

Isa 26:1
Aug 15, 2021

God's judgment on the earth and the coming Kingdom of God (Isa 24 - 27)

Song of trust in God's protection 26:1-19

"In that day" = this is a continuation of 24:21.

Prophecies about the day of judgment and the day of ultimate salvation are both introduced with the phrase "on/in that day."

The reference to a song to be sung echoes 12:1, where a hymn of thanksgiving follows the foretelling of an ideal age of messianic justice.

What the Lord has done for Judah 26:1-4

1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; He sets up walls and ramparts for security. 2 "Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter, The one that remains faithful. 3 "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You. 4 "Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.

"this song will be sung" - Israel is singing once more (25:1), and this time the emphasis is on righteousness and peace.

There can be no true peace apart from righteousness (32:17),

There can be no righteousness apart from God's salvation in Jesus Christ (Rom 3:21-31).

It is at Calvary that "righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Ps 85:10);

When Jesus Christ reigns on earth, the promise of Ps 72:7 will be fulfilled: "In his days may the righteous flourish, And abundance of peace till the moon is no more."

Jesus Christ is our true Melchizedek - King of Righteousness and King of Peace (Heb. 7:1-3).

"We have a strong city"

Samaria fell to the Assyrians and Jerusalem to the Babylonians, but the New Jerusalem would be impregnable. During "the Day of the Lord," God will level the lofty cities of the earth; but Mt. Zion will be exalted to the glory of the Lord (Isa 2:1-5). Jerusalem will no longer be the sinful city described in chapter 1; it will be a righteous city for a holy nation whose sins have been washed away (Zec 13:1).

Only those who have trusted Jesus Christ will enter the city; and because they believe, they have peace (Rom 5:1). The Hebrew word for "peace" (shalom) means much more than a cessation of war. It includes blessings such as wholeness, health, quietness of soul, preservation, and completeness.

He **"keeps in perfect peace to the one who trusts in Him"**.

The major sin and folly of Judah (and all the nations) was placing trust in themselves and their own power rather than trusting in and acknowledging Yahweh's power. The theme of judgment throughout Isaiah is intimately linked with the theme of human pride and arrogance.

“everlasting rock” – a metaphor for the trustworthiness of God. The image of a rock is a common metaphor for God in biblical poetry.

God is first called “a Rock” in Dt 32:4, 15-18, 30-31.

The image is caught up by the psalmists (2Sam 22:2, 32, 47; 23:3; Ps 18:2, 31, 46; 19:14; 28:1).

And in Isaiah (26:4, 30:29; and 44:8).

“Rock of Ages” (Augustus Toplady’s song) is based on verse 4: “for in the Lord God is the Rock of ages.” The New Jerusalem is a city built on a Rock!

Those who dwell in this city are:

the righteous nation
the one who remains faithful
the steadfast of mind
the one who trust in the Lord

God brings down the unassailable city 26:5-6

5 “For He has brought low those who dwell on high, the unassailable city; He lays it low, He lays it low to the ground, He casts it to the dust. 6 “The foot will trample it, The feet of the afflicted, the steps of the helpless.”

The unassailable city possibly is Babylon (see Rev 17 - 19).

It is a picture of the defeat of our spiritual enemies and our victory.

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

2Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ,

Col 2:15 5 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

The way of the righteous 26:7-9a

7 The way of the righteous is smooth; O Upright One, make the path of the righteous level. 8 Indeed, while following the way of Your judgments, O LORD, We have waited for You eagerly; Your name, even Your memory, is the desire of our souls. 9 At night my soul longs for You, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; ...

“The way of the righteous is smooth” it is a level path). Before Christ we traveled a rough road; but seeking to live and walk in the kingdom of God, we find level paths and a smooth way. Because we will be walking in the will of God, our way will be safe and enjoyable. We wait on the Lord to discern His will. We yearn for the Lord and worship Him even in the night (Ps 119:55).

“The way” is walking after His “judgements”

Eph 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Col 1:10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

“The way”

Isaiah says that it is smooth and level.

Jesus said that the way is narrow (Mt 7:13-14).

This is the desire of the new inward man:

Wait for (on) the Lord eagerly
Meditate on Him
Long for Him
Seek Him diligently

God wants the world to learn righteousness 26:9b-11

... For when the earth experiences Your judgments The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. 10 Though the wicked is shown favor, He does not learn righteousness; He deals unjustly in the land of uprightness, And does not perceive the majesty of the LORD. 11 O LORD, Your hand is lifted up yet they do not see it. They see Your zeal for the people and are put to shame; Indeed, fire will devour Your enemies.

The world learns righteousness through God's judgements.

He sends His judgments, but people still will not repent (Rev 9:20-21; 16:9). He shows them His grace in a thousand ways, but they continue to do evil. His hand is at work, but they will not see it.

If mercy is shown to the wicked:

They do not learn righteousness (Ps 119:71; Rev 15:4).
They do not perceive the majesty of God (Isa 2:10, 19, 21).
They do not see God's hand against them (Rom 2:1-2).

Isaiah prays that God will reveal Himself through His people as He works on their behalf.

The work which God has performed for us 26:12-13

LORD, You will establish peace for us, Since You have also performed for us all our works. 13 O LORD our God, other masters besides You have ruled us; But through You alone we confess Your name.

He has performed for us all our works.

Phil 2:12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. (Jn 19:30; Eph 2:10)

He has established peace for us.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Eph 2:14-17)

Other masters have ruled us - But through You alone we confess Your name.

There is deliverance for us in the name of Jesus.

Psa 32:7 You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. (Ps 68:20; Eph 1:20-23; Phil 2:9-11)

Man's attempt at obtaining salvation 26:14-18

The dead will not live, the departed spirits will not rise; Therefore You have punished and destroyed them, And You have wiped out all remembrance of them. 15 You have increased the nation, O LORD, You have increased the nation, You are glorified; You have extended all the borders of the land. 16 O LORD, they sought You in distress; They could only whisper a prayer, Your chastening was upon them. 17 As the pregnant woman approaches the time to give birth, She writhes and cries out in her labor pains, Thus were we before You, O LORD. 18 We were pregnant, we writhed in labor, We gave birth, as it seems, only to wind. We could not accomplish deliverance for the earth, Nor were inhabitants of the world born.

The futility of self-effort (vs. 17-18)

we gave birth to wind

we couldn't accomplish deliverance

we couldn't accomplish birth (new life)

Ezek 18:31 "Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Because of failure [sin] (vs. 14-16)

the dead will not live

the departed spirits will not rise

the punishment of God is upon us

the chastening of God is upon us

The resurrection 26:19

Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

"The earth gives birth to the departed spirits".

2Cor 5:1-5 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, 3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. 4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

(Dan 12:2; Hos 13:4; Rom 8:19-23; 1Cor 15:12-57; 2Cor 4:14; 1Thes 4:14-16; Rev 20:4)

"your dew is as the dew of the dawn"

Dew is here an apt type or symbol of bodily resurrection from the dead, the comparison centering upon the revitalizing effect of dew upon herbs being like the revivifying effect of the resurrection upon once dead bodies.

References Used:

Isaiah, Vol. 1; by HDM Spence

Faith life Study Bible

Be Comforted by WW Wiersbe

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