**ACHARITH AND ESCHATON**:

There seems to be a contradiction as to Israel’s lot in the last days. How can Israel be the people of God’s redemption for mankind and yet at the same time, in the same age be cast away or cast out, from among God’s people?

The answer is a remnant of Natural Jews will accept their Messiah and become God’s spiritual Israel.

The Remnant who did accept their Messiah; these are counted of God as His people Israel.

Many times, and again, the people of God (Israel) had broken their covenant with Him.

The cycle of disobedience and forgiveness seemed to be endless. It was obvious that the people would not keep the requirements of the covenant of the law. There were long periods of time when the people worshiped idols, with only the brief breakthroughs of obedience and faithfulness to God.

God was the faithful husband to His people, but they were not faithful to Him in return.

Why are they so hated throughout the world? Possibly because they do not manifest the character of their spiritual Father!

**Isaiah 1:2-10 HCSB** **Judah on trial**

**2.** “Listen, heavens, and pay attention, earth, for the LORD has spoken: I have raised children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against Me.

**3.** The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s feeding trough, but Israel does not know; My people do not understand.

**4.** Oh sinful nation, people weighted down with iniquity, brood of evildoers, depraved children! They have abandoned the LORD: they have despised the Holy One of Israel; they have turned their backs on Him.

**5.** Why do you want more beatings? Why do you keep on rebelling? The whole head is hurt, and the whole heart is sick.

**6.** From the sole of the foot even to the head, no spot is uninjured – wounds, welts, and festering sores not cleansed, bandaged, or soothed with oil.

**7**. Your land is desolate, your cities burned with fire, foreigners devour your fields before your very eyes – a desolation demolished by foreigners.

**8**. Daughter Zion is abandoned like a shelter in a vineyard, like a shack in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.

**9**. If the LORD of Hosts had not left us a few survivors, we would be like Sodom, we would resemble Gomorrah.

**10**. Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!”

**Concerning Judah:** Isaiah prophesied during the time of the divided kingdoms.

**NOTE:** The northern kingdom was known as Israel, Samaria, and Ephraim and made up of ten tribes.

The southern kingdom was known as Judah, with its capital at Jerusalem, and consisted of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin.

Both kingdoms had rebelled against the LORD, His laws and turned to heathen nations and their false gods; Judah, trusting in them to deliver her from their enemies.

The northern kingdom was captured and destroyed by Assyria in 722 B.C. Isaiah the prophet warned Judah that they too would be destroyed because of their sin and apostasy. (Hosea prophecy 785B.C.)

The opening seven verses present a parable about God, pictured as the disappointed owner of a vineyard. Verse seven points out that a fruitful people, like a fruitful vineyard, will produce righteousness and justice; qualities God longs to see in His people’s lives. The remainder of the chapter explores the human side of a rebellious vineyard and the consequences of resisting the owner, God!

**Isaiah 5:1-14 HCSB Song of the vineyard**

1. “I will sing about the one I love, a song about My loved one’s vineyard: the one I loved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
2. He broke up the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted it with the finest vines. He built a tower in the middle of it and even dug out a winepress there. He expected it to yield good grapes, but it yielded worthless grapes.
3. So now, residents of Jerusalem and men of Judah, please judge between Me and My vineyard.
4. What more could I have done for My vineyard than I did? Why, when I expected a yield of good grapes did it yield worthless grapes?
5. Now I will tell you what I am about to do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge, and it will be consumed; I will tear down its wall, and it will be trampled.
6. I will make it a wasteland. It will be not pruned or weeded; thorns and briers will grow up. I will also give orders to the clouds that rain should not fall on it.
7. For the vineyard of the LORD of Hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah, the plant He delighted in. He looked for justice but saw injustice, for righteousness, but heard cries of wretchedness.”

**NOTE:** These words are a parable demonstrating that God did everything possible to make Judah a righteous Nation. But when she failed, God destroyed His vineyard because it failed to be fruitful as desired.

Jesus used these scriptures to describe the destruction of Jerusalem as prophesied by Isaiah.

**Mt. 21:33-44 (33-34) HCSB**

**33**. “Listen to another parable: There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it to tenant farmers and went away.

**34**. When the grape harvest drew near, he sent his slaves to the farmers to collect his fruit.”

This parable pictures Israel’s rejection of God’s Son. The LORD says of Israel, the kingdom will be taken from you and given to another.

**Isaiah 5:8-14** **HCSB** **Judah’s sin renounced**

1. “Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field until there is no more room and you alone are left in the land.
2. I heard the LORD of Hosts say: Indeed, many houses will become desolate, grand and lovely ones without inhabitants.
3. . For a ten-acre vineyard will yield only six gallons, and ten bushels of seed will yield only one bushel.
4. . Woe to those who rise early in the morning in pursuit of beer, who linger into the evening, inflamed by wine.
5. . At their feasts they have lyre, harp, tambourine, flute, and wine. They do not perceive the LORD’S actions, and they do not see the work of His hands.

**13.** Therefore My people will go into exile because they lack knowledge; her dignitaries are starving, and her masses are parched with thirst.

**14.** Therefore hell enlarges its throat and opens wide its enormous jaws, and down go Zion’s dignitaries, her masses, her crowds, and those who carouse in her!”

Woe unto them!

**Six woes are pronounced upon Judah for the many sins practiced:**

**Isaiah chapter five:**

1. Selfish greed - **v 8**
2. Drunken conduct - **vs 11-12**
3. Mockery at God’s power to judge their sin - **vs 18-19**
4. Distortion of God’s moral standards - **v 20**
5. Arrogance and pride - **v 21**
6. Perversion of justice - **vs 22-23**

**Jesus also pronounced woes on the religious:**

Here we read that though the religious leaders had been silenced, Jesus was not finished with them. He warned the disciples and the multitudes about their toxic teachings. He pronounced woes upon them for their hypocrisy.

**Mt. 23:13-36 HCSB Seven woes**

Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites:

1. Shutting people out of the kingdom
2. Creating false disciples like themselves
3. Teaching false doctrine
4. Ignoring justice, mercy, and faith
5. Cleansing the outside but ignoring the heart
6. Pretending to be more righteous than their forefathers
7. Committing the same sins as their forefathers

**Isaiah 10:20-23 HCSB**

**20.** “On that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no longer depend on the one who struck them, but they will faithfully depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

**21**. The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God.

**22.** Israel, even if your people were as numerous as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction has been decreed; justice overflows.

**23.** For throughout the land the LORD God of Hosts is carrying out a destruction that was decreed.”

**The apostle Paul writes these words:**

**Romans 9:27-29 HCSB God’s election of true Israel**

**27**. “But Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: Though the number of Israel’s sons is like the sand of the sea, only the remnant will be saved;

**28**. For the LORD will execute His sentence completely and decisively on the earth.

**29**. And just as Isaiah predicted: If the LORD of Hosts had not left us offspring, we would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah.”

**NOTE:** Although salvation is apart from the law, through faith in Christ who fulfilled the law on our behalf, God has not rejected Israel. The true Israel consists not of natural Israel’s children but of those who are adopted through faith in Jesus Christ, some Jew and Gentile alike.

It is the remnant in Christ, and together with all the elect in Christ out of the nations who are grafted in among them that make up that “ALL ISRAEL” that shall be saved.

**Ro. 9:6-8 HCSB**

**6**. “But it is not as though the Word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.

**7.** Neither are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants. On the contrary, your offspring will be traced through Isaac.

**8.** That is, it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but the children of the promise are considered to be the offspring.”

**Ro. 11:26 HCSB All remnant to be saved**

**26.** “And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Liberator will come from Zion; He will turn away godlessness from Jacob.”

**NOTE:** The flesh descendants are called Israel as a surname or national designation. The name carries no blessing to those who reject the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

**Isaiah 65:15 HCSB**

**15.** “You will leave your name behind as a curse for My chosen ones, and the LORD GOD will kill you; but He will give His servants another name.”

**NOTE:** Although God would judge Israel, He would also save a remnant of true believers who would return to the land and carry on His redemptive mission in the world. They would experience His joy and blessings.

**St. Mt. 3:7-10 HCSB**

**7.** “When He saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to the place of His baptism, He said to them, brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

**8.** Therefore, produce fruit consistent with repentance.

**9.** And don’t presume to say to yourselves, we have Abraham as our father. For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones!

**10.** Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees! Therefore, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

**NOTE:** Pharisees and Sadducees were two of the most prominent religious groups in Judaism.

They adhered to the Law of the Old Testament and their human interpretation for obeying as the means to salvation.

They taught that the coming Messiah would be an earthly ruler who would help Israel dominate the nations and force all people to obey God’s Law.

However, their religion was outward in form with no inward godliness of heart and they refused to recognize the depravity of their own nature.

By and large they opposed Jesus and His message that religion is a matter of the heart and spirit, and not simply a legalistic obedience to the commandments of Scripture.

**St. Jn. 8:21-24, 37-47 HCSB**

**21.** “Then He said to them again, I’m going away; you will look for Me, and you will die in your sin. Where I’m going you cannot come.

**22.** So the Jews said again, He won’t kill Himself, will He, since He says, Where I’m going, you cannot come?

**23.** You are from below, He told them, I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

**24.** Therefore I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

**37.** “I know you are descendants of Abraham, but you are trying to kill Me because My word is not welcome among you.

**38.** I speak what I have seen in the presence of the Father; therefore, you do what you have heard from your father**.**

**39.** Our father is Abraham! They replied. If you were Abraham’s children, Jesus told them, you would do what Abraham did.

**40.** But now you are trying to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this!

**41.** You are doing what your father does. We were not born of sexual immorality, they said. We have one Father – God.

**42.** Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I came from God and I am here. For I didn’t come on My own, but He sent Me.

**43.** Why don’t you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to My word.

**44.** You are of your father the Devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of liars.

**45.** Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

**46.** Who among you can convict Me of sin? If I tell the truth, why don’t you believe Me?

**47.** The one who is from God listens to God’s words. This is why you don’t listen, because you are not from God.”

**NOTE:** Peter draws on the witness of the prophets who foretold the suffering of Christ. He quotes Moses, who spoke of a prophet like himself from among the Jews. The crucified, risen, and ascended Jesus has fulfilled this role perfectly as God’s anointed Servant sent to atone for humans.

**Acts 3:22-23 HCSB Peter preaching confirms prophecy**

**22.** “Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to Him in everything He will say to you.

**23**. And everyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from the people**.”**

**NOTE:** All these are warnings to flesh Israel. There are two; one Israel of the flesh, earthly, clinging to earthly Jerusalem and to the Law; and the other Israel that is from the Heavenly Jerusalem, born from above, elect as was Isaac, who are in Christ and are sole heirs of the promised inheritance.