

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## **Death And Resurrection Of Tyre And Earth Ruined**

**Isaiah 23, 24**

**Lesson Twenty-Six**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## **Death And Resurrection Of Tyre and Sidon, And Earth Ruined**

In the twenty-third chapter of Isaiah, we hear God talking about a new place. Tyre and her sister city, Sidon, were on the northern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. They were called Phoenicians by the Greeks and Canaanites by the Hebrews. Actually those two names mean the same thing: purple or purple die. These folks took purple from shell fish and made it into die. It was very valuable and could be afforded only by kings and other noblemen. Actually, in the day of Isaiah, the Phoenicians had a corner on the market. Tyre is currently in Lebanon, and in recent years has been the site of much military action related to the Israel/Arab wars.

The oracle which begins with the first verse of Isaiah 23 is addressed to Tyre. Tyre had become the major city of the Phoenicians. The wall protecting the city was 150 feet high. Sidon was once the major city. Actually, the people of the nation had been called Sidonites. God is telling the people of Tyre, all the Phoenicians, about the coming destruction of Tyre.

The ships of Tarshish are spoken of. The Phoenicians had established trade routes all around the Mediterranean Sea. Many of these trade routes called for shipping metal (sometimes called tarshish) that had been melted and shaped in plants in these distant cities, several of which were called Tarshish. They also shipped grain, especially from Egypt. So, the Phoenicians had become the greatest shipping power in the world. The news of their destruction sent a shockwave all around the Mediterranean Sea. Many see this destruction to have been by the Babylonians (Chaldeans), led by Nebuchadnezzar (Neb-u-kad-nEz'-zar). Read Isaiah 23:1-12.

Verse nine tells us that the reason for the destruction of Tyre was their pride. We have heard Isaiah preach against pride in previous chapters and we will hear it again. The Phoenicians believed that they were totally self-sufficient and didn't need anyone else, even God.

The people of Tyre and Sidon are encouraged to evacuate. The ships would come home and find the seaport in ruins. The people who had once been part of a thriving nation would now be homeless. Read Isaiah 23:14, 17, 18.

The nation would be dormant for seventy years, or the equivalent of the life-span of a king. After that they would recover, but would have to go to other nations and sell their goods and services to those other nations. Tyre did come back to some degree, but they never became the power that they once were.

Some see the last verse as referring to the last days when Jesus will reign on earth.

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In the twenty-fourth chapter, we find a description of a general destruction of what was the world of that day. In this chapter the word earth occurs sixteen times. Read Isaiah 24:1-3.

We have here the picture of a world totally ruined. For another version of this picture, see Jeremiah 4:23-31. And, just in case there is any doubt, the end of verse three assures us that “the Lord has spoken this word.” Many Bible scholars argue that earth here, better translated land, means Israel. Others insist that the prophesy is about all the earth. Either way, those to whom he wrote would understand that God judges those who do not live up to His covenant. (Verse 5) Remember that God made an agreement with Abraham and all the people of Israel that if they would follow His laws, He would be their God and protector. They would be truly blessed.

When people don't follow God's laws and don't respect His agreements, He must bring justice. The words here are words of housecleaning. The whole earth is polluted, or poisoned, by human sin. The first verse makes it sound like God is going to shake out the sin of the world like one would shake the dirt out of a rug. Everyone will be treated exactly the same. Kings, priests, servants and everyone else will be judged.

There will be no joy, no partying, no singing, but there will be tears. It doesn't look good at all. Judgment is destructive and when God does it, it is terrible and final. Read Isaiah 24:4-6

In verse fourteen, there is singing, in verse fifteen they give glory to the Lord. But, verse sixteen shows the prophet mourning because the people are faking their praise.

The end of the chapter seems to shift to the last days of the world. Terrible things take place. The world shakes and becomes like it is broken up. God will punish the stars and the kings of the earth. Punishing the stars is about those who worship the stars instead of God. Even the sun and the moon will take notice and bow their heads in shame. Read Isaiah 24:19-22

This is the end of the world. It is a terrible picture. However, there is hope. God will send a new ruler who will sit on a throne in Mount Zion (Jerusalem). He will organize and reign over the new earth. He will show the world the glory of God. That promise is as true today as it was when Isaiah wrote it down.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

**Scripture Memory:** “Therefore in the east give glory to the Lord; exalt the name of the Lord, the God of Israel in the islands of the sea. Isaiah 24:15

**Lesson Goal:** To give students a more specific picture of God's judgment and His grace.

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## Student Worksheet

### **Death And Resurrection Of Tyre— And Earth Ruined Isaiah 23, 24**

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. What do the names Phoenicians and Canaanites mean?
2. What was the reason for the destruction of Tyre?
3. How long would Tyre be “dormant?”
4. What was Isaiah talking about when he referred to God’s covenant (agreements)?
5. When people don’t follow God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and don’t respect His \_\_\_\_\_, He must bring \_\_\_\_\_.
6. In the last days of the world. Terrible things take place. God will punish the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth. Punishing the stars is about those who \_\_\_\_\_ the stars, instead of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scripture Memory:** “Therefore in the east give glory to the Lord; exalt the name of the Lord, the God of Israel in the islands of the sea. Isaiah 24:15

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.