

## Dr. John Oswalt, Isaiah, Session 12

### Isaiah 24-25

#### Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

#### 1. Abstract of Oswalt, Isaiah, Session 12, Isaiah 24-25, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. John Oswalt's lecture covers Isaiah chapters 24 and 25, exploring themes of **divine sovereignty and human freedom**. He emphasizes **God's role as the primary actor in history**, contrasting humanity's disobedience with God's judgment and subsequent salvation. Oswalt highlights the **cause-and-effect relationship** between human actions and their consequences, illustrating it through the imagery of a withered earth and a desolate city. The lecture further examines the concepts of **trust and waiting** on God, emphasizing that while God's plan is inevitable, human choices influence its unfolding. Finally, it discusses **God's universal offer of salvation**, conditioned on trust and self-denial.

2. 27 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, Isaiah, Session 12 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Isaiah).



Oswalt\_Isaiah\_Sessi  
on12.mp3

### 3. Briefing Document

#### Briefing Doc: Isaiah Chapters 24-25 (Oswalt Lecture)

##### Main Themes:

- **God's Sovereignty in Judgment and Salvation:** God is the ultimate actor on the stage of history, bringing judgment upon a world steeped in transgression, but also offering salvation to all who trust in Him.
- **Cause and Effect:** Human transgression against God's created order results in devastation and suffering, while faithful waiting on the Lord leads to joy and restoration.
- **The City and Song as Motifs:** Two contrasting images are presented: a desolate city filled with the sorrow of those seeking false joy, and a future city on Mount Zion where songs of praise to God resound.
- **Universal Scope of Judgment and Salvation:** Both judgment and salvation extend to all nations, highlighting the breadth of God's power and the inclusiveness of His grace.
- **The Necessity of Trust and Self-Denial:** Receiving God's salvation requires trusting in His timing and ways, surrendering self-reliance, and acknowledging His rightful place as Lord.

##### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Chapter 24: Global Judgment for Transgressing God's Covenant:** God is the agent of judgment, bringing devastation upon the entire world because humanity has broken the "everlasting covenant" of living according to His created order (verses 1-6).
- This judgment affects all people equally, regardless of social status (verse 2).
- The earth itself suffers due to human sin, highlighting the interconnectedness of creation (verse 5a).
- False joy found in forgetfulness (alcohol) is contrasted with the sorrow resulting from judgment (verses 7-13).
- A remnant will remain who rejoice in God's majesty, acknowledging His power and righteousness (verses 14-16).

- Apocalyptic imagery depicts the intensity and cosmic scope of the judgment (verses 17-23).
- Ultimately, God will reign supreme on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, His glory witnessed by His faithful people (verse 23).
- **Chapter 25: Universal Salvation for Those Who Wait on the Lord:** God's faithful and sure plans will be realized, resulting in the downfall of those who oppose Him (verses 1-3).
- God's actions are motivated by His care for the poor and needy, bringing judgment on the ruthless and powerful (verses 4-5).
- On Mount Zion, God will offer a feast for all peoples, removing death and wiping away tears (verses 6-8).
- The condition for receiving salvation is waiting on the Lord with confident anticipation and refusing to rely on self-effort (verse 9).
- This trust is contrasted with Moab's pride and self-reliance, leading to their downfall (verses 10-12).
- God's grace is available to all, but receiving it requires acknowledging His rightful place as Lord and surrendering self-sufficiency.

#### **Important Quotes:**

- "The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants, for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant." (24:5)
- "They lift up their voices, they sing for joy over the majesty of the Lord." (24:14)
- "The Lord of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders." (24:23)
- "This is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." (25:9)
- "For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain, and Moab shall be trampled down in his place, as straw is trampled down in the water of the dunghill." (25:10)

**Oswalt's Insights:**

- Oswalt emphasizes the importance of understanding cause and effect in biblical interpretation. He notes that the Bible consistently connects human actions with their consequences.
- He highlights the contrast between false joy rooted in self-indulgence and true joy found in God's presence and power.
- Oswalt explains the Hebrew concept of "waiting on the Lord" as involving not just passive waiting but an active trust and a refusal to take matters into one's own hands.
- He stresses that while God offers salvation to all, accepting it requires a posture of humility and dependence, recognizing our limitations as creatures.

This briefing document provides a concise overview of the main themes and key ideas presented in Oswalt's lecture on Isaiah chapters 24-25. It aims to illuminate the interconnectedness of judgment and salvation, the consequences of human transgression, and the hope offered to those who choose to trust in the Lord.

## 4. Isaiah Study Guide: Session 12, Isaiah 24-25

### Isaiah 24-25: Judgment and Salvation

#### Key Themes

- **Divine Sovereignty:** Chapters 24-25 emphasize God's absolute control over history. He is not merely reacting to human events; He is the ultimate actor, orchestrating events to fulfill His purposes.
- **Human Responsibility:** Despite God's sovereignty, humanity is held accountable for its actions. The widespread judgment depicted in chapter 24 is a direct consequence of humanity's rebellion against God's instructions (Torah) and the violation of His covenant.
- **Universal Judgment and Salvation:** The scope of both judgment and salvation is universal. While chapter 24 depicts a global catastrophe, chapter 25 proclaims that God's salvation extends to all people, offering a future where death is defeated, and tears are wiped away.
- **The Importance of Trust:** True joy and security are found in trusting in Yahweh and waiting for His deliverance. This contrasts with the false joy of forgetfulness through drunkenness and the self-reliance that leads to destruction, exemplified by Moab's fate.

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. Who is identified as the primary actor in the events described in Isaiah 24?
2. What is the primary cause of the earth's desolation and mourning in Isaiah 24?
3. How does Isaiah 24:13 use the imagery of an olive tree and grape harvest to depict the extent of judgment?
4. What are the two contrasting types of singing depicted in Isaiah 24?
5. What is the significance of the phrase "Lord of Hosts" in Isaiah 24:23?
6. What does Isaiah 25:2 identify as the consequence of God's judgment on the fortified city?
7. How does Isaiah 25:6-8 describe the extent of God's salvation?

8. What is the nature of the salvation offered by God in Isaiah 25? What specific elements of this salvation are mentioned?
9. Explain the meaning of the Hebrew words "baza," "kava," and "haka" and their connection to the concept of trust in God.
10. What condition must be met for individuals to receive God's life and salvation, as suggested in Isaiah 25?

### **Answer Key**

1. Yahweh, the Lord, is the primary actor in Isaiah 24. The text repeatedly emphasizes His actions in emptying the earth, bringing desolation, and enacting judgment.
2. Humanity's transgression against God's laws, violation of His statutes, and breaking of the everlasting covenant are the primary causes of the earth's suffering in Isaiah 24.
3. The imagery of leftover olives and withered grapes after the harvest illustrates the thoroughness of God's judgment. Only a few remnants will remain after the vast majority have been swept away.
4. Isaiah 24 contrasts the false, fleeting joy of singing fueled by drunkenness (vv. 7-9) with the true joy of singing in praise of God's majesty and His victory over enemies (vv. 14-16).
5. "Lord of Hosts" signifies God's universal power and authority. He commands all the armies of heaven, including the stars, which pagans worshiped as deities. This emphasizes God's control over the entire cosmos.
6. The destruction of the fortified city in Isaiah 25:2 leads to other strong people and cities of ruthless nations recognizing and fearing Yahweh. God's judgment on the wicked serves as a warning and a call to repentance for others.
7. Isaiah 25:6-8 describes God's salvation as encompassing all peoples and nations. The feast on this mountain will be for all people, the veil covering all nations will be removed, and tears will be wiped from all faces.
8. God's salvation involves the removal of death, the wiping away of tears, and the ultimate defeat of all that causes suffering. It is a comprehensive deliverance that addresses the deepest human longings for wholeness and eternal life.

9. "Baza" is translated as trust. "Kava" and "haka" are translated as weight, but they also convey a sense of confident expectation and reliance on God. These words suggest an active trust in God's timing and plan, a refusal to seek solutions outside of His will.
10. The condition for receiving God's salvation in Isaiah 25 is trust and self-denial. This contrasts with the pride and self-reliance of Moab, which leads to destruction. True life is found in surrendering to God and acknowledging His sovereignty.

### Essay Questions

1. Analyze the tension between divine sovereignty and human responsibility as presented in Isaiah 24-25. How does Isaiah reconcile these seemingly opposing concepts?
2. Explore the use of imagery and symbolism in Isaiah 24-25, focusing on elements such as the desolate city, the two types of singing, and the feast on the mountain. What theological truths do these images convey?
3. How does the portrayal of Moab's fate in Isaiah 25 relate to the broader themes of judgment and salvation? What warning does Moab's destruction offer, and how does it contrast with the hope offered to those who trust in Yahweh?
4. Discuss the significance of the emphasis on waiting and trusting in God as central elements of faithful living. How do these themes connect to the call to discipleship and the challenges faced by those seeking to follow God?
5. Compare and contrast the depiction of God's judgment and salvation in Isaiah 24-25 with other biblical texts that address these themes. How does Isaiah's presentation contribute to a broader understanding of God's character and His plan for humanity?

### Glossary of Key Terms

- **Torah:** Hebrew word meaning "instruction" or "law." It refers to God's instructions for living, encompassing moral and ritual guidelines given to Israel.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement between God and His people, often involving promises and obligations on both sides. The breaking of this covenant is presented as a primary reason for judgment.

- **Lord of Hosts:** A name for God emphasizing His absolute power and authority over all creation, including the armies of heaven.
- **Mount Zion:** The hill in Jerusalem where the temple was located, symbolizing God's presence and the center of His rule.
- **Kavod:** Hebrew word for "glory," also conveying the ideas of weight, significance, and reality. It highlights God's inherent worthiness and the manifestation of His presence.
- **Baza/Kava/Haka:** Hebrew words related to the concepts of trust, weight, and confident expectation. They suggest a deep reliance on God's timing and provision.
- **Moab:** A neighboring nation of Israel, often presented as an example of pride and opposition to God. Moab's destruction serves as a warning against self-reliance and arrogance.



## **5. FAQs on Oswalt, Isaiah, Session 12, Isaiah 24-25, Biblelearning.org (BeL)**

### **FAQ: Isaiah Chapters 24-25**

#### **1. What is the main message of Isaiah Chapter 24?**

Isaiah 24 emphasizes God's sovereignty over history and the consequences of human sin. It portrays a universal judgment upon the earth due to humanity's transgression against God's laws and covenants. This judgment is depicted through vivid apocalyptic imagery, showcasing the destruction and desolation that result from rejecting God's ways.

#### **2. Does Isaiah 24 suggest that God is simply reacting to human choices?**

No, the chapter clearly presents God as the primary actor on the stage of history. He is not merely responding to human decisions but is actively carrying out his plans and purposes, demonstrating his ultimate control over events.

#### **3. What is the significance of the contrast between the two types of singing in Isaiah 24?**

The contrast highlights the difference between false joy and true joy. The first type of singing is fueled by wine and escapism, a fleeting pleasure that ultimately leads to sorrow. The second type of singing arises from recognizing and praising God's majesty, a source of lasting and genuine happiness.

#### **4. How does Isaiah 24 connect with the theme of God's vision in Isaiah?**

Similar to Isaiah's personal encounter with God's holiness in chapter 6, chapters 24 and 25 depict a vision of God's power and judgment that extends to the entire world. This vision emphasizes God's universal sovereignty and the need for all people to acknowledge his authority.

#### **5. What is the central theme of Isaiah Chapter 25?**

Isaiah 25 focuses on the universality of both God's judgment and his salvation. While the chapter acknowledges the devastating consequences of sin, it also proclaims the hope of God's ultimate victory over death and the promise of a future where all nations will worship him.

**6. What is the nature of the salvation offered in Isaiah 25?**

God's salvation is depicted as a complete and utter triumph over death itself. He will remove the veil of sin and suffering that covers all humanity, wiping away tears and offering a future filled with joy and eternal life.

**7. What is the condition for receiving God's salvation according to Isaiah 25?**

The key condition is waiting for the Lord with trust and humility. This involves recognizing our dependence on God, surrendering our own self-sufficiency, and patiently anticipating his deliverance in his own time and way.

**8. How does the fate of Moab in Isaiah 25 relate to God's offer of grace?**

Moab's destruction serves as a stark warning against pride and self-reliance. While God extends his grace to all, those who reject his offer and insist on their own way will face the consequences of their choices. This underscores that God's grace does not negate his justice.