

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 7
January 13, 2019



King David in Prayer by Pieter de Grebber Cir 1637

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message Seven

HUMILITY IN THE DAY OF THE LORD

January 13, 2019

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Isaiah 2:6–22

⁶For thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they are filled with customs from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners. ⁷And their land is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land also is full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots. ⁸Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made. ⁹And the mean man is bowed down, and the great man is brought low: therefore forgive them not. ¹⁰Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty. ¹¹The lofty looks of man shall be brought low, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and Jehovah alone shall be exalted in that day.

¹²For there shall be a day of Jehovah of hosts upon all that is proud and haughty, and upon all that is lifted up; and it shall be brought low; ¹³and upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, ¹⁴and upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up, ¹⁵and upon every lofty tower, and upon every fortified wall, ¹⁶and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant imagery. ¹⁷And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; and Jehovah alone shall be exalted in that day. ¹⁸And the idols shall utterly pass away. ¹⁹And men shall go into the caves of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake mightily the earth. ²⁰In that day men shall cast away their idols of silver, and their idols of gold, which have been made for them to worship, to the moles and to the bats; ²¹to go into the caverns of the rocks, and into the clefts of the ragged rocks, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake mightily the earth. ²²Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of (ASV, 1901)?

SPIRITUAL POLLUTION FROM PAGANS

Isaiah 2:6

⁶For thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they are filled with customs from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners. ⁷And their land is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land also is full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots. ⁸Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their

own hands, that which their own fingers have made. ⁹And the mean man is bowed down, and the great man is brought low: therefore, forgive them not. ¹⁰Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty. ¹¹The lofty looks of man shall be brought low, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and Jehovah alone shall be exalted in that day (ASV, 1901).

This is a long passage starting with verse six and continuing to the end of chapter two. It reveals the attitude referred to as “haughty people”. It deals with the charges that God makes against the ancient Israelites through two general accusations. In one He says, “the haughty shall be brought low,” the other “how terrible is the day of the LORD.” The order and structure of the verses, however, demonstrates the use of Hebrew poetry by using the techniques of repetition (Isaiah 2:9, 11, 17) and parallelism (vv. 10–11; 12–17; 18–19; 20–22). In the first verse God simply says, “*they are filled with customs from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners.*”

What they have done is to embrace the pagan customs which were practiced by the Canaanites and Philistines who were geographically close to them. So instead of influencing them with their knowledge of the genuine God of all creation they left Him for the pagan idolatry. At best they engaged in a syncretic blend of the Law of God with the pagan idolatrous religious practices.

Considering the previous section wherein God reveals the Israelites ultimate blessings in the Messianic Kingdom He now gives rationale for the Tribulation which will precede the Kingdom age. This will be a most terrible and fierce pouring out of God’s wrath on a sinful and rebellious humankind to clear the earth of sin (Isaiah 13:9), evangelize the world for the Messiah (Matthew 24:14; Revelation 7:1–17), and to break the power of the holy people thereby bringing the Israelites into a saving grace knowledge of their Messiah (Daniel 12:5–7; Romans 11:25–27). God through Isaiah has referred to the Jews who will make it through the Tribulation to establish the Kingdom as the remnant. The Kingdom will be ruled under King Jesus the Messiah of Israel who will administer the world-wide government from the Millennial Mountain in Jerusalem. The Lord charges them with four categories of gross sins which will result in their judgment and being set aside in Her national election until the Tribulation clears the earth and the Israelites of its sin toward God.

1. They forsook the Lord and broke His covenant (Deuteronomy 28:15–68) by following the occultism of the east and practicing augury (interpreting omens) and soothsaying (fortune telling) like the Philistines (2 Kings 1:2). This demonism will be a leading sin in the Tribulation even though the Israelites knew it was forbidden (Deuteronomy 18:10–14). These practices are the gateway to the occult.
2. The Israelites were separated out from the pagan Gentiles of the world and they violated this separation by *joining hands with the children of foreigners*. By this God means that they entered into forbidden alliances through matrimony and national treaties (Exodus 23:32; Nehemiah 13:23). They became unequally yoked with the pagans.
3. They surpassed their material needs through godless secularism and materialism. They covetously amassed vast quantities of gold, silver, and worldly wealth which were forbidden (Deuteronomy 17:17). Horses and chariots were also forbidden which the text

says *their land also is full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots* (Deuteronomy 17:16). The New Testament codifies their motives as the love of money, which always leads to all sorts of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). While they were prostrating themselves in identification with the nations around them they were lured into dependence upon conventional means of warfare. They should have trusted in the Lord for their circumstances and protection.

Psalm 20:7

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright (ESV).

4. They were idolaters. The text says that ⁸*Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made.* The lead in text for each example of their gross materialism is *their land also is full of*. This emphasizes the fact that their massive adherence to gross materialism led to covetousness which, is idolatry (Hosea 8:4; Colossians 3:5). Gross idolatry will be one of the characteristics leading up to and flourishing in the Tribulation, Day of The Lord. Materialism is an inordinate attachment to the physical of this world failing to acknowledge the spiritual and even God Himself.

Revelation 9:21–21

²⁰ *And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:*
²¹ *neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts (KJV).*

The actions of the various economic strati of individuals is characterized in verse nine. When God says the *mean* man, he is referring to the average person using a statistical term for average. He goes on to include the great man as well. This would be the societally distinguished person who is generally respected. Both will be subject to the enticement of idolatry. Because of the depth of their immersion into idolatry they will not see the offer of salvation from the Lord and will therefore not be forgiven for their sins (Romans 1:28). They will take the mark of the Beast (Antichrist) during the Tribulation enabling them to continue to have more material things. The kings, princes, and citizens will call out to the rocks to fall on them and hide them, (Revelation 6:15, 16) so it will be at the downfall of all the pagan religions and people trapped into them.

When the kings and merchants of the earth, who have been trapped into this idolatry, will stand afar off, as for fear of her torment, (Revelation 18:10, 15) so *for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty;* lest he should pour out his wrath and vengeance upon them, and be a consuming fire to them, before whose glory and majesty they'll not be able to stand; for this is to be understood not of a loving reverence of God, but of a groveling fear of punishment; and these words are sarcastically said, suggesting that rocks and mountains will be no protection or security for them.

Psalm 5:10–12

¹⁰Hold them guilty, O God; Let them fall by their own counsels; Thrust them out in the multitude of their transgressions; For they have rebelled against thee. ¹¹But let all those that take refuge in thee rejoice, Let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: Let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. ¹²For thou wilt bless the righteous; O Jehovah, thou wilt compass him with favor as with a shield (ASV, 1901).

RESULTS OF THE TRIBULATION

Isaiah 2:12–15

¹²For there shall be a day of Jehovah of hosts upon all that is proud and haughty, and upon all that is lifted up; and it shall be brought low; ¹³and upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, ¹⁴and upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up, ¹⁵and upon every lofty tower, and upon every fortified wall, ¹⁶and upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant imagery (ASV, 1901).

As God's vicious attack on everything that could possibly be considered an exalted object that a person might trust He begins to say that the particular attitude of humans which will keep them from His salvation is *all that is proud and haughty, and upon all that is lifted up*. The day not only exalts the Lord, but it brings all else low. The single worst person of the Tribulation is the Antichrist who is characterized as "the man of sin, the son of perdition."

2 Thessalonians 2:4, 8–10

⁴he that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God. ⁸And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to nought by the manifestation of his coming; ⁹even he, whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved (ASV, 1901).

He will be the leader and example of the attitude of unsaved humans in the Day of the Lord. The term *Jehovah of hosts* denotes His military might and strength. He is the captain of all the Heavenly inhabitants who will carry out the Lord's cleansing of this world upon His command. This includes, Cherubim, Seraphim and Angels. When the Almighty One comes nothing will be able to stand in His way. Proud people will be humbled and the great cedar trees in the forests of Lebanon, north of Israel, and oak trees in Bashan (meaning "fertile plain"), east of the Sea of Kinnereth (Lake of Galilee), will be no match for the Lord. The mountains and trees are specimens of what is grandest and highest "*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever*

thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2). The implication of this verse is that the mountains stood forth even before man himself was created and so are majestic and enduring. Even the destruction of the majestic and high mountains will the sovereignty of God be displayed. Military defenses are represented by towers and fortified walls, that will be helpless to oppose Him. He will also extinguish all of man’s trade efforts typified by the merchant ships, the hub of which in ancient times existed in the city of Tyre, north of Israel.

Tyre was a godless, materialistic civilization that exemplified the Babylonian model of high secularism. As a result, God said that he will completely destroy them. The Lord also made known His plan to destroy Tyre and Sidon as well through a prophet (Zechariah 9:2b-4). This prophecy of Zechariah has been fulfilled to the letter. It remains even to this day a monument to the execution of Divine wrath upon the proud, luxurious, and idolatrous. God always gets His way. Everything that seemed to man in his arrogance to be permanent and secure will be swept away. The LORD alone will be exalted when He demolishes Judah’s idols during the ultimate judgment of the Tribulation before Jesus returns. The reference to *every high tower*—in the world of men the tower is lofty, attractive and thought to be impenetrable. God’s attack on these like everything else in which man placed his confidence, will be destroyed. They would be no protection against the judgment of God. The *fortified wall* were objects of protection. Isaiah describes them by a word which can possibly best be rendered in English, “inaccessible.” Man could not scale nor climb these walls, but these provide insignificant protection in the Day of God’s judgment as they would go down in ruin along with everything else. The passage closes with a reference to the merchant *ships of Tarshish and all pleasant pictures* which is an allusion to every monetary commerce transportation and worldly materialistic image. These too, highly esteemed by the unsaved, will suffer defeat and eradication during God’s judgment. Nothing will be immune from God’s judgment.

GOD WILL BE EXULTED

Isaiah 2:17–22

¹⁷And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; and Jehovah alone shall be exalted in that day. ¹⁸And the idols shall utterly pass away. ¹⁹And men shall go into the caves of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake mightily the earth. ²⁰In that day men shall cast away their idols of silver, and their idols of gold, which have been made for them to worship, to the moles and to the bats; ²¹to go into the caverns of the rocks, and into the clefts of the ragged rocks, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake mightily the earth. ²²Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of (ASV, 1901)?

The fear of human kind during this period will bring an unknown terror of God into them. Their proud and haughty attitudes will be brought low. They will have a severe attitude adjustment and during this terror they will abandon their idols and pleasures while they run for cover. They will look for cover in *the caves of the rocks, and into the holes of the earth*. The glory of God in His

Tribulation will cause the greatest earthquakes to occur causing men to *shall cast away their idols of silver, and their idols of gold, which have been made for them to worship, to the moles and to the bats*. These previously esteemed material things will be thrown down to the earth from their places of show for the creatures of darkness to have them. This terror of God is also manifested when He *ariseth to shake mightily the earth*. During the Tribulation the worst earthquakes ever to come upon the earth will be experienced.

Revelation 11:13

¹³ And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven (KJV).

The Lord ends this section of Scripture with the admonition to *Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for wherein is he to be accounted of?* This is warning to the men of Isaiah's own generation to flee the coming wrath. It is a warning that is pertinent for all times. We do not trust in men but in the God of all creation who says that He alone is to be worshipped and obeyed. Man is merely like a vapor. His breath of life can be snuffed out quickly, just as quickly as a vapor or fog disappears. Therefore, to trust in him is unwise as spiritual support, for man is easily removed. When we view God's power and His coming judgment the ancient Israelites and us today should begin to greatly fear Him. The awareness of God's glory should cause all to live righteous, holy lives and therefore escape His severe judgment.

Next message: SIN DISINTEGRATES JUDAH AND JERUSALEM

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