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

I read this week's homework assignments (Isaiah, Oswalt, and Constable) the morning after I watched portions of the Grammys on television. Isaiah's words, Oswalt's commentary, and Constable's notes made the hair on the back of my neck stand up after the performance I had seen the night before. Sam Smith and Kim Petris performed a song called, "Unholy." The entire performance was a full display of a satanic ritual played on stage. The stage was lit up in red lights and surrounded by flames. Sam Smith was dressed as the devil in a red costume with horns. Other people dressed in red costumes were surrounding his platform and bowing to him. Petris was donned in satanic- inspired headgear and danced in a cage as others whipped her. I was outraged by the apparent worship of satan and glorification of evil and the demonic. Shocked and horrified, I watched as the cultural influencers of our day publicly elevated rebelling against God and celebrating satan. I was even more troubled as their song went on to win the award for the best pop/duo group performance of the year.

And then I read from Isaiah 24:

"See, the Lord is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it…" (v.1)

"The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statues and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse consumes the earth: its people must bear their guilt.
Therefore, earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left." (v.5-6)

"The earth is broken up, the earth is split asunder, the earth is thoroughly shaken. The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind: so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls-never to rise again." (v. 19-20)

I was further troubled as I went on to read Constables notes: "Sinful humankind has corrupted its environment. Humans refused to live by divine revelation, introduced an innovative morality, and refused to walk in fellowship with God as He specified in the biblical covenants (cf. Gen 2:16-17; 3:1-6; 9:12; Lev 24:8; 2 Sam 23:5; Ps 105:10; Rom 1-3). And Constable quotes from Oswalt, p. 443, "This is what they chose: a world without the ordering hand of God and this, in faithful divine justice, is what they got." Constable reminds us from Isaiah 24:6 that "God has cursed sin (Gen 3:17-19) so when people sin, they set His curse to work, and it devours the earth." Constable goes on to quote from the chart of Divine Judgments of the Nations to say, "Countries do not have sins, but people do. And countries suffer as a consequence of the guilt of their peoples."

Isaiah promises that destruction of the earth is coming. Why? Oswalt says it "is the result of the choices that earth's inhabitants have made" (Oswalt, p. 281). Destruction is coming, says Oswalt, because humans have violated the terms of their creation (Oswalt, p. 282).

The Grammy performance I watched was a full demonstration of a world without the ordering hand of God. Sadly, this is a picture of the choices that earth's inhabitants have made-

choosing satan over God and refusing to walk in fellowship with God. And as a result, divine justice is coming. There is only One who is worthy of being worshipped- the King of the universe. "He defined the terms of our existence when he created us, but we refuse to abide by those terms. As a result, creation itself is marred (Gen 3:17-19) and must be replaced (Isa.65:17). (Oswalt. P. 283).