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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**THE INDIGNATION OF THE LORD**

**[IS] UPON ALL NATIONS**

**Isaiah 34:1-17**

***Isaiah 34:1 "Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it."***

This prophetic message is apocalyptic in nature and it shares that the object of God’s wrath will be the earth, all nations and the world. Isaiah is prophetically declaring this as a warning to the inhabitants of the earth. The time for this prophecy could be any time from the time it was spoken, until now.

***Isaiah 34:2 "For the indignation of the LORD [is] upon all nations, and [his] fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter."***

Here the prophet depicts the worldwide carnage of the Battle of Armageddon, when God’s righteousness indignation and furry are poured out on all nations. This is speaking of judgment and punishment from God on a people who have no intention of following Him. They try to settle their grievances with war to no avail. They place their trust in their armies, instead of in God.

***Isaiah 34:3 "Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood."***

This speaks of a great destruction of these enemies of God and His people. This battle of Armageddon is spoken of in Revelation.

***Revelation 16:12-16***

***12And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.***

***13And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.***

***14For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

***15Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.***

***16And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.***

***Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling [fig] from the fig tree.***

Look, with me, at a similar Scripture in Revelation.

***Revelation 6:12 "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;"***

***Revelation 6:13 "And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind."***

***Revelation 6:14 "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places."***

Isaiah, in the verse above, is prophesying of something at the end of the age. This was not a prophecy of the near future. The fig tree symbolizes Israel. This is a time when even the powers of heaven are shaken.

***Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:"***

This will be a time when mankind will not be able to trust in the material world he sees. Men's hearts will fail them for the things they see.

***Luke 21:26 "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."***

***Isaiah 34:5 "For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment."***

It is very important to see that this judgment comes from God. Idumea is the land of Edom. You remember from earlier studies in Genesis, that Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup. This, in verse 5, is judgment against his descendants. "The people of God's curse" is speaking of those who disobey God. It is for those who totally reject Jesus as their Saviour. Notice, also, the sword of judgment is clean. It is righteous judgment.

***Isaiah 34:6 "The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, [and] with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea."***

Bozrah is a specific place in Edom. This is speaking of the judgment of God as a sacrifice to Him. This great judgment is like a sacrifice to God. These people, in their rejection of God, had denied Him His sacrifice. The blood, fatness, kidneys are all God's portion of the sacrifice.

***Isaiah 34:7 "And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness."***

Unicorns are wild bulls in this particular instance. So much blood is shed here, that it will appear the blood soaks the land.

***Isaiah 34:8 "For [it is] the day of the LORD'S vengeance, [and] the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion."***

"The day of vengeance of the LORD" is the same time as the wrath of the Lord, which is poured out on the wicked and unbelieving of the world. Notice the word "year" in the verse above. This shows us the wrath will not be for a very long time. The controversy of Zion is speaking of the rejection of God's people by these evil people. Edom is spoken of specifically, because they refused passage across their land to the children of Israel. God fights the battle for His people.

***Isaiah 34:9 "And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch."***

Fire and brimstone from God rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah. The water turning to pitch, in the verse above, certainly indicates such a judgment on Edom. No one was left alive in Sodom and Gomorrah. It appears the same is the case here.

***Isaiah 34:10 "It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever."***

In areas of such total destruction, there would be no reason to go there. In World War 2, the areas bombed by a nuclear bomb were said to be like this. For 100's of years, or even 1000's of years they would be uninhabitable. This is speaking of this area becoming a waste land.

***Isaiah 34:11 "But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness."***

Edom, in all of this, is really speaking to the ungodly world as well. Man, given enough time, will destroy himself and the planet. Just as Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt {world}, the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour is leading us out of this chaotic world. The 11th verse, above, is just describing a place where humans cannot survive. Only the scavengers of the world can make it here. They are loners, living of the destruction of others.

***Isaiah 34:12 "They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none [shall be] there, and all her princes shall be nothing."***

The princes shall be nothing, because they died in the wrath poured out. The place the kingdom was, is still there, but it is uninhabitable.

***Isaiah 34:13 "And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, [and] a court for owls."***

***Isaiah 34:14 "The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest."***

***Isaiah 34:15 "There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate."***

This is just a further description of how totally destroyed the area is. Owls, in this verse, means daughters of screaming. One of the meanings given means occult. The owl is an unclean bird. Dragons are serpents. This means this place was unfit for anyone except the devil. We do see from the words "island" and "desert" that this is not a localized destruction.

***Isaiah 34:16 "Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them."***

These vultures have come to clean up the dead carcases. They live of dead carcases. The fact that her mate is there shows there will be plenty to clean up the dead bodies. God Himself commanded the vultures to be there to clean up. This means that every prophecy that Isaiah gave shall come about, because Isaiah was speaking for God.

***Isaiah 34:17 "And he hath cast the lot for them, and his hand hath divided it unto them by line: they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein."***

God is the One who decides what land belongs to whom. God gave this desolate land to the vultures.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who is verse 1 speaking to?
2. Who is the indignation of the Lord upon?
3. The fig tree symbolizes whom?
4. What is very important to see in verse 5?
5. Where is Idumea?
6. Who are "the people of the curse"?
7. Where is Bozrah?
8. The great judgment on these people is like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God.
9. What are unicorns in verse 7?
10. Why does it appear the land is soaked with blood?
11. "The day of the LORD's vengeance" is the same as what time?
12. How do we know the wrath will not last long?
13. Why is Edom spoken of specifically in these judgments?
14. How does this destruction parallel with the destruction at Sodom and Gomorrah?
15. How long shall the smoke go up from the destruction?
16. How long shall the destroyed land lie waste?
17. What will inhabit this desolation?
18. What is Edom speaking of?
19. Why will there be no nobles?
20. What are some of the translations that could have been for owl?
21. The owl was an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bird.
22. Why will none of these prophecies fail?
23. What do these vultures feed upon?
24. Who allots land to someone or something?