impressed by earthly thrones than heaven's throne?

Do I Fear Spiritual Powers?

Or do I remember that God judges them too?

Is Sin Weighing Down My Life?

Is there something I need to:

Confess?

Forsake?

Turn from?

Is My Hope in the Lord's Reign?

When everything else shakes:

Do I know who remains?

LII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“When the Whole Earth Shakes, the Throne of God Still Stands”

Isaiah 24 moves through:

Waste.

Mourning.

Silence.

Terror.

Earthquake.

Judgment.

And ends with:

God reigning.

Principle:

The believer's hope is not that nothing will ever shake, but that God remains King when everything else does.

LIII. UNIVERSAL JUDGMENT

Isaiah has moved from:

Nation.

To nation.

Now:

The whole world.

Spiritual Principle

God's moral authority is universal because His Creator authority is universal.

LIV. SIN AND CREATION

The earth suffers under:

Human rebellion.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sin damages relationships vertically, horizontally, and even creation-wide.

LV. THE END OF EMPTY CELEBRATION

The world's parties stop.

Spiritual Principle

Pleasure can distract from judgment for a while.

It cannot cancel judgment.

LVI. THE REMNANT STILL SINGS

The people who remain do not merely survive.

They:

Worship.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God preserves not merely bodies but testimony.

LVII. PRAISE FROM EVERY DIRECTION

East.

West.

Islands.

Ends of earth.

Spiritual Principle

God's final worshipping community is global.

LVIII. THE WEIGHT OF SIN

Isaiah says sin weighs:

Heavily.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never call light what God says is heavy.

LIX. THE FINAL JUDGMENT OF POWERS

Earthly kings.

Heavenly powers.

All answer to:

One Lord.

Spiritual Principle

No realm exists beyond God's jurisdiction.

LX. THE GLORY THAT OUTSHINES CREATION

Sun.

Moon.

Dim beside:

The Lord's glory.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Creation is impressive.

The Creator is infinitely greater.

LXI. EIGHT GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 24

1. Full Earth → Empty Earth

2. Joy → Groaning

3. Music → Silence

4. Cities → Ruins

5. Multitudes → Remnant

6. Terror → Worship

7. Earthly Kings → Imprisoned Powers

8. Shaking Earth → Reigning Lord

Key Truth

Everything humanity considers permanent can be shaken except the sovereign reign of God.

LXII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 24 is one of the most sweeping judgment passages in Isaiah.

It moves beyond:

One city.

One kingdom.

One empire.

The whole earth stands before:

God.

That should humble us.

Human beings divide themselves into:

Rich.

Poor.

Powerful.

Weak.

Religious.

Secular.

Buyer.

Seller.

Employer.

Employee.

But before God:

All are accountable.

Isaiah tells us why:

The earth is defiled by:

Human rebellion.

God's laws have been broken.

His decrees have been violated.

Sin is not harmless.

Isaiah pictures it as something so heavy that:

The earth staggers beneath it.

That should change how we think about sin.

The world says:

It is small.

Personal.

Private.

God says:

It defiles.

Breaks.

Weighs down.

Destroys.

Yet the chapter is not without hope.

In the middle of worldwide judgment:

People sing.

That is remarkable.

The world mourns.

The remnant worships.

The parties stop.

The remnant sings.

The cities crumble.

The remnant declares:

“Glory to the Righteous One!”

That is genuine faith.

It worships:

Not merely when life is easy.

But because:

God is worthy.

Then comes the shaking.

The earth breaks.

The foundations tremble.

Human kings fall.

Spiritual powers are imprisoned.

And finally:

God reigns.

That is the ending believers must remember.

The Bible does not promise:

Nothing will shake.

It promises:

God will remain.

Your:

Economy.

Country.

Health.

Plans.

Possessions.

Comfort.

May shake.

But:

God's throne does not.

Therefore:

Take sin seriously.

Build joy deeper than circumstances.

Become part of the worshiping remnant.

Do not fear earthly rulers as though they are ultimate.

Do not fear spiritual powers as though they rival God.

And when the earth shakes:

Look toward Zion.

Because Isaiah's final word is not:

Desolation.

It is:

Glory.

Not:

Chaos.

But:

Reign.

The Lord Almighty:

Will reign.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are Lord over:

The whole earth.

Every nation.

Every person.

Every ruler.

Every spiritual power.

Forgive us for treating sin lightly.

Help us see rebellion as You see it.

Cleanse us from:

Pride.

Idolatry.

Disobedience.

Unfaithfulness.

Father, when earthly joy fades:

Give us deeper joy in You.

When music stops:

Give us worship.

When circumstances shake:

Give us faith.

When the world grows dark:

Let our voices still proclaim:

“Glory to the Righteous One!”

Father, preserve a faithful people.

Make us part of that remnant.

Keep us from:

Fear.

Compromise.

Spiritual sleep.

Remind us that no earthly king stands above You.

No spiritual power rivals You.

No demon escapes Your authority.

No empire outruns Your judgment.

Father, help us live with eternity in view.

If there is sin weighing heavily upon us:

Lead us to repentance.

If there is an idol in our hearts:

Expose it.

If our joy rests only in earthly circumstances:

Root it deeper in You.

Thank You that the final word is:

Not destruction.

Not darkness.

Not rebellion.

But:

Your reign.

May our hope rest fully in the Lord Almighty who reigns in glory.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“The moon will be disgraced, the sun ashamed; for the Lord Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before His elders with great glory.” — Isaiah 24:23

Central Truth

Human sin has defiled the earth and brought universal accountability before God, but even amid worldwide judgment the Lord preserves a worshiping remnant, defeats earthly rulers and spiritual powers, and ultimately reveals His glorious and unchallenged reign.

Isaiah 24 in One Sentence

Isaiah announces worldwide judgment upon a sin-defiled earth, describes the collapse of social order, pleasure, cities, and creation itself, hears a faithful remnant praising the Righteous One from the ends of the earth, and concludes with the Lord judging earthly and heavenly powers and reigning gloriously from Zion.