God's Justice and the Totality of His Judgment

Text: Isaiah 24:19-23

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"Justice is a term used for what is right or "as it should be." Justice is one of God's attributes and flows out of His holiness. Justice and righteousness are often used synonymously in the Bible. Since righteousness is the quality or character of being right or just, it is another attribute of God and incorporates both His justice and holiness" (https://www.gotquestions.org/God-of-justice.html).

God's perfect justice demands that man's transgression to His laws be judged comprehensively.

Truth: God's justice will reveal both the totality of His judgment but also the totality of His glory.

I. God's justice means there is a standard to which mankind is held, and His perfect standard will be completely upheld (Isa. 24:19-20).

Broken - to smash, shatter, to break up and pictures pieces of the earth breaking off.

Clean dissolved - *to something being split apart, to divide* and were used in Psalm 74:13 to describe God dividing the sea by His strength.

Moved exceedingly – to totter, to stagger or shake, to topple. This refers to a great and violent shaking of the earth.

In God's judgment there is a great climatic ending where the world is shattered, shredded, and shaken.

Why is the earth shaken? The earth that is utterly broken, split apart, and shaken violently staggers under the weight of the people's sins. The transgression of God's laws, the altering of God's statutes, and the breaking of God's eternal covenant weigh heavily "upon the earth that it cannot bear the weight" (Hailey 202). The great proof that God's justice is right, His judgment is warranted, and His perfect standard justified is that man's sin will be both judged and fall under its own weight.

God will have enough and no longer endure or condone the breaking of His laws. "Judgment will come because of **guilt** (cf. 24:6), the guilt of the whole world in rebelling against God".¹ That weight will be too much for anyone to carry; thus they will not survive under the weight of it.

II. God's justice rests in the character of the Messiah, and He is the Person we must trust in to fulfill God's perfect plan (Isa. 24:21).

Isaiah then says that the Lord will punish the *host of the high ones* which refers to those demonic forces which through pride have influenced earthly rulers to turn against God and His laws. These forces are responsible for the spiritual wickedness raining down on mankind since Gen. 3.

God will also punish the earthly rulers as they too will be under His judgment.

¹ Martin, J. A. (1985). <u>Isaiah</u>. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1072). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

III. God's justice means evil will be defeated and His glory fully displayed (Isa. 24:22-23).

Satan's judgment and defeat were finalized on the cross (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Gen. 3:15; Heb. 2:14; I John 5:5).

Satan is defeated by the Lord Jesus and cast in the abyss (Rev. 20:1-3) which is called *his prison* in verse 7.

God's judgment shook the entire world to the point that the powers of this world, the prince of the power of the air and his forces will not be able to rise again (v. 20). While the time today is replete with the believer and demonic forces doing spiritual battle, the final outcome has been won. We wrestle from position of victory wrought at the cross by the Son of God. For now the enemies continue to hurl their destructive darts.

Those that are safe in this calamity find their hope in the glorious Branch. Those that have trusted in the glorious Branch will find peace, righteousness, and security in the Messiah. God's justice then demonstrates that evil will be abolished and His glory will be the center of attention.

When compared to the sun and moon, the light of the glory of God will cause those heavenly bodies to be ashamed and dismayed. In this we find that all of God's creations are obedient to the Creator. God's glorious reign in Mt Zion and Jerusalem will demonstrate once and for all that He will reign over the kingdom and in great splendor.

Conclusion

These verses show that evil will not win. These verses show God's justice is true. These verses prove that God's glory will display itself in totality. Therefore, we can say that God can be trusted, sin will be defeated, and God will reign eternally.