

INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

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CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

THEME:

The final world clash—the Battle of Armageddon.

REMARKS:

How different this chapter is from the philosophy of this world.

Man looks to the future as a time when he will so improve the world by his own efforts that he will establish a Utopia and bring in the Millennium, he will lift himself by his own boot straps.

Scripture also looks on to the Millennium and a better day, however, it is not the consummation of man's efforts—rather the Kingdom that comes through God's power and glory.

Before the Kingdom is established, everything that man has built, apart from God, is coming under a frightful judgment. All of man's work is contrary to God and must come into a final conflict, that conflict is set before us here as the Battle of Armageddon. The “**sin of man**” will finally be headed up in the “**man of sin**,” and he and Christ must come to grips.

Light and darkness, good and evil cannot coexist. This chapter records the final issue.

Many other passages of Scripture record this event (Isaiah 61:2; 63:1-6; Zechariah 14:1-3 and Revelation 19:11-21).

This chapter looks entirely to the future. The Assyrian has disappeared. It might be well to record a statement of Delitzsch here:

We feel that we are carried away from the stage of history, and are transported into the midst of the last things, and these chapters are the last steps whereby our prophet rises to the height at which he soars in chapters 40 to the end. After the fall of Assyria, and when darkness began to gather on the horizon again, Isaiah broke away from his own times—“**the end of all things**” became more and more his home. . . .

It was the revelation of the mystery of the incarnation of God, for which all this was to prepare the way.

OUTLINE:

1. **INDIGNATION OF THE LORD Poured Out On All Nations.** Verses 1-4
2. **IDUMEA, The Target and Figure Of All God's Enemies.** Verses 5-7
3. **INTENTION OF THE LORD "The Day of the Lord's Vengeance."** Verses 8-17

COMMENT:

Verse 1—**Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.**

In Isaiah 1:2 God called heaven and earth to witness His judgment upon His people Israel. In this chapter God calls only the nations of the earth to witness His final judgment upon the nations.

Verse 2—**For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.**

Observe carefully the words chosen to depict this judgment, "**indignation,**" "**fury,**" "**utterly destroyed,**" and "**delivered to the slaughter.**"

They are the strongest possible expressions that could be used. The judgment is universal and it is severe. It is not only the "**time of Jacob's trouble,**" it is the time of the "**earth's travail.**" Our Lord spoke of this as a time unparalleled in the history of the world. The seals, trumpets, and vials all intensify, and confirm this.

Verse 3—**Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.**

This is repulsive and terrible beyond description. (Read Revelation 19:17-19).

Verse 4—**And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.**

This is to be taken literally, as it is repeated in Matthew 24:29. Compare Psalm 102:26 with Hebrews 1:11 also Revelation 6:12-14.

Verse 5—**For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.**

Idumea (Edom) is representative of all in Adam that are rebellious against God and God's people (Malachi 1:3).

God will judge Edom (Obadiah verses 4-18).

Verse 6—**The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the Lord hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.**

This is a figure of a “*sword intoxicated with blood.*” It is bathed in heaven, for sin began there and will be judged there. The sword is the instrument of judgment.

Verse 7—**And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.**

The sacrifice of animals is not enough.

“The blood of bulls and goats will not take away sin.”

Verse 8—**For it is the day of the Lord’s vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.**

This is the day of the “**Lord’s vengeance.**” (Read Isaiah 63:1-6).

Verse 9—**And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch.**

Verse 10—**It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.**

This seems to be confined to the land of Edom, but it could be taken as the judgment on the old earth before the new earth comes into existence.

Verse 11—**But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness.**

“**Confusion**” and “**emptiness**” are the Hebrew words *tohu va bohu* which are translated in Genesis 1:2 “**without form and void.**” There was a pre-Adamic judgment of the earth and there will be a post-Adamic judgment of the earth.

Verse 12—**They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing.**

The judgment extends to men. They are all gone.

Verse 13—**And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, and a court for owls.**

Verse 14—The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest.

Verse 15—There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow; there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate.

This is a picture of Edom today but it looks on to the judgment on the earth.

Verse 16—Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.

Verse 17—And he hath cast the lot for them, and his hand hath divided it unto them by line: they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein.

God's word is inviolate, not one word will pass away until all is fulfilled. We can put our confidence in it.

~ end of chapter 34 ~

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