

- **Jesus** came and obeyed the Father completely
- **Jesus** did what the nation of Israel could not do
- **Jesus** is the root of Jesse
- **Jesus** is the true vine
- **Jesus** is the place of God's presence and peace
- **Jesus** is our strong city both now and forever more

We all hide in one of two cities.

Hebrews 11:10; 12:2; 12:22-24

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story and have the Central Character live in us.

- Describe the two cities mentioned in Isaiah 24-27. What does each city represent?
- After reading the description of the city of man in Isaiah 24:1-20 what lessons stand out to you? Why do we need to learn these lessons again and again?
- Chapter 25 gives some detail to the triumph of God over tyranny, sorrow, death and man's pride. How does the knowledge of God's triumph over these things affect you? Does it help you face the brokenness of this world? If so, how?
- Chapter 25:6-8 is one of the clearest teachings on resurrection. How **did** the LORD fulfill this promise? Read Hebrews 2:14-17. How **will** the LORD fulfill this promise still? Read 2 Corinthians 15:51-57; Revelation 21:1-7.
- Zion, Jerusalem, the mountain of the LORD and the city of God represent the active presence of God to save and keep those who trust in Him (ultimately in Jesus). Can you describe the benefits of those who find refuge in Him?
- In Isaiah 26:8-9 we see a burning desire for the name and fame of the LORD. Where does this come from? How can we cultivate this in our lives?
- How does Isaiah 24-27 point to Jesus Christ and His redeeming grace – how does it point to the Gospel?

One of Two Cities

Isaiah 24-27

Daryn Kinney
February 27, 2011

The story of the world is really a “tale of two cities.”

The City of Man
The City of God

Isaiah 24:1-20

This feels like a war zone.

The destruction of the city of Jerusalem by the Babylonians will serve as a picture (pattern/ example) of God's judgment on the entire world.

God's justice is the inescapable end for those who refuse to turn to His Grace.

1. The *ruined* city of man: the divine judgment of God on all nations (Isaiah 24:1-25:12)

The “without form” city (Genesis 1:2)

“...loving the values and pursuits of the world that stand opposed to God...it is to gratify and exalt oneself to the exclusion of God. It rejects God's rule and replaces it with our own. It exalts our own opinions above God's truth.”

24:1-3 makes it painfully clear who will be subject to this judgment

The guilt of this world's rebellion is *heavy* (24:20)

The tambourines have *stopped*.
The joyful harp is *silenced*.
Their source of joy is *gone!* (24:7-12)

Augustine says, “Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt (disdain) of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self.”

Philippians 3:18-19; James 4:4

We need to continually relearn the lessons of Isaiah 24 otherwise it becomes easier to believe the lie that this world is all there is.

Isaiah 24:21, “Expresses the prophets conviction that all history will come to a point where the just will be rewarded and the wicked punished.”

- Human tyranny, oppression and cruelty is overthrown (25:1-3)

God *will* do something about the evil, injustice and oppression that marks our sin-sick world.

- Human sorrow is relieved (25:3-7)

Mt. Zion and the city of Jerusalem represent the dwelling place of God.

Hebrews 2:14-17

David Wells: “*The atonement was about Christ’s conquest over sin, death, and the devil so that the whole of life might be cleansed and restored, that Christ’s reign might be established, uncontested, and unobstructed.*”

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

- Human pride is humbled (25:9-12)

2. The *strong* city of God: the divine salvation of God for all nations (Isaiah 26:1-27)

Isaiah 26:1-5

When the people of God see the triumph of their King, when they see the victory He’s won, the refuge he is - they will sing!

The LORD is triumphant over the nations/ man’s rebellion.
He’s triumphant over death.
He’s triumphant over evil, pain and sorrow.
He’s triumphant over the Devil himself.
Human tyranny, sorrow and pride - all of it is overthrown!
For the sake of His people.

An expressed devotion that looks like humble dependence.
A desire for one thing (**Isaiah 26:8-9**).

A final song (in the first-person) from Yahweh himself (Isaiah 27:2-5)

The city of God all of sudden becomes a fruitful vineyard!