

## “Pollution as a Symbol of Sin” Isaiah 24:1-23

**Context:** Chapters twenty-four through twenty-seven of Isaiah disclose the culmination of God’s judgment and are sometimes referred to as “Isaiah’s Apocalypse.” Whereas earlier chapters addressed specific nations, these chapters tend to emphasize the inhabitants of the earth as a whole. The chapters are set in profound contrast to the “Immanuel Chapters” that describe Messiah and His remnant, who receive only brief mention until chapter twenty-seven. The Day of the Lord, His final judgment, and the scoffers’ ultimate punishment are clearly proclaimed as a warning. No foundation will preserve humanity save one, “the tested stone of Zion,” Jesus Christ. **Life Principle:** Your care for God’s creation symbolizes your care for God’s glory (cf. Psalm 19; Romans 8:19ff).

### 1. Pollution’s root – Isaiah 24:1-6

The Lord so utterly demolishes the earth that it is emptied of any recognizable pollution from humanity. God’s judgment results from humanity’s self-exalting adulteration of the creation of which God made them stewards. The cursed fall is realized in the cursed end, yet the remnant escapes as promised (cf. Genesis 3:17, 15, 21).

### 2. Pollution’s curse – Isaiah 24:7-23

An account of an utterly mournful silencing of the revelers in contrast with the jubilation of the once persecuted remnant is disclosed. No one under judgment escapes, neither the treacherous of earth nor the powers in the heavens. “They all fall down.” Playing on the word “heaviness” for “glory,” Isaiah describes the complete extent of God-given stewardship. This explains the reason that God brings the judgment of annihilation to the entire cosmos. God’s glory is established in a new order where only His remnant is preserved to sing songs of emancipation, glory, and praise.

### Study questions:

- Isaiah has used the ‘Day of the Lord’ before in a technical sense to designate “the sudden, visible return of Jesus Christ” (see footnotes 1-4 ‘**On Last Things**’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at [www.gracepointfellowship.org](http://www.gracepointfellowship.org) - see also Isaiah 13:6,9). After studying the texts of these four footnotes, what day is specified? What are the signs that ‘the day’ is coming (cf. Matthew 24:10ff; 2 Thessalonians 2:2ff; 1 Thessalonians 5:2ff; 2 Peter 3:10)? What are you as one of the ‘remnant’ to be doing while waiting for that day?
- Isaiah 24:1-6 explains the devastation brought by God and the reason for it. It does not give explicit detail as to what that reason looks like. As a **Bible study method**, look up the meaning of pollution (*TWOT#696c*). How is that idea related to “forgetting God” from the last study? How does pollution relate to the sins of verse 5? Look up the use of “pollution” in the Old Testament using a concordance. How is the pollution of the earth described (cf. Numbers 35:33ff)? How is the pollution of the soul described (cf. Jeremiah 3:1ff)? Using these ideas, answer this question: What pollution do you see about you and in your life?
- In Isaiah 24:21, the hosts of the heavens are judged and punished. Who are they and why are they punished (cf. Genesis 3:1; Job 1:6; Matthew 8:29; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 12:9; 20:1ff)? How do they pollute creation?

### Transformation exercise:

Reflect on Psalm 19 and Isaiah 24:5. God’s intention for the heavens and the earth was to declare His glory. Identify one pollutant in your life that defiles God’s glory and replace it with an alternative that declares His glory.