

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 110

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message One-Hundred-Ten

THE LORD USES ISRAEL TO INFLUENCE THE EARTH PT II

May 2, 2021

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 45:20–25

²⁰Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that carry the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. ²¹Declare ye, and bring it forth; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath showed this from ancient time? who hath declared it of old? have not I, Jehovah? and there is no God else besides me, a just God and a Saviour; there is none besides me. ²²Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else. ²³By myself have I sworn, the word is gone forth from my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. ²⁴Only in Jehovah, it is said of me, is righteousness and strength; even to him shall men come; and all they that were incensed against him shall be put to shame. ²⁵In Jehovah shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory (ASV, 1901).

THE FINAL REGATHERING

Isaiah 45:20

²⁰Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that carry the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save (ASV, 1901).

This begins to describe the attitude and regathering of the Jewish people who are the survivors of the cataclysmic destruction that God will wreak on the earth at the End of Days. This will be the Tribulation. It will be carried out by the Lord Jesus (Revelation 5:9; 6:1–17). God has three purposes for bringing the Tribulation on the earth.

1. To Make and End of Wickedness and Wicked Ones. (Sinfulness)
2. To Bring About Worldwide Revival.
3. To Break the Power of the Holy People.

TO MAKE AND END OF WICKEDNESS:

Sinfulness is synonymous with Wickedness.

There are two key passages that express this purpose. The first is Isaiah 13:9

Isaiah 13:9

Behold, the day of Jehovah cometh, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger; to make the land a desolation, and to destroy the sinners thereof out of it (ASV, 1901).

The Hebrew word translated sinners is *hatta*; Strong's # 2400. It is a masculine noun meaning sinful. This means living in a sinful state without trusting God. It is used to describe those who, by their actions are under God's wrath and judgment. Their influence is to be avoided (Psalm 1:1; 26:9; Proverbs 1:10). They are to be avoided at all cost.

This passage uses the term the Day of Jehovah as a reference to the Great Tribulation and gives its goal in the phrase to destroy the sinners thereof out of it. The purpose is to destroy the wicked ones out of the land. This is further described in Isaiah 24:19-20

Isaiah 24:19-20

The earth is utterly broken, the earth is rent asunder, the earth is shaken violently. The earth shall stagger like a drunken man, and shall sway to and fro like a hammock; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it, and it shall fall, and not rise again (ASV, 1901).

TO BRING ABOUT A WORLDWIDE REVIVAL:

This purpose is given in Revelation 7:1-17. In verses 1-8 John describes the means by which, God will bring about this worldwide revival, while verses 9-17 portray the results of the revival. Revelation 7:1-17 states that 12,000 Jews from each of the Twelve Tribes will be selected to be the evangelists. It is through these 144,000 Jews that God will bring about the worldwide revival and accomplish another goal of the Great Tribulation. The Jews live all over the world now in the Diaspora and speak the languages of the countries they are living in. They will also have knowledge of the Scriptures to evangelize both Jew and Gentile quickly. This will fulfill the prophecy found in Matthew 24:14:

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come (KJV).

Following the vision of the 144,000 John saw the results of the evangelism of the chosen Jews.

Revelation 7:9-14

⁹ *After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;* ¹⁰ *and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*
¹¹ *And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four*

beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, ¹² saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. ¹³ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? ¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (KJV).

After the vision of the 144,000 Jews John saw myriads and myriads of Gentiles as well as other Jews who came to have a saving knowledge of the Savior during the Tribulation. God will accomplish His second purpose with the 144,000. The term after these things is a statement showing the cause-and-effect relationship of the choosing of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists.

TO BREAK THE POWER OF THE HOLY PEOPLE

The third purpose is to break the power or stubborn will of the Jewish nation. In Daniel 11-12, the prophet was given a vision of what the conditions will be like for his people (the Jews) during the Tribulation. Then in Daniel 12:5-7, a question is raised as to how long this period would be allowed to continue:

Daniel 12:5-7

Then I, Daniel, looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on the brink of the river on this side, and the other on the brink of the river on that side. And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and a half; and when they have made an end of breaking in pieces the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished (ASV, 1901).

So, it is clear that a third purpose of the Great Tribulation is to break the power or the stubborn will of the Jews and bring about a national regeneration. The means by which He will do this is given in Ezekiel 20:33-38. Here Ezekiel uses a simile of the Exodus. What is important to note here is that after God gathers the Jews from around the world, He will enter into a period of Judgment with them. (The Tribulation) The rebels will be purged out from among them through this judgment. Only then will the whole new nation, a regenerate nation, be allowed to enter the Promised Land under King Messiah. (Jesus the Christ).

The surviving nations are called upon to assemble (Isaiah 43:9) and to realize the impotence of the idols and the folly of those who carry them about (Isaiah 46:1,7; Jeremiah 10:5) and pray to a god who cannot deliver or save (Isaiah 44:17; 46:6-7). The coming Tribulation will be a gigantic revealing of the folly and wickedness of idolatry (Revelation 9:20-21; 16:13-16; 19:20-21) and its complete destruction (Zechariah 13:2; Rev. 20:1-3).

The final regathering of the Jewish people out of all the nations on the earth will be at the end of the Tribulation.

Mark 13:27

And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven (KJV).

Following the Second Coming, the Messiah will send His angels all over the world to re-gather every Jew and bring them back into their Land. The background to the Matthew passage is Isaiah 27:12-13, which prophesied that the final restoration of Israel will be signaled by the sound of a great trumpet. The background to the Mark passage is Deuteronomy 30:4, which also emphasizes that the final restoration will come from two localities: earth and heaven. Those who are gathered from the uttermost parts of the earth will be living in Israel, the one-third Remnant that survives the Tribulation. Those who are gathered from the uttermost part of Heaven will be the resurrected Old Testament saints. This part of the Olivet Discourse summarizes many Old Testament prophecies, specifying that the final world-wide restoration will come only after the Second Coming, not before (Isaiah 11:11-12:6; 43:5-7; Jeremiah 23:5-8; 31:7-14; Ezekiel 11:16-21; 20:40-42; 36:22-31).

But this is actually a positive prophecy from God because He is giving the exiles His assurance that He still loved them and would restore them to a state better than what they experienced during the united monarchy (under Saul, David and Solomon). At the time of this prophecy (about 700 B.C.), the northern ten tribes had been carried off to Assyria earlier in 722 B.C., and the southern two tribes would be in Babylon from at 606 B.C. to approximately 539 B.C. Much later, in A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed the temple, which scattered the Jews into gentile countries. Again, in A.D. 135, after the Bar Kokhba rebellion, God dispersed them even further. The Jews have been wandering for many years in host countries all around the world before they started returning in the Zionist movement of the late A.D. 1800s. All together there are four stages of their return to the Promised Land to fulfill the Lord's commands, which are given in outline form in the Dry Bones Prophecy of Ezekiel 37.

1. The Zionist Movement
2. The end of WWI and the establishment of the Mandate
3. End of WWII and the creation of the sovereign state of Israel
4. The national regeneration of Israel and beginning of the Messianic Kingdom

The first three stages have already occurred. Their final regathering also will be, as Jesus described in Matthew, from "the four winds." This final regathering will also include the inhabitants of heaven, in addition to those from the entire earth. All these measures provide assurance that God is working through the nation Israel to move His plan forward for the earth. The miracles of their birth as a nation and the incredible blessing His has given them against all odds in order to provide clear evidence to the world that God is using them as a witness to demonstrate His power and might.

The Jews who were called out of Heathen darkness of the various countries into which the Lord had sent them into the marvellous light of the Gospel, and will escape the idolatries that are disgusting to the Lord. The nation in their national regeneration will be used to convince others of their gross ignorance and stupidity for worshipping idols, and to judge and pass sentence on the obstinate among them.

THE NATIONAL MOURNING BEGINS

Zechariah 12:10

¹⁰And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall look unto me whom they have pierced; and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first-born (ASV, 1901).

Then the Lord pours out His “*spirit of grace and of supplication*” which causes the Jews to realize that it was *them* who persecuted Jesus and had Him nailed to the cross at Calvary. The Lord in the first person (“*me*”) begins to describe the mourning process the Jews will go through when they finally realize that it was God Himself who died for them as Jesus the Messiah. He uses the analogy of losing a child to express the degree of mourning that will be felt. This degree of mourning is unparalleled in the lives of humans because the loss of a child is one of the greatest pains one can experience. He says not only is it the loss of a child, but it is as if it is the parent’s only male child and further defines the situation as losing a son who is their first-born child. Our first-born children are the ones with whom we learn parenting and spend the most time and effort attending to their care. We usually invest more of ourselves into the first-born child than any other child. A loss of this child will give us an immense amount of pain that will never leave us while we are still on this earth. This is the extent of pain the Nation Israel will experience when they finally realize what they have done to their Messiah Jesus.

GOD ADDRESSES THE GENTILES

Isaiah 45:21

²¹Declare ye, and bring it forth; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath showed this from ancient time? who hath declared it of old? have not I, Jehovah? and there is no God else besides me, a just God and a Saviour; there is none besides me (ASV, 1901).

Now God begins to address the Gentiles directly. Here the prophecy moves toward its goal, which is the desire of God to provide the salvation of all, both Jew and Gentile. The nations who survive the Tribulation are called upon to assemble (Isaiah 43:9) and to realize the folly of the idolator leaders who deceive them (Isaiah 46:1, 7; Jeremiah 10:5) and pray to a god who cannot deliver or save (Isaiah 44:17 46:6-7). The coming Tribulation will be gigantic demonstration of the folly and wickedness of idolatry (Revelation 9:20-21; 16:13-16; 19:20-21) and its complete destruction (Zechariah 13:2; Revelation 20:1-3). In using the Israelites as an example of how He gave them

His witness to the world, God declares Himself as the only God saying, “*there is none besides me.*”

REMOVING IDOLATRY AND FALSE PROPHETS FROM ISRAEL

Zechariah 13:2

²And it shall come to pass in that day, saith Jehovah of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered; and also, I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land (ASV, 1901).

When God pours out His Spirit upon the Israelites, they will immediately realize that the false prophets and their idols are an anathema and God will cause them to be removed from Israel. False prophets lie, and typically promised peace when there was no peace to be had (Jeremiah 6:13-14; 8:11; 14:3; 23:17; 27:14 28:2, 11; Ezekiel 13:10; Zechariah 13:3; Micah 3:5). They deceive the people with their dreams and their visions which were drawn out of their own demonically fed hearts (Jeremiah 14:14; 23:16; 29:8; Ezekiel 13:2-3; 22:28). They prophesy by the alleged authority of pagan gods such as Baal, and threaten the lives of the true prophets (Jeremiah 2:8; 23:13; 26:7). The false prophets gave the people what they wanted to hear and "whitewashed" over every situation, no matter how perverse it appeared (Ezekiel 13:10-12,14-15; 22:28; Galatians 1:10, 6:7).

GOD DEALS WITH THE FALSE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

Zechariah 13:3-4

³And it shall come to pass that, when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of Jehovah; and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth. ⁴And it shall come to pass in that day that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he prophesieth; neither shall they wear a hairy mantle to deceive: (ASV, 1901).

During the Great Tribulation, and even leading up to it, there will be a seven-fold increase in false prophets due to the intense demonic prevalence of this era (Matthew 12:43-45). The greatest evidence will be the world's worship of the Antichrist and the False Prophet culminating with Israel's treaty with him (Daniel 9:27). At the time of Israel's national salvation, which rejects any connection to the Antichrist, God will be starting the Millennial Kingdom, which will be a Theocracy, and will have His will enacted into Law. One of these will be the elimination of false prophets by death. In this verse it is quite clear that even parents who find a false prophet among their children will kill him with a spear-like object at the point. Therefore they, “*shall no more be remembered*” as stated in verse 2 of this chapter and their parents will not mourn these demonically controlled children.

As a result of this divine pouring out of God's Spirit many false prophets will feign righteousness, claiming to be ashamed for “*every one of his vision*”. They will even take off the attire of a

righteous prophet, which they wore and described as the “*hairy mantle to deceive.*” Elijah wore such a mantle of rough sheep or goatskin called an *addereth* meaning to be “wide or great”. Elijah cast his off and gave it to his successor Elisha (II Kings 19:13, 19). The false prophets of future Israel will act ashamed that they put on the genuine prophet’s clothes as part of their deception, and they will be exposed as the wolf under the sheep’s clothing!

FALSE PROPHETS AVOID DETECTION

Zechariah 13:5-6

⁵ but he shall say, I am no prophet, I am a tiller of the ground; for I have been made a bondman from my youth. ⁶And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds between thine arms? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends (ASV, 1901)

When the false prophet is confronted with his deception, he will claim to be a “*tiller of the ground*”, or a farmer. He will even claim to have been bound to another as a servant since he was a boy (“*made a bondman from my youth*”). Because of the laws of the Theocracy that will be set up in Israel, they will do anything to avoid execution. Execution will be the only way to deal with them to end their pollution. The Mosaic Law of the Old Testament described how false teaching is to be dealt with, and only death will eliminate it. The only difference between the Mosaic Law and the Theocracy’s dealing with a false prophet is the manner of execution. The Mosaic Law called for a false prophet to be stoned to death (Deuteronomy 13:5-11). The Theocracy will have them thrust through with a spear.

Those confronting the false prophet will view the scars on his arms and chest as evidence that he is indeed a false prophet (“*What are these wounds between thine arms?*”). He will only be able to put forth a feeble lie saying he got them from his friends (“*Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends*”). Incisions on the body were characteristic of pagan cultures in ancient Canaan. In response to this sign of paganism, God warned the priest, prophets and people of Israel to not do such things in the interests of maintaining pure faith (Leviticus 19:28; Deuteronomy 14:1). The purpose of these self-lacerations associated with pagan rituals was to induce certain actions by their gods. Consider the contest between Elijah and the Baal prophets at Carmel described in 1 Kings chapter 18. After those false prophets had prayed and pleaded for Baal to ignite their sacrifices, with no success, they became frenzied and began to cut themselves until the blood poured from their veins and arteries (I Kings 18:28). In the latter days of the Church Age, and with the rise of neo paganism, we see an abundance of body markings including the cutting and scaring of skin to make symbols. This is additional evidence of drawing closer to the practices of the pagan cultures that are removed from God.

JUSTIFICATION ONLY IN GOD ALONE

Isaiah 45:22–25

²²Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else. ²³By myself have I sworn, the word is gone forth from my mouth in

righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. ²⁴Only in Jehovah, it is said of me, is righteousness and strength; even to him shall men come; and all they that were incensed against him shall be put to shame. ²⁵In Jehovah shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory (ASV, 1901).

The Lord appealed to the Gentiles to turn from wooden idols and be saved from coming destruction. They were to note the prophecies God had given and to acknowledge His uniqueness as the only God and to turn to Him because eventually everyone will acknowledge His sovereignty. Many Gentiles will be saved, recognizing that only in Him is righteousness available. But many will continue to rage against Him (Isaiah 45:24). They will be judged in the valley of Jehoshaphat at the end of the Tribulation (Joel 3:12–13; Matthew 25:31–46). However, Israel, God’s covenant people, will be justified (found righteous) in the LORD, and in that they will rejoice (exult). In contrast to the pitiful idols. The Lord is omnipotent and omniscient, a God who, knows everything in the future far in advance (Isaiah 41:26; 44:7; 48:14). Let the idolaters declare and set forth their case (Isaiah 4.1:23; 43:9). The fact is they have no case before the Lord, God and Savior (Isaiah 43:3,11). There will be a conversion of the nations in the Tribulation (Isaiah 45:22-25). The Lord calls to all nations from all the ends of the earth to look to Him in faith (Numbers 21:8-9; II Chronicles 20:12; Micah 7:7; Zechariah 12:10) and be saved (Isaiah 30:15; 49:6). This is the invitation of the crucified, risen, glorified Christ who has returned. Salvation will be offered on the basis of faith in the King of glory’s finished death and resurrection as it has in all ages. In validating the authenticity of His message, He swears by Himself (Hebrews 6:13) because He could swear by no higher authority, that to Him every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance to Him as the world’s leader (Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10) not only in the eternal state, but in context the millennial age, the last era in the time domain before the Eternal State will be established where the Lord will be All in All.

Then the peoples of the Kingdom Age will say of the King-Messiah, only in Him, the Lord are true righteousness and strength. Men will turn to Him (Isaiah 2:2-3). And all who were against Him shall be ashamed (put to shame). Israel’s millennial state will be glorious. In the Lord all the people of Israel, and the Gentiles will be Justified, and shall glory (Isaiah 53:1-11; I Kings 8:32).

Next message GOD’S POWER
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