

“The earth will be completely emptied and looted. The Lord has spoken!” Isaiah 24:3 NLT

[lectio] // ISAIAH 24:1-16a

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

Isaiah, and other prophets, are given the responsibility to speak God's words to the leaders and the people. Their task is incredibly hard because much of what they bring is bad news, warnings and partial pictures of the future and clear pictures of the approaching present. This chapter is filled with wars, chaos and mayhem that God says he brings for their own good (well, their sin). There are small fragments of hope, called remnants. Just enough for God to rebuild on once again. We (humanity) just can't get it right! Inevitably, we are consumed or distracted by our own selfishness and wander back to vomit. God hits a reset and the cycle starts over again - pretty pessimistic huh? This IS us! We need a permanent solution or fix to our brokenness - that points to Christ. His perfection, his ways. With Christ the cycle was broken and now puts all humanity on a path towards the final days. When the Kingdom of God will be fulfilled and God will NO LONGER have to hit a reset on humanity. We are in those days now! We are in the final laps, the earth and humanity can not sustain any permanent goodness without God. However, the "reset" wrath of God was put on Christ, so our lives must be placed in Christ, believing that his life, death and resurrection forever cleared the debt we (all of us) owed. So, yes, these words of Isaiah are depressing and terrifying, but they were intended to leave a person without hope, except in the case of God's faithfulness to resolve it himself.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

Without Christ, this passage would totally define my life! It would still be full of war (internal & external) and chaos. In my sin, my life would be complete destruction and I deserve it. Except the remnant, the sliver of hope, the promise fulfilled in the life and work of Jesus. This is so overwhelmingly sobering. My selfish, sin-spiraling cycle is ultimately broken and reset in Christ. I must believe that, otherwise there is no real hope in a future.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root