

Praise to God

Isaiah 25

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**BIG BEND
BIBLE
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Isaiah 24 spoke of the judgment to come upon the world, especially in the Great Tribulation. During that time, those who have come to trust in the LORD will praise Him, even in the midst of His righteous judgment.

- They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing; for the majesty of the Lord they shall cry aloud from the sea (Isaiah 24:14).
- This song shows the kind of heart that praises God in the midst of tribulation, even in the midst of the Great Tribulation.

This is a chapter like so many others that you miss a lot of its significance if you don't have a proper literal, grammatical, historical hermeneutic that gives you a pre-tribulation, pre-millennial view of eschatology.

Isaiah 25:1-12 – Praise to God

O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

² *For You have made a city a ruin, a fortified city a ruin, A palace of foreigners to be a city no more; It will never be rebuilt.* ³ *Therefore the strong people will glorify You; the city of the terrible nations will fear You.* ⁴ *For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.* ⁵ *You will reduce the noise of aliens, as heat in a dry place; as heat in the shadow of a cloud, the song of the terrible ones will be diminished.* ⁶ *And in this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees.* ⁷ *And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and 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; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken.* ⁹ *And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."*

¹⁰ *For on this mountain the hand of the Lord will rest, And Moab shall be trampled down under Him,*

As straw is trampled down for the refuse heap.

¹¹ *And He will spread out His hands in their midst As a swimmer reaches out to swim, and He will bring down their pride together with the trickery of their hands.*

¹² *The fortress of the high fort of your walls He will bring down, lay low, and bring to the ground, down to the dust.*

v1 – What characterizes the worshiper of God?

I will exalt You, I will praise Your name: The worshipper here makes a decision to praise God (*I will*). Worship is never to be just a feeling, even if it is an intense feeling. We are to worship God with a decision.

Why do we worship God?

For You have done wonderful things: When we think about all the wonderful things the LORD has done, it is pretty easy to make the decision to worship the LORD. God wants our worship to be filled with thought and remembrance of God's great works, not only an emotional response.

As we'll see, the context here is the Great Tribulation; what wonderful things would people be praising God about during the Great Tribulation?

Those who praise God mostly praise Him for their eternal deliverance. If you know Jesus as your Savior, it doesn't matter how bad things get on earth because it pales in comparison to what we can look forward to in eternity...

Romans 8:18 – *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

That said, there will be mercies of God even during the Great Tribulation because there will be some believers who survive it to re-populate earth during the Millennial Kingdom.

How is it God's counsels of old are faithfulness and truth?

The principles of God in His Word are timeless. When we remember the greatness and permanence of God's word, it makes us what to praise Him. What is more reliable, more everlasting, more enduring than the word of God?

v2 – Why should we praise God for making *a city a ruin*?

We can worship God for His judgment because we have confidence in His fairness. As was the case with Sodom and Gomorrah, God will never make a city a ruin unless the judgment is deserved, and God has made provision for the righteous.

Which city is this referring to that will never be rebuilt?

In context, this is referring to the city of terrible nations (v3) which has to be referring to Mystery Babylon, the last Gentile kingdom of the Antichrist that is never rebuilt since it is replaced with the Kingdom of God on earth...

Revelation 18:10 – *Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.*

v3 – Who is the *strong people* that will glorify God?

The people of the Lord are those who glorify Him. This is the first of two effects of the judgment of God. Second, *the city of the terrible nations will fear You*. The unrighteous fear God when they see His righteous judgment.

How is the *city of terrible nations* an apt description for Mystery Babylon?

The government of the Antichrist is global consisting of all nations on earth. They are terrible because all of them are under the influence of demons.

Ephesians 6:12 – *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Certainly, Satan offered up all the nations of the world to Jesus when He was fasting in the wilderness. And we see the angel Gabriel being delayed 21 days by the Prince of Persia who was trying to answer Daniel's prayer. Also:

2 Corinthians 4:4 – *the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

God assigned angels to guide the nations...

Deuteronomy 32:7-8 – *Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you: When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the angels of God*

It looks like Satan's fallen angels took over the roles of guiding the nations.

Why would God allow fallen angels to guide the nations?

This is a fallen world and that is one of the consequences. Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan rather than God and their descendant nations did the same.

How is Satan the *god of this world*?

The phrase "god of this world" (or "god of this age") indicates that Satan is the major influence on the ideals, opinions, goals, hopes and views of the majority of people.

- His influence also encompasses the world's philosophies, education, and commerce.
- The thoughts, ideas, speculations and false religions of the world are under his control and have sprung from his lies and deceptions.

Satan is also called the "prince of the power of the air" in Ephesians 2:2. He is the "ruler of this world" in John 12:31.

How can Satan be the *god of this world* if our Creator-God is sovereign?

God, in His infinite wisdom, has allowed Satan to operate in this world within certain the boundaries...

- God has given him domain over unbelievers only.
- Believers are no longer under the rule of Satan; *[God] has delivered us from the power of darkness* (Colossians 1:13).
- Unbelievers are caught "in the snare of the devil" (2 Timothy 2:26), lie in the "power of the evil one" (1 John 5:19), and are in bondage to Satan (Eph 2:2).

v4-5 – Why else is God worthy of our praise?

For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy: We are all poor and needy... wisdom comes from realizing this and seeking God's help. God is our strength.

A refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat: This is a wonderful reason to praise God, and even the strangers (Gentiles, *aliens*) are blessed by His goodness. God will even quiet the song of the terrible ones.

How would the *blast of the terrible ones* be as a storm against the wall?

The Tribulation will be like a storm and the worst the storm puts out will not have a permanent, eternal impact on those behind the wall of God. That is the same today when we suffer through tribulations (small-t). As Jesus said...

John 16:33 – *In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

What is the song of the terrible ones?

It is the philosophies and culture of the ungodly; what they teach repeating it over and over in many different ways... evolution, naturalism, universalism, globalism, transgenderism, etc.

- During the Millennial Kingdom, such antigod doctrines will be greatly diminished. Their proponents will be underground whereas they are up front and prominent during this Age.

v6 – What promise is made here for God’s people?

In this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast: In several places, the Bible speaks of what is sometimes called the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Revelation 19:9 says, *blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!*

- Given the 7-year Tribulation and the tradition that some wedding feasts at the time of Christ lasted 7 days, it is likely the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place in heaven.
- Some say Isaiah 25:6 indicates this great feast takes place on earth, not in heaven. Certainly the Millennial Kingdom will be on earth and will be like a feast for all people.

What is the marriage supper of the Lamb?

Revelation 19:7 – *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.*

The concept of the marriage supper is better understood in light of the wedding customs in the time of Christ. These wedding customs had three major parts:

- First, a marriage contract was signed by the parents of the bride and the bridegroom, and the parents of the bridegroom or the bridegroom himself would pay a dowry to the bride or her parents.
- The second occurred about a year later, when the bridegroom, accompanied by his male friends, went to the house of the bride at midnight, creating a torchlight parade through the streets. The bride would know in advance this was going to take place, and so she would be ready with her maidens, and they would all join the parade and end up at the bridegroom’s home.
- What John’s vision in Revelation pictures is the wedding feast of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His bride (the Church) in its third phase.

What is the mountain of the Lord?

This is a reference to the Millennial Kingdom...

Daniel 2:35, 44 – *the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth... the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to*

other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Who will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

All people... Certainly the bride of Christ (the church, the Age of Grace saints). But there will be guests, the Old Testament and Tribulation saints... these will be all the resurrected people in heaven. There will at that time be saved mortal people on earth who will be resurrected when God makes a New Heavens and Earth but there is no indication in Scripture that they will be guests at the Marriage Supper of the lamb.

What will be on the menu at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

A feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. For God’s people, this will be the “victory banquet” or the “awards banquet” when the final battle is over. What a feast that will be.

What promise did Jesus make when He instituted the Lord’s Supper?

Matthew 26:29 – *I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom*

Jesus is really looking forward to this banquet. Jesus spoke of His longing expectation for the day when He would take communion with His people at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This promise supports the idea that the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be in heaven.

v7 – What will be brought to an end when Jesus returns?

The surface of the covering cast over all people – The culture that keeps people in the dark about the Lord will be destroyed...

2 Corinthians 4:4 – *the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

The veil that is spread over all nations: This is the veil that that keeps the nations from seeing God. This is a consequence of the sin of mankind.

Does this mean all people born during the Millennial Kingdom will be saved?

Everyone will still need to make a decision to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. As in the ages with the veil, most will reject this.

How may this veil be removed today?

By being born again and receiving the Holy Spirit...

2 Corinthians 3:15-16 – *But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless, when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

v8 – What does it mean that the Lord will swallow up death forever when Jesus returns?

The day will come when death is completely eliminated by God... the Eternal State. This is foreshadowed during the Millennial Kingdom when all mortal children of God will not die and those who reject Jesus as their Savior will have 100 years to make that decision (Isaiah 65:17-25).

- Freud was wrong when he said: “And finally there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be.”

What comes to mind when we read, the LORD God will wipe away tears from all faces?

This is said of the Eternal State...

Revelation 21:4 – *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*

How is it the rebuke of His people will be taken from the earth?

God's people will not need to be rebuked during the Millennial Kingdom. Jesus will be ruling from Jerusalem and He will be in the news every day.

v9 – What will people be saying during the Millennial Kingdom?

Behold, this is our God: We will proclaim it then because we have proclaimed it now. And he will be physically present with us on the earth.

We have waited for Him, and He will save us: It is a wonderful thing to wait on the LORD, and to see Him bring His salvation. God sometimes seems distant or cruel when we must wait on Him, but God's ways really are best, and will be shown to be the best.

- Waiting is part of our journey and gives us time for sanctification, to grow closer to the Lord, and to lay up treasure in heaven.

What will we be glad and rejoice in?

His salvation: If it is our salvation — in the sense of a salvation of our own making, of our own creation, then there is nothing to be glad and rejoice in. But since it is His salvation, there is everything to be glad and rejoice in.

v10 – How is it that the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain?

The LORD will settle His hand of favor, power, and glory on the mountain of the Millennial Kingdom. After the Great Tribulation, when Jesus Christ reigns from Jerusalem, the whole creation will know that the hand of the LORD does rest on this mountain.

Why would Moab be trampled down?

In that day, Jesus will rule the nations with all authority and righteousness (Psalm 2:8-12). God will reach out *as a swimmer reaches out to swim* (v11) and bring low every proud, rebelling heart (represented by Moab... insignificant yet still proud). Those who oppose His rule He will bring to the ground, down to the dust.

v11 – How is pride coupled with the trickery of their hands?

Pride manifests itself in actions and it is also a deception like a magician skilled at getting others to look at one place while he's doing something else.

- There is a lot of deception going on today as Jesus warned would be the case and a sign of his soon return (Olivet Discourse, Matthew 24).

v12 – What is the fortress of the high fort of your walls?

It is that barrier which keeps God at a distance from us... out insistence on being the captain of our own soul. God would bring down these barriers of those He saves.

What applications come to mind from our discussion?

- We should praise God despite what happens in this world because of the eternal blessings He's promised.
- Children of God are called strong people because our strength is in the Lord.
- The reign of the terrible ones is coming to an end... we all look forward to that day!
- The bride of Christ and the Bridegroom are looking forward to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, we are blessed to be children of God during this Age!
- The blindness of this Age will be removed when the Lord returns.