

Paul's Quote From Isaiah Shows When The Rapture Happens

By Robert I. Adams

In this article, we are going to focus on a quote from the book of Isaiah that the apostle Paul used when he taught about the end time. We find this quote at the end of the following passage in 1 Corinthians 15:

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (vv.51-54)

In context, Paul is writing about the resurrection of the dead in Christ, as well as the changing of the bodies of believers who are alive when Jesus comes at the sounding of the last trumpet. These events are connected to the catching up of the believers to meet Jesus in the air (cf. 1 Thess. 4:16, 17). Paul says that when all this happens a prophecy from the Scriptures will be fulfilled. The prophecy reads, "Death is swallowed up in victory." Here, Paul is quoting from Isaiah 25:8. This text is not an isolated one, but has a clear context that shows when this prophecy will be fulfilled in the end time.

We pick up the context in Isaiah 24:

"The earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut." (vv.19, 20)

This can be related to the worldwide earthquake that Revelation 16 speaks of:

"... and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell." (vv. 18, 19)

Isaiah 24 goes on to say: "It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth" (v.21).

This will be fulfilled the day Jesus comes back and punishes Satan, his demons, and the kings of the earth. Revelation 19 speaks of "the kings of the earth" being killed when Jesus returns (v.17-21), and Revelation 20 goes on to say that Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit (vv.1-3). Revelation 18:1&2 indicate that also the demons will be imprisoned at that time.

In the last verse in Isaiah 24, it says, "Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before His elders, gloriously" (v.23).

This speaks of the signs in the sun and moon that are followed by the coming of Jesus to reign on the earth from Jerusalem. In Matthew 24, Jesus said, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days *the sun* will be darkened, and *the moon* will not give its light . . . and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great

sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect" (vv. 29-31). After telling some parables about His return, Jesus went on to say, "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory" (Matt. 25:31).

Following immediately after the coming of Jesus to earth at the very end of Isaiah 24, Isaiah 25 begins with the people of God praising Him for His mighty deeds and help in the time of distress that is now over. Here, we should note that chapter divisions were invented in the thirteenth century A.D. and should therefore be ignored here in order to preserve the context.

Isaiah 25:1 says, "O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things."

In verse 2, it says, "For You have made a city a ruin . . . It will never be rebuilt." This appears to be a reference to the destruction of the city mentioned in Revelation 18, where it says, "Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate" (v.19). That it never will be rebuilt can be seen in verse 21, where an angel says, "the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."

Then in verse 8 in Isaiah 25, it says, "*He will swallow up death forever*, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth."

Here, we see that the context of the Scripture that Paul quotes is at the return of Jesus after the great tribulation. Paul is obviously very well aware of the context. He is therefore saying that the resurrection of the dead in Christ, as well as the changing of the bodies of believers who are alive will happen at the sounding of the last trumpet when Jesus comes after the great tribulation. Thus, the catching up of the believers to meet Jesus in the air, that these events are closely related to, will happen after the great tribulation.

In case you have some queries about this, I have compiled answers to the most frequently asked questions about the Bible's teaching on the return of Jesus in my book "The Approaching Apocalypse" (also available in e-book format). You are welcome to look at it at [Amazon](#).

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