

Restoration of Israel

Isaiah 27

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**BIG BEND
BIBLE
FELLOWSHIP**

Isaiah 27:1-9 – In His Kingdom, God blesses Israel

In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; and He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.

² *In that day sing to her, “A vineyard of red wine!*

³ *I, the Lord, keep it, I water it every moment;*

Lest any hurt it, I keep it night and day.

⁴ *Fury is not in Me. Who would set briers and thorns*

Against Me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together.

⁵ *Or let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.”*

⁶ *Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.*

⁷ *Has He struck Israel as He struck those who struck him? Or has He been slain according to the slaughter of those who were slain by Him?*

⁸ *In measure, by sending it away, You contended with it. He removes it by His rough wind in the day of the east wind.*

⁹ *Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be covered; And this is all the fruit of taking away his sin:*

When he makes all the stones of the altar

Like chalkstones that are beaten to dust,

Wooden images and incense altars shall not stand.

v1 – What does “in that day” tell us?

This brings us back to the theme of Isaiah 24 through 27 in general, the day when the Kingdom of the Messiah ultimately triumphs and rules.

What will be punished in that day?

The LORD, with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent: The ultimate triumph of the LORD in the day of the Messiah is expressed in victory over Leviathan the fleeing serpent.

What is Leviathan?

The leviathan is a large aquatic creature of some kind... a large sea reptile, possibly a species of dinosaur such as the plesiosaurus. The Bible refers to it as a fearsome beast having monstrous ferocity and great power. The Hebrew word for “Leviathan” has the root meaning of “coiled” or “twisted.”

- Just as a side note, my fraternal grandfather served on the USS Leviathan during WWI... Germany's largest passenger liner launched in 1913; seized in N.J. when the United States entered World War I in 1917 and turned over to the U.S. Navy as a troop carrier.

What does Leviathan as a twisted serpent tell us?

We know that Leviathan is resisting God (fleeing...twisting; twisting has the idea of coiling, as if it were ready to strike). We know that Leviathan is connected with the sea (symbolic of the Gentile nations). And we know that Leviathan's destiny is to be destroyed by the LORD.

- The leviathan here is used as a symbol for the wicked kings of the earth who oppress God's people... the sea is often symbolic of the Gentile nations.

What do we learn about leviathan from other passages?

- Psalm 104:25–26 – God is praised as the One who created the habitat for the leviathan
- Psalm 74:14 – contains a reference to God's victory over Leviathan; in particular, the pharaoh of Egypt.
- Job 41 – the most detail about Leviathan as an actual sea creature, the true king of the beasts but still under God's sovereign control.

Should this reference to leviathan be taken literally or only figuratively?

Likely both... while there is an illustrative element here, Isaiah may be more literal than many would like to admit.

- If Satan could manifest himself as a serpent to Eve in the Garden of Eden, why not also manifest himself as a dreadful sea-dragon?

Is a dragon a real creature or just symbolic (see Revelation chapters 12, 13, 16, and 20)?

The Bible is not teaching that dragons ever truly existed. Rather, it is only comparing Satan to a fire-breathing monster.

- It is interesting, however, that nearly every major ancient culture has myths and legends about dragons.
- The “dragon” myths probably came from real contact between human beings and dinosaurs.
- The “fire-breathing” aspect of a dragon is most likely entirely mythical... maybe bad dinosaur breath!

v2-3 – What is this vineyard the Lord keeps?

In the days of the Kingdom of the Messiah, the LORD will keep the vineyard of Israel with special care. He waters it (*I will water it every moment*), He protects it (*lest any hurt it*), He guards it constantly (*I keep it night and day*) against all enemies, forcing them to make peace with Him and His vineyard.

v4 – How does God regard the enemies of His people?

As briars and thorns... nuisance weeds that we are well familiar with in West Texas... best dealt with by just burning them.

How is it God deals with the enemies without any fury?

Fury is wild or violent anger... instead God deals with these enemies as an irritant that just has to be methodically addressed.

v5 – What invitation does God make to His enemies?

Make peace with Him and *Let him take hold of My strength*: We can only be fruitful when we take hold of the strength of the LORD. As long as we hold on to our own strength, what we really have is weakness.

v6 – How is it that those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob?

All who reconcile with God will become grafted in to the vineyard of God which has its roots in Israel, the nation God chose to be His representatives on earth...

Romans 11:24 – *if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

What will be the result of the Lord's vineyard?

Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit: This will be ultimately fulfilled in the Kingdom of the Messiah, but if we yield to the care of the LORD, He will care for us as His precious vineyard right now, and we will enjoy the blessings of that care...

John 15:5 – *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing*

What kind of fruit does God expect us to bear?

Certainly, the fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23 – *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

But the context here also implies other people coming to know the Lord as their Savior as a result of our being connected to Jesus, the Vine. All disciples of Christ are called to engage in the Great Commission.

v7 – Has God treated his people Israel the same as those who were enemies of His people Israel?

Has He struck Israel as He struck those who struck him? The LORD shows His mercy to Israel, in that even though the LORD struck Israel when Israel went astray, He did not strike Israel as severely as He did the other nations that went astray.

- God is married to Israel and thus considers Israel part of Himself so He has not slain them as others.

v8 – What is the “it” here that God sends away, contends with, and removes?

These are the enemies of Israel and by extension, His enemies. That is the fate of all who set themselves in opposition to God to be separated from Him in eternity.

Matthew 7:21-23 – *Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*

If good works in the name of Jesus doesn't get you to heaven, what does?

Having a relationship with the Savior... trusting in Him and involving Him in every part of your life.

v9 – How does the Lord show mercy to Israel?

The iniquity of Jacob will be covered: He covers their sin. This is ultimately fulfilled in the Kingdom of the Messiah when all Israel will be saved...

Romans 11:26-27 – *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”*

What alter stones will be beaten to dust?

The LORD shows His mercy to Israel in that He spiritually renews them so that they have no desire for idolatrous altars and images; instead, they'll worship the LORD only.

Isaiah 27:10-13 – God makes the nations submit

¹⁰ *Yet the fortified city will be desolate,*

The habitation forsaken and left like a wilderness;

There the calf will feed, and there it will lie down

And consume its branches.

¹¹ *When its boughs are withered, they will be broken off;*

The women come and set them on fire.

For it is a people of no understanding;

Therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them,

And He who formed them will show them no favor.

¹² *And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will thresh, from the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt; And you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel.*

¹³ *So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; They will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.*

v10 – What fortified city will be desolate?

The city of man, representing the world system, will be made desolate by the judgment of the LORD. Knowing this, why would we put our hope, our confidence, or our expectation in the world system?

How do people put their hope in the world system?

Politics... they think if we can just get the right person into office, we can fix things and stop the slide into dystopia.

Why is it that elected officials so often disappoint us?

They say the right things to get elected but once they get into power, they're corrupted by Satan and his fallen angel helpers, the powers and principalities under him...

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 – *if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

How desolate will God leave the fortified city?

It will be complete; made like a wilderness where no person lives, just cattle who eat on it.

v11 – How else is the desolation of the fortified city described?

Like tree branches that are broken off and only useful for kindling to start a fire.

How are the people for the fortified city described?

a people of no understanding: The ungodly are always caught by surprise because they have no spiritual discernment. Reality is vastly more than this physical universe and they just do not understand that.

1 Corinthians 2:14 – *the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*

Why doesn't God favor or have mercy on the ungodly since He made them?

Life is a test to see who will exercise their free will to embrace the provision God made for us to spend eternity with Him and who will reject it.

Romans 1:20-21 – *His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

The excuse, "you made me like this" will hold no water with God... He made us all to have a free will and you made your choice.

John 3:18 – *he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God*

How does this explain why atheists often deny that humans have a free will?

They are resisting accountability for their beliefs and actions. The so-called "scientific" argument against the objective reality of free will is self-refuting and, therefore, irrational. It is based on multiple fallacies that are philosophical, not scientific, including:

- reductionism – all physical objects are nothing more than the sum of their parts, including human beings who are merely a collection of a dozen or so basic elements worth only a few dollars
- determinism – people have no free will because they are locked into the endless, inescapable chain of action-reaction of the physical universe
- naturalism – all events, including human thought and action, are the unavoidable result of, and completely controlled by, random physical processes

Why is it most people will end up rejecting God's provision?

Jesus said most will take the broad way because it is easier to just go along with what the masses are doing than to live by faith in what is unseen.

Matthew 7:13-14 – *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to*

*destruction, and there are many who go in by it.
Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way
which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

Even the richest man in the world seems to be content with the broad way... When one of Elon Musk's 122 million followers asked him if he should consider whether there is a "creator of this world" prior to his death, Musk fired back, "Thank you for the blessing, but I'm ok with going to hell, if that is indeed my destination, since the vast majority of all humans ever born will be there."

(christianpost.com; December 28, 2022)

v12 – What is this threshing that the Lord will do in that day?

The Great Tribulation will culminate in the Lord delivering Israel and purging Israel's enemies from the land He gave them... from the Euphrates to the Nile rivers.

What does it mean the Lord would gather Israel one by one?

The gathering of Israel by the Lord would be personal, and supernatural...

Jeremiah 16:14-15 – Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that it shall no more be said, 'The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'The Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.

I've heard this described as something of a lateral rapture following the Tribulation... bringing all the Jews in the world to the land of Israel for the Millennial Kingdom.

v13 – What clue is there here that the gathering of the Jews to the land of Israel will be supernatural?

The great trumpet will be blown: As trumpets were used to gather God's people when Israel was in the wilderness, so that will be the case at the end of the Church Age...

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

This trumpet sound may indeed be the voice of God...

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

The voice of the Lord at the rapture is also described as like a trumpet here:

Revelation 4:1 – After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

1 Cor 15:52 speaks of the last trump in conjunction with the rapture of the church... so when was the first trump?

If the *last trump* heralds the end of the Church Age for God's New Covenant people then we need to look at any trump heralding the initiation of any of the former covenants (Abrahamic, Davidic, Mosaic) and indeed we find this:

Exodus 19:16, 19 – Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled... And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

What is the condition of the Jews when the trump sounds to gather them into the land of Israel?

They are in dire straits at the end of the Tribulation, hiding in various Gentile nations represented by Assyria and Egypt mentioned here. They are hiding because the Antichrist is trying to wipe them out as has been tried throughout history by other Gentile rulers with the spirit of antichrist (see Revelation 12:13-17).

Where will those gathered to Israel worship the Lord?

in the holy mount at Jerusalem: The Lord Himself will build a 4th temple in Jerusalem for the Millennial Kingdom as described in Ezekiel 40-47. This will replace the "Temple of the Antichrist" that is still yet future and will be destroyed by Him probably during the great earthquake of the 7th bowl judgment which was severe enough to flatten mountains (Revelation 16:20).

What applications come to mind from our discussion?

- You don't want to be on the wrong side of God.
- God does show partiality to those who are His children.
- We are in the vineyard of God to bear fruit... others coming to know Jesus as their Savior.
- God will destroy the world system... don't put your trust in it, trust in God!
- The condemned cannot blame God for their condition; God gave us a free will and this life is a great test!