

- Having defeated every enemy, Isaiah turns to the glorious hope that lies beyond judgment (v23). The sun and moon are described as being ashamed because the glory of the LORD outshines every created light. The LORD of Hosts reigns from Mount Zion in Jerusalem, fulfilling His covenant promises to Israel and establishing His kingdom over all the earth.
- Isaiah ends this chapter with hope rather than despair. The purpose of God's judgment is not destruction alone but the removal of sin and the establishment of His everlasting kingdom. History is moving toward the visible reign of Jesus Christ when God's glory will fill the earth, and His people will rejoice in His righteous government forever. We should live as citizens of Christ's coming kingdom (2 Pet 3:11; 1 John 2:17).

Revelation Timeline (Premillennial) - drawn with Chatgpt

Stage	Description	Key References
The Rapture (Three Views)	• Pre-Tribulation – Before the Tribulation • Mid-Tribulation – Around the seventh trumpet (according to this view) • Post-Tribulation – After the Tribulation, before Christ's visible return (according to this view)	Pre: John 14:1–3; 1 Thess. 4:16–17; 1 Cor. 15:51–52 Mid: Rev. 11:15; 1 Cor. 15:52 Post: Matt. 24:29–31
The Tribulation (7 Years)	• Seven Seals (Rev. 6–8) • Seven Trumpets (Rev. 8–11) • Rise of the Antichrist (Rev. 13) • Seven Bowls (Rev. 15–16)	Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:21; Rev. 6–16
Judgment Seat of Christ	Believers' works evaluated and rewarded	Rom. 14:10–12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:12–15
Armageddon	Final battle before Christ's return	Rev. 16:16; Rev. 19:19–21; Zech. 14:1–5
Christ's Second Coming	Christ returns visibly in glory, defeats His enemies, judges the nations, and establishes His Millennial Kingdom.	Matt. 24:30; Zech. 14:4; Rev. 19:11–16
The Millennium (1,000 Years)	Christ reigns on earth; Satan is bound	Rev. 20:1–6; Isa. 2:2–4; Isa. 11:1–10
Great White Throne Judgment	Final judgment of all unbelievers after the Millennium	Rev. 20:11–15
New Heaven & New Earth	Eternal state begins; God dwells forever with His redeemed	Rev. 21:1–7; Rev. 22:1–5

The LORD's Universal Judgment (24:1–23)

- Isaiah 24–27 is often called Isaiah's "Little Apocalypse" because (i) it presents a prophetic vision of worldwide judgment, cosmic upheaval, and God's ultimate kingdom; (ii) it anticipates many of the end times events and themes later described in Revelation 6–21.
- Isaiah 24 opens this section with a solemn announcement of worldwide judgment. It describes the devastation of the earth under God's wrath & foreshadows the future Tribulation (Rev 6–18).

1. The LORD's Universal Judgment Upon the Earth (24:1–13)

(i) The Scope of God's Judgment, 24:1–3

- Isaiah begins with a dramatic declaration that the LORD will empty and devastate the whole earth (v1). This is a worldwide act of divine justice (cf Gen 6:13) pointing ultimately to the future Day of the LORD and the Great Tribulation before Christ's Second Coming (Matt 24:21–30). The Creator who once brought order out of chaos (Gen 1:2) now reverses creation's blessings & scatters rebellious humanity because of humanity's persistent rebellion (cf Gen 11:1-9). Revelation 6-16 portrays the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments that will devastate the earth during the Tribulation.
- The judgment will affect every class of society (v2). All humanity stand equally before God because He shows no partiality (Rom 2:11). Since the LORD Himself has spoken, this judgment is certain (v3). Believers are promised deliverance from God's coming wrath (1 Thess 5:9; Rev 3:10). Therefore, this prophecy serves as both a warning to unbelievers and a source of hope for believers, who look forward to Christ's return rather than God's judgment.

(ii) The Reason for God's Judgment, 24:4–6

- The prophet portrays creation itself as groaning under the weight of sin (v4). What God once pronounced "very good" now withers, scarred by humanity's rebellion. Isaiah identifies 3 reasons for God's judgment (v5):
 - First, humanity has deliberately transgressed God's laws by deliberately violating His commands (Rom 3:23).
 - Second, people have changed God's ordinances by replacing His standards with their own (Isa 5:20; Rom 1:18–32).
 - Third, they have broken the everlasting covenant by rejecting God's covenant relationship and authority.

- As a result, the curse first pronounced in Eden (Gen 3:17–19) reaches its fullest expression (v6). The judgments described in Revelation 8-16, including famine, plagues, and ecological devastation, demonstrate the final outworking of this curse upon a rebellious world. Sin always brings consequences – individuals, families, societies, and even creation. Yet God's mercy is evident because He preserves a faithful remnant: "*few men left.*"

(iii) *The Consequences of God's Judgment, 24:7–13*

- Isaiah describes a world where every source of joy has disappeared. The vineyards fail, music ceases, celebrations end, and even strong drink no longer brings pleasure (vv7-9) - Matt 24:37–39; Rev 18:22–23.
- Human civilization also falls apart (vv10-12). The "*city of confusion*" represents a world organized without God. Once-busy cities become desolate, homes are abandoned, and despair replaces rejoicing (Rev 18:10).
- Yet judgment is not God's final word. Isaiah compares the survivors to the few olives left after harvest or the remaining grapes after the vintage (v13). Though judgment is widespread, God faithfully preserves a believing remnant according to His covenant promises (Isa 10:20–22; Rom 11:5; Rev 7:1–17). Even in His judgment, God remembers mercy.

2. The Song of the Faithful Remnant (24:14–16)

- In the midst of worldwide judgment, Isaiah hears songs of praise rising from the ends of the earth (v14). These worshippers represent the believing remnant who come to faith during the Tribulation despite intense persecution (Rev 7:9–14). Even during the darkest period of human history, God preserves a people who trust Him and proclaim His majesty and glory.
- Isaiah calls on people everywhere to glorify the LORD, even in the midst of fiery trials (vv15-16a). This anticipates the heavenly worship described in Revelation, where redeemed people from every nation praise God for His salvation and sovereign rule (Rev 7:9–10). God's people continue to worship Him because their confidence rests in His unchanging character - "the Righteous One" (Acts 3:14) - rather than their circumstances.
- Yet Isaiah's own response is one of deep sorrow (v16b) because he also sees the terrible judgments that must precede the establishment of God's kingdom. He cries, "*My leanness, my leanness,*" expressing grief over the continued treachery and rebellion of mankind. This contrast highlights two different responses to God's revelation: humble faith or persistent unbelief.

3. The Inescapable Judgment upon a Sinful World (24:17–20)

- Isaiah describes the certainty and inescapability of God's wrath with three vivid images: fear, the pit, and the snare (v17). Those who flee from one danger fall into another, showing that no one can escape the righteous judgment of God. The opening of the "*windows from on high*" (v18) recalls the Flood in Noah's day, when God judged the world because of its wickedness (Gen 7:11).
- The shaking of the earth shows that God's judgment affects not only humanity but also the whole created order. Sin has brought corruption and suffering into creation ever since Adam's fall. Isaiah describes the earth as broken, split apart, and violently shaken (v19), anticipating the earthquakes, cosmic disturbances, and worldwide devastation described during the Tribulation (Rev 6:12–17; 11:13; 16:17–21).
- Isaiah compares the earth to a drunken man staggering under a burden too heavy to bear (v20). The burden is humanity's accumulated sin and rebellion against God. God's judgment will bring it to an end, preparing the way for His righteous kingdom. The passing away of the present heavens and earth is therefore not the end of God's plan but the beginning of a new creation where righteousness will dwell (Rev 21:1).
- This passage reminds us that God's judgment is certain, but it also points us to the only place of safety—Jesus Christ. Through His death and resurrection, Christ bore the judgment that sinners deserve. Those who trust in Him are delivered from the wrath to come and can look forward with confidence to His glorious return (John 3:36; 1 Thess 1:10).

4. The LORD's Final Victory and Universal Reign (24:21–23)

- In the Day of the LORD, God will judge both the spiritual powers behind the nations and the rebellious rulers of the earth (v21). The "*host of the high ones*" refers to fallen angels or demonic powers that influence the kingdoms of this world (Dan 10:13, 20; Eph 6:12; Jude 6). Behind human rebellion stands an unseen kingdom of darkness that opposes the purposes of God. These enemies will be gathered, imprisoned, and ultimately judged according to God's perfect timetable (v22).
- Revelation 20 expands this prophecy by describing Satan's binding before Christ's Millennial reign, his final rebellion after the thousand years, and his eternal judgment; and the Great White Throne judgment brings every unbeliever before God to receive His righteous verdict.