

Isaiah OT651-Essay
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Jay Harper-2/19/23

What, if anything, troubled you about what you studied this week?

What always troubles me is the destruction of unrepentant man and the purification of the earth.

Isaiah 24 makes it clear that God will lay waste on the earth and devastate it. What is it in man that will not allow him to obey his creator? In spite of God's love, he will not reciprocate in obedience and thankfulness. Adam and Eve are able to eat from every tree of the Garden except one and yet God's love for them is questioned (Gen. 2:16-17). I know the answer to my question is sin and maybe I don't really understand the depth of its destructive power and maybe it's because I see a God who is slow to anger and abundant in love. How can a being like Satan whom God created perfect rebel not only against his creator but also lead a third of the angels in rebellion against God? Part of that answer is found in Isaiah 14:12-14. In these several verses the word "I" is mentioned 5 times. Lucifer, son of the morning says, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne, I will sit upon the mount of the congregation, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the most High." What was inside of Satan that caused this rebellion? Not just choice or pride but sin. Sin is like cancer that must be destroyed, or it will metastasize and spread. According to Hill and Walton: "For Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel sin was individual in nature. By the time of Noah, sin completely infiltrated every corner of

humanity. The destruction of the flood did not eliminate sin, as it progressed again from individual sin to coordinated acts of rebellion.”¹ Sin is a part of our nature that was passed to us by our first father and mother (Adam and Eve). Like Parkinson’s disease, it is something that we cannot control. The Apostle Paul gives us a graphic picture of its effect, “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” (Romans 7:23-25) Even in the face of destruction as the angels pour out their vials upon the earth the Bible says that men blasphemed God and repented not of their deeds (Rev. 16:11). It troubles me that mankind will reject God’s grace and mercy and refuse to turn to the Lord. It’s only when the devil, beast and those not written in the Lamb’s book of life and cast into the lake of fire that we will have a new heaven and a new earth and God will wipe away all the tears of our eyes and there will be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain (Rev. 21:1-4). No wonder why Paul says, “How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation.” (Heb 2:3)

¹ Andrew E. Hill and John H. Walton, “A Survey of the Old Testament”, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009 p. 94