

**Lesson 16**  
**Isaiah 26-27**

**A Refuge From The Storm (Part 2)**

**Memory verse:** “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12 NIV).

Israel is singing once more (24:14–16; 25:1ff.), and this time the emphasis is on righteousness and peace. There can be no true peace apart from righteousness (Is. 32:17), and there can be no righteousness apart from God’s salvation in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:21–31). It is at Calvary that “righteousness and peace have kissed each other” (Ps. 85:10). When Jesus Christ reigns on earth, the promise of Psalm 72:7 will be fulfilled: “In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more” (NKJV). Jesus Christ is our true Melchizedek - King of Righteousness and King of Peace (Heb. 7:1–3).

The context from Isaiah 24 and 25 points to the day of the Messiah’s ultimate triumph, the day when the Messiah reigns over Israel, and over all the world. Chapter 26 opens with “in that day”, there will be a lot of joyful singing, such as this song that will be sung in a strong city, in the land of Judah. Since cities came into being after the Fall, man has never known a truly godly city, the City of God on earth. In that day, all will know the strength and glory of the city of God.

In the fifth century, Rome was conquered by less civilized tribes from the north in Europe. The mighty Roman Empire was no more, and many blamed the fall of Rome on the new religion she had officially embraced in the last 100 years: Christianity. In this time of confusion, the greatest Christian theologian of the time wrote a book titled The City of God. In it, he tried to explain how the fall of the Roman Empire related to the kingdom of God, and he made the contrast between the city of man (ultimately represented by Rome and the mighty Roman Empire) and the City of God (the kingdom of God). Augustine pointed out that though the fall of Rome was tragic for the city of man, it really only hastened the coming of the City of God. Speaking in Augustine’s terms, Isaiah writes about the City of God when he says we have a strong city. The strong city is the Kingdom of God, the city of man is the world system.

This is an important and often neglected idea. We often disapprove of the idea of the city, and romanticize the idea of man in isolation, in a rural or primitive setting. But in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ on this earth, there will be cities – but redeemed cities, glorious communities organized under the strength and salvation and righteousness and truth of the Lord. God’s supreme ideal is no escape from all community and a private communion with nature; the Kingdom of God will be realized in a strong city.

Chapter 27 speaks about the gathering of God’s people. The recurrence of the phrase “in that day” in verses 1, 2, 12, and 13 ties this chapter to what has preceded. It also brings us back to the theme of Isaiah 24 through 27 in general, the day when the Kingdom of the Messiah ultimately triumphs and rules. The chapter opens with a dramatic slaughter by the Lord of the Leviathan the gliding serpent,” Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea”. The ultimate triumph of the Lord in the day of the Messiah is expressed in victory over Leviathan the fleeing serpent. While there is an illustrative element here, Isaiah may be more literal than many would like to admit. If Satan could manifest himself as a serpent to Eve in the Garden of Eden, why not also manifest himself as a dreadful sea-dragon? Nevertheless, we find in this chapter more information about the future, specifically the Millennium.

Are you ready for the Lord’s return as prophesied here in the Old Testament?

Scripture reading: Isaiah Chapter 26:1-10; Chapter 27

Things to learn: 1) Blessings of God’s people 2) Promise of Restoration 3) The Millennium Prophecy

**Discussion Questions:**

1) Isaiah 26 is a song of praise and prayer. How can the suffering people of God be encouraged by the prophecy in this chapter?

2) The meaning of God’s victory over the world for Israel is the theme in chapter 26 and 27. How do you see God’s will for believers in Israel and the Gentile nations pan out in chapter 27?

3) Reflect on the two chapters and share how the people of God today can be encouraged in their walk with God and not be a hindrance to the blessings God wanted them to bring to the world.