

# Jesus Shall Reign

## Isaiah 24:21-23

### Introduction:

- In **Isaiah 24-28**, the prophet Isaiah gives us repeated visions of the future Tribulation period. However, sandwiched in between these dire prophecies are prophecies of the glorious Kingdom of Jesus Christ. (Remember that Old Testament prophecy does not necessarily always go in a straightforward, linear timeline. It often jumps back and forth from the near future to the far future, and back again.) In this study, we will concentrate mostly on the prophecies of the Kingdom Age, since they deal directly with Jesus the Messiah, and with the work that He will do when He returns to earth.
- At the end of **chapter 24**, Isaiah presents the universal triumph and reign of Jesus Christ during the future Kingdom age.

### Isaiah 24:21-23

- These verses prophesy of the return of Jesus Christ and setting up of His Kingdom. However, the whole chapter prior to these verses tells us of the events that will *precede* the Kingdom age. We shall begin this study by looking at these events.

## I. The events preceding Christ's reign: The Tribulation

A. The extent of the Tribulation: it will be global (**vv. 1-3**).

### Isaiah 24:1-3

- **Verse 1** portrays a future time that will be filled with unimaginable natural catastrophes and violence. This same scenario is described in the book of Revelation, from the very earliest stages of the 7-year Tribulation and onward.

### Revelation 6:3-8, 12-14

- **Verse 2** makes it clear that no one on earth, no matter what station in life, will escape this global judgment. Everyone on earth, regardless of religious, social, or economic distinction, will be affected [“the people / the priest”; “the servant / his master”; “the buyer / the lender,” “the borrower / the userer” (i.e., “banker”)].

### Revelation 6:15-17

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-3** (Remember from **Zechariah 14** that the “Day of the LORD” begins with the Tribulation, and ends at the conclusion of the 1,000-year Kingdom.)

- In **verse 3**, the Hebrew word for “land” is *eretz*. This word can mean “land”; and when used in this sense, it often refers specifically to the land of Israel. But *eretz* can also mean “earth” (as in **Genesis 1:1**). This is the sense in which it is being used in **Isaiah 24:3**. God’s judgment will be on *all* the earth during the Tribulation period, and not merely upon Israel.

## B. The purpose for the Tribulation (**vv. 4-5, 13-16**)

1. To humble the proud (“the haughty people”) (**v. 24**)

### **Isaiah 24:4**

This purpose for the Tribulation was stated earlier in **Isaiah**.

### **Isaiah 2:11-12**

It seems that the Tribulation judgments will be particularly harsh upon the rich and the aristocracy, because of the pride that they have in their riches. Scripture says that gold and silver will do no good for those who hoard it during the Tribulation. (This message is very pertinent as we approach the end of this age. Rich men all over the world foresee unprecedented economic collapse and global catastrophes, and are buying up gold as never before, thinking that it will save them when destruction comes. But it will do them no good when the Tribulation begins!)

### **Zephaniah 1:14-18**

### **James 5:1-6**

2. To punish the transgressors

### **Isaiah 24:5**

One of the primary characteristics of the last days will be utter lawlessness. Of course, mankind has always rebelled against God’s laws; but the Tribulation will be a time of defiance against God as has not been known since the days before the Flood. God’s purpose in the Tribulation will be to punish all those who defy His laws.

**2 Timothy 3:1-7** [The word “perilous” in **verse 1** is from the Greek *kalepoi*. This same word *kalepoi* is used in **Matthew 8:28** to describe the maniac of Gadara. (In this verse, our KJV translates *kalepoi* as “exceeding fierce.”) This word *kalepoi* has the idea of “ragingly insane” (and therefore extremely dangerous). Disregard of God’s always leads to fierceness and raging insanity in a society!]

**Daniel 7:23-25 / 8:23-25 / 11:36-39** [When the “transgressors” all over the world will have “come to the full” of wickedness, God will allow the world to have

exactly what it deserves—an unspeakably fierce, lawless, bloody tyrant who will pay no heed to any law except his own.]

3. To receive praise from Israel once again (**v. 13-16**)

#### **Isaiah 24:13-16a**

The shaking of the “olive tree” in **verse 13** refers to the fierce judgment that God will bring upon the nation of Israel during the Tribulation. The olive tree is a symbol of Israel throughout Scripture.

#### **Romans 11:7-18**

Right now, Israel, *as a nation*, is not bringing forth fruit of praise to God, because she is rejecting her Messiah, Jesus Christ. (For that reason, her branches have been “broken off,” so to speak...for now.) It is significant that the very name “Jew” is short for the name “Judah,” which means “praise” (**Genesis 29:35**). God raised up Israel to bring Him praise. Yet, Israel, right now, is failing in that purpose, because of her rejection of Jesus Christ, and, consequently, her spiritual deadness.

**Romans 2:25-29** (Being a Jew by blood means nothing if one has not been regenerated by the Spirit of God, and is bringing forth praise to God through the new life in Christ.)

However, Israel’s condition of spiritual barrenness will not continue. God will use the judgment of the Tribulation to wake up the Jewish people, and to turn them to Christ. Multitudes of Jews will be saved during the Tribulation through the preaching of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses.

#### **Revelation 7:1-8**

**Zechariah 13:8-9** (About one third of Israel will believe on Christ, and will physically survive the Tribulation, and enter into the Kingdom.)

**Romans 11:26-27** (Only saved Jews will enter into the Kingdom Age.)

- C. The utter misery and terror of the Tribulation (**Isaiah 24:6-12, 16b-20**)

#### **Isaiah 24:6-12, 16b-20**

**Verse 6** says it all: by the time God is done with His judgments, there will be “few men left.” This is precisely what Jesus said about the Tribulation.

#### **Matthew 24:21-22**

The idea of the earth itself “reeling to and fro” (apparently on its axis) defies imagination. Yet, Scripture states this repeatedly.

### **Haggai 2:6**

Such a “shaking” of the very core of the earth will, obviously, cause simultaneous, worldwide earthquakes of unimaginable magnitude. This is what was prophesied in **Revelation**.

**Revelation 16:17-20** [This global earthquake will far exceed the earlier global earthquake of the Tribulation in magnitude. The earthquake of **Revelation 6:14** will merely move every mountain and island. The earthquake in **Revelation 16:17-20** will literally *obliterate* every mountain and island, and cause every city to collapse!]

## **II. The global reign of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem (vv. 21-23)**

- The seven-year Tribulation will end with the second coming of Jesus Christ to earth (**Matthew 24:27-30**). That is what is described in the last three verses of **Isaiah 24**.

### **Isaiah 24:21-23**

#### **A. Jesus’ identity: He is Messiah, King, and God (vv. 21-23)**

- In **verses 21-23**, we come to a specific prophecy of the Messiah and His future Kingdom. Isaiah is not merely speaking of an “invisible” reign of Jehovah over the earth. We know that right now, God rules from heaven over His whole creation; and we also know that He is omnipresent (everywhere at once). Yet, **verse 23** says that the LORD (Jehovah) will rule “*in mount Zion*,” and “*in Jerusalem*” (a specific earthly location). This agrees with countless other Scriptures, which clearly teach a literal, visible, bodily advent of Jehovah Himself to earth.

### **Isaiah 2:1-4**

**Ezekiel 43:7** (Only men have soles of feet!)

**Zechariah 12:10** [*Jehovah* is the one speaking here. (See **Zechariah 12:1-3** and onward.) How can every eye see an *invisible* God—unless God has assumed a body? And how can Jehovah be “pierced” unless He has taken on human flesh?]

### **Revelation 1:7 / 19:11-16**

- There is only one way that every eye will be able to see Jehovah, who is invisible (**1 Timothy 1:17**): Jehovah must have taken on the form of a Man. Furthermore, since we know that the Messiah (God’s “anointed”) will do exactly what **Isaiah 24:23** says that *Jehovah* will do (i.e., rule as King over all the earth), there is only one conclusion: The Messiah (the Son) is Man, yet also God.

**Psalm 2:1-12**

**Psalm 45:1-2, 6-7**

- The inescapable teaching of this passage is that the Messiah will be both God and Man. Only Jesus matches this description!

**Philippians 2:5-8**

**1 Timothy 3:16**

B. Jesus Christ's work: He will punish His enemies.

1. In **verses 21 and 22**, we are given a description of what Christ will do immediately upon His return to earth: He will punish both the angelic realm of Satan and the human kings of the earth who have followed Satan during the Tribulation.

**Revelation 19-20** is, essentially, a parallel passage to **Isaiah 24:21-23**—except that God gave the Apostle John much more specific information than He gave to Isaiah. In **Revelation 19**, we are told that all the kings of the earth will, by the end of the Tribulation, be united in battle against God, under the leadership of the Antichrist. These kings will all be slaughtered; and the Antichrist, along with the false prophet, will be cast into the Lake of Fire alive! This will be the punishment of the “kings of the earth.”

**Revelation 19:11-21**

2. The “host of the high ones” is Satan’s army of angels, who currently operate in the atmosphere surrounding our earth.

**Ephesians 2:2 / 6:11-12**

3. God’s punishment upon the “host of the high ones” will consist of their being “gathered together” like “prisoners,” and being shut up in a “pit,” or prison (**verse 22**). Isaiah informs us that the prison sentence of Satan and his demons will be for “many days”: but John informs us more specifically that these “many days” will be 1,000 years (for the entirety of Christ’s Kingdom age on earth).

**Revelation 20:1-3**

4. The word “visited” in **verse 22** is from the Hebrew *paqad*. This Hebrew expression means “to reckon or deal with someone”—whether in a friendly way, or in a hostile way. Obviously, Christ will “visit” the demonic realm in a *hostile* way; and He will do so at the “end” of the “many days” (the 1,000-year Kingdom).

**Revelation 20:7-10** (After the 1,000 years, Satan and his demons will be released for a short season, only to be defeated one last time, and then cast into the Lake of Fire for good. This will be God’s “visitation” upon them.)

5. The rebellious kings of the earth will be “visited” at the end of the 1,000 years, as well—along with all the unsaved of all ages, at the Great White Throne Judgment.

### **Revelation 20:11-15**

#### C. Signs accompanying Christ’s return

- In **verse 23**, Isaiah informs us that there will be frightening phenomena in both the sun and the moon right at the time when Christ sets up His Kingdom. Both the sun and moon will either fail in their shining; far *exceed* their brightness; take on an unnatural, frightening colour; or wander out of their courses, at the latter end of the Tribulation, and at the very time of Christ’s return. This fact is mentioned multiple times in Scripture.

### **Joel 2:30-31**

### **Luke 21:25-28**

### **Revelation 6:12-13**

### **Revelation 8:12**

### **Revelation 16:8-11**

#### D. Details about Christ’s Kingdom

- As we have already seen, Christ will sit on a literal throne in Mount Zion (Jerusalem), and will reign as King over all the earth (**verse 23**).

### **Micah 4:1-4**

- This passage is capped off with one more important phrase: “and before his ancients gloriously.” These “ancients” are none other than resurrected, immortal believers from the Old Testament age, New Testament age, and the Tribulation period. They will reign with Him during the 1,000 years.

**Daniel 12:1-3** (Old Testament saints will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation, and will literally shine like the stars.)

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 / 5:1-4, 9-10** [New Testament saints will be resurrected at the end of this age, just before the “wrath” of the Day of the Lord (the Tribulation) begins.]

**Revelation 20:4** [Martyred saints from the Tribulation period will “live” (be resurrected) at the end of the Tribulation.]

**Jude 14-15** [All saints from the Old Testament and New Testament (church age), as well as Tribulation saints who died during the Tribulation, will return with Christ from heaven to execute judgment at the end of the Tribulation.]

**Ezekiel 37:25 / 461-4** (The resurrected King David will be in a high position of “prince” in the Kingdom.)

**Matthew 19:27-28** (The 12 Apostles will have special positions of authority over the 12 tribes of Israel during the Kingdom.)

**Revelation 2:26 / 5:8-10 / 20:6** [God’s resurrected saints will literally have authority over whole nations during the Kingdom.]

**Conclusion:** The reign of Jesus Christ on earth will be global: and it will be glorious. Satan and His angels will be bound in prison during that time, and will not be able to assist sinners on earth in their rebellious thoughts and designs against Christ. It will be a time of universal peace, as all mankind makes its way to Mount Zion to worship Jesus Christ.