

Isaiah Chapters 34-35 Summary - John Karmelich

Title: Why God will end the world (as we know it) the way He plans too!

As a Bible student, I'm fascinated by the question, why does God choose to end the world the way He's picked? God could just announce "it ends now", and that is that! It dawned on me a long time ago that the Revelation "show" wasn't Satan's idea, as he desires to reign on earth as long as possible. Only God decides when to end the world again as we know it! The way He picked makes it obvious to the world it's a wrap! It leads back to my opening question, why this horrible method? Today's Revelation 16 (in my devotional time). It reminded me most people will refuse to repent when the "Revelation Show" is occurring despite all that horrible judgment! God's choosing this method to show that despite the worst possible set of things to go wrong, most people will still refuse to trust in Jesus for their salvation!

OK John, most of us have read Revelation! We know the world (as we know it) will end badly in a day only God knows! Why bring that up in a study of Isaiah? That's because Chapter 34 is in effect, what's written in Revelation in one chapter! Isaiah's preaching to the world "doom is coming, prepare"! Then Chapter 35 gives a wonderful message about life in Israel after all that is over. Why would Isaiah state all that 2,700 years ago if it hadn't happened yet? The short-term point was Israel was scared as they're dealing with the threat of being conquered by the Assyrian Empire (big at that time) and Isaiah wanted to assure them who will really win in the end! The point for you and me, is as I like to preach, "If they won't listen to Jesus, give them Moses!" A reference to the idea that if people won't accept the free gift of salvation, they need to understand the consequences of turning from God and what'll happen to them for ignoring that free gift! Bottom line, Isaiah Chapter 34's a "doom and gloom" section about ignoring God's promise to turn to Him by grace! Chapter 35 is about the eternal benefit we'll experience as one who accepts that gift! OK then, time for details!

First remember there are no chapter numbers in the original text. These two chapters end a section that the prophet Isaiah gives to Israel and to the world of what's coming. I also need to state for newcomers that prophecy is usually in patterns. That just means there is often a short-term fulfillment to validate a prophet as being from God (predictions from outside of time and space as we know it) plus a long-term fulfillment that is future to us even 2,700 years after it was written. With all that out of my system, the first thing Isaiah says here is He (God) desires all nations hear his message. That also means Isaiah was meant to be studied for this time! It amazes me the greatest discovery among the Dead Sea Scrolls was a complete copy of Isaiah, identical to what we've had all these years. Those scroll and fragments were discovered less than 100 years ago and dates to roughly Jesus' day!

With all that understood, Isaiah states that he desires all nations hear "Chapter 34". In short, he's saying God is angry with all nations and will wrap the world up one day! That leads to the big question, "Why wait 2,700 years and counting"? For starters none of us would be alive to appreciate it otherwise! Next, we must remember God is waiting patiently as the "church" is a special subset of people in heaven, and He is waiting for that final number (only God the Father knows what that is) before the wrap up party's beginning (in effect the "Revelation stuff")! Remember the short-term reason was Israel was scared of being conquered by the growing Assyrian Empire at that moment. That empire (based out of Iraq) did conquer the Northern Kingdom and the Southern one (who Isaiah's writing to) was nervous. Therefore, God wants to assure the Israelites the world will end "His Way on His Timing", and those who trust in Him will get to be with Him forever (that's what Chapter 35 is all about)!

Meanwhile Isaiah is describing world-wide destruction again like a mini "Revelation". Things like the death of multitudes being slain and blood being spilled! One of the end times things that fascinates me is that when Jesus returns, He will be a "warrior covered in blood" (victorious). Chapter 34 emphasizes a destruction of Edom (Part of Jordan today and a historical enemy of Israel). In effect, Edom's used as an example of world-wide destruction in this chapter! Even with the emphasis on Edom, Isaiah makes it clear this is a world-wide destruction issue! He even describes the "heavens rolling up". I think that simply means the world as we know it including seeing the stars disappear when God says so! That is a key reason I'm not an "environmental doomsdayer" as the world will end only when He says so!

The last half the chapter is about visible signs to know when this happens. Isaiah describes the land of Edom (part of Jordan today) as being only a place where only wild animals will live there when all that future destruction takes place! Isaiah's emphasizing the world will know God does all this by staring at the land of Edom, and its lack of people then! (Isaiah will talk about this more in Chapter 63. Jeremiah also has references to Edom's destruction.) The underlying point isn't an end time summary as much as a reminder for us to be a witness for Jesus, even though it's been 2,700 years! Realize 30% of the bible is predictions, many of which have come true, so we can count on His word as truth, so use our time as a witness for Him as whether we like it or not, it's going to happen one day!

OK, that's enough of the "bad stuff". Obviously, you're welcome to read the text to study the details of what's to come one day. Time for the good news: Chapter 35. No matter how long we get to live, that's "nothing" compared to eternity. Whether we like it or not God is in charge, and this is His eternal plan, for us to live forever with Him ruling the world forever from Jerusalem. Not just 1,000 years, but He'll rule for eternity! Isaiah's point is God wants us to use our lives as a witness for Him because that's how He desires we live! This chapter (35) describes what's the reward for using our lives for Him! To sum all this up, Chapter 34's a summary of a destiny for those who refuse to give their lives to Jesus, and 35 summarizes the reward for those of us who do trust Jesus to guide our lives!

Chapter 35 describes the land of Israel as being a glorious place. When the Israelites first came back to that land (relatively modern times) they worked hard as it became swampland! Israel today produces a lot of the fruit and flowers sold all over Europe! Isaiah hints of this in to start this chapter. Then there are a few verses about those who lost eyesight, hearing or can't walk. Isaiah talks about their healing. I realize people who suffer from such tough things see this as a "pipe dream"! Obviously, that does NOT MEAN we should kill ourselves for a better life "then"! God wants us to use our lives as a witness for Him, despite all the problems we deal with! The end of this life should always be His timing. I'm just saying we should make the best decisions we can and ask God to be in control of our lives and how we should use them!

With that said, the last part of this chapter describes a highway that leads to where Jesus will rule from Jerusalem. The point being is He will be easy to find, and it'll be safe to travel there. The text states it (the highway) will be free from danger (no wild animals) and I suspect angels will direct traffic! Keep in mind what God desires of us, a relationship with Him! This place won't just be for Israelites, but for all who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus. If you don't know, I believe when we get new bodies after we die, we'll exist in more than three dimensions. That's how we will be able to approach Jesus on this highway and not worry about say traffic let alone wild animals. That gets back to what God desires of us, a relationship with Him. That is why God wants us to be a witness for Him in this life and then we get the privilege of drawing close to Him for eternity.

OK John, you must admit this DOES sound like a "pipe dream"! Again, that's why 30% of the bible is a big set of predictions. Those predictions have a 100% accuracy fulfillment rate to date. Many of the

predictions by the prophets have come true already. My point being is if we can trust God with all the predictions that came true so far, we can trust Him for the future, including the bad stuff of Revelation, and the glorious future of trusting God after that's over with!

With that said, hope you like this study. I wrote a more detailed one some years back. If you want to read that, click on one of the links below. It is still a joy to study this stuff and again I'm grateful for you reading this. The rest of this email is links to questions you may have. If you're new here, realize you're always welcome to e-mail me. Thanks again for reading this!

You can read the EXACT SAME FILE by either clicking on

Option #1:

biblestudyemail.com/karmelich_isaiah/Isaiah_Chapters_34-35.htm

OR

Option #2 Reading the same file in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) Format:

biblestudyemail.com/karmelich_isaiah/Isaiah_Chapters_34-35.pdf

Personally, I prefer reading options #2. It is easiest on the eyes.

That's it. Hope you enjoy it. Don't forget to fire up a prayer prior to your reading.