

times” event, the Lord conquers the entire earth in order to rule over it. Because many of these themes are picked up in the book of Revelation, these four chapters have often been dubbed “the little apocalypse.” As is typical in descriptions of the Day of the Lord, the night of judgment precedes the day of blessing.

The language used in chapter 24 is global in scope, and can be understood only as preparation for an earthly kingdom of the Lord. The earth is “laid waste,” “broken up,” “split asunder,” and “thoroughly shaken” (24:3, 19). The people are “scattered,” “burned up,” and in mourning (24:1, 5). Not only are the leaders of the nations imprisoned, but so too are the heavenly authorities (24:21-22). The glory of the Lord will humiliate the sun and moon, and the Lord will reign in Jerusalem (24:23). Such devastation is met with praise, because the actions of the Lord are perfectly just (25:1-5). Though his people before had been famished and stalked by death, the Lord himself prepares a rich banquet and eliminates death (25:6-8). Isaiah had previously discussed the identity of the king (Branch, Immanuel), and here he gives the clearest conception of the rule of the king. The ungodly will have no part in this kingdom (25:9-12).

The kingdom is described in chapter 26 from the perspective of its inhabitants, in a song sung by the people of Judah. This future age will be a time of strength, peace, faith, obedience, spiritual fervor, grace, and righteousness. In addition, a clear statement is given of the future resurrection of the dead (26:19). All of these themes will be amplified later in the book and in the canon. Nonetheless, Isaiah warns that judgment will come first, and he tells the people to prepare (26:20-27:1). The dramatic nature of the reversal from the time of Judah’s sin is depicted in another song of the vineyard (27:2-6). This time the vineyard will thrive under the Lord’s care. Israel’s sin will be forgiven, as the guilt is removed and the temptations to sin are obliterated (27:7-11). The Israelites will be gathered “one by one,” at the sound of the trumpet, and restored to their land and Lord (27:12-13).

## ISAIAH 27: THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

### OUTLINE OF “THE LITTLE APOCALYPSE” (ISA 24-27)

Ch. 24: The Judgment of the Earth

Ch. 25: The Establishment of the Kingdom

Ch. 26: The Judgment of All Peoples

Ch. 27: The Restoration of Israel

### OUTLINE OF ISAIAH 27

I. The Lord’s Vineyard (27:2-6)

II. Judgment on Israel and the Nations (27:7-11)

III. The Regathering of Israel (27:12-13)

### NOTES

#### I. The Lord’s Vineyard (27:2-6)

This song of a vineyard is a reversal of the song in Isaiah 5.

“First song (chapter 5)	Second song (chapter 27)
no fruit	fruit
no rain	rain
abandoned (wall removed)	guarded
thorns and briers	no thorns and briers
overrun	spreads out” (Webb 1996: 113).

v4 “This is the good news of the gospel: God is not angry any more. He has found a way to satisfy his justice (Rom. 3:21-26; 5:8-11)” (Oswalt 1986: 494).

v4 “So, many a young suitor has almost wished someone would attack his beloved so that he could defend her” (Oswalt 1986: 494).

v5 “Again, God is not committed to a relentless destruction of his enemies. He is more than willing to be reconciled to them. In fact, he will supply the refuge from his own just wrath” (Oswalt 1986: 495).

## II. Judgment on Israel and the Nations (27:7-11)

vv7-11 “Three things are said about this judgment. First, it is less severe than that which the Lord has already exercised against Judah’s enemies (7). Secondly, it is carefully controlled (‘measure by measure, 8, RSV) with no more severity than is required to achieve the desired end. Thirdly, that end is atonement—the removal of what is offensive to God so that forgiveness can become possible” (Webb 1996: 113-14).

vv7-11 “Although both will be punished and people in both countries will die, God sees a different final outcome for Israel (27:8-9) and the fortified city (27:10-11, their enemy)” (Smith 2007: 463).

v7 “‘Has (God) struck her (Israel) as he (God) struck down those (Israel’s enemy) who struck her (Israel)?’ This is interpreted as a positive message of hope that God does not treat his people as severely as others (cf. 27:8-9 and 10-11 to see this contrast)” (Smith 2007: 462-63).

v7 “That this has happened is evident if one looks at Nineveh and Babylon today” (Oswalt 1986: 497).

v9 “Here is where God’s grace in Christ comes into play. He has suffered and we must repent, and in the two together our iniquity is covered” (Oswalt 1986: 498).

v9 “On the one hand, smashing the idols is necessary if forgiveness is to be received; on the other hand, the announcement of forgiveness supplies the motivation to do the smashing (44:1-5; 57:17-19; 59:15b-20; Col. 3:1-17)” (Oswalt 1986: 499).

## III. The Regathering of Israel (27:12-13)

vv12-13 “These verses provide a fitting climax to chs. 24-27 with their emphasis upon God’s sovereignty over the nations and his intention to restore his people from the nations. In this respect this is the second of three such passages. The others are 11:12-16 and 35:1-10. Each of these occurs at the end of a major segment” (Oswalt 1986: 500).

“For ultimately the one qualification for inclusion among the people of God is the acknowledgment that salvation is to be found nowhere else than in the God of Israel (45:22)” (Webb 1996: 115).

“All the strands of this second major segment of the book, then, converge on this single point: worship—God being acknowledged for who he is. Such worship is not an escape from reality but a return to it, and it is in returning to reality that the world, so long out of joint, will finally be made whole (66:22-23)” (Webb 1996: 115).

Good summary of chapter: “Thus the prophet delivers the good news of hope (27:2-6), throws out the invitation to reject the past and turn to God for cleansing (27:8-9), and warns of the dire consequence for those who refuse to develop a personal relationship with God (27:10-11). Can the choice be any plainer and the consequence more dramatic?” (Smith 2007: 466).

### SOURCES CITED

John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*, NICOT, 1986.  
Gary V. Smith, *Isaiah 1-39*, New American Commentary, 2007.  
Barry G. Webb, *The Message of Isaiah*, The Bible Speaks Today, 1996.

### SUMMARY OF ISAIAH 24-27:

#### THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL WILL RULE OVER THE EARTH AND REDEEM HIS PEOPLE

The oracles against the nations prepare the reader for a powerful display of the sovereignty of God over the entire earth. Previously nations were treated individually, but in what is written as an “end