# **Congratulations! You made it! This is our last class for the semester. I am grateful for Dave Shoemaker. What a gifted Bible Teacher, he is! We are blessed that he uses his gifts to teach that we might grow in our faith and faithfulness.**

# **We just celebrated Easter along with the Church around the world…and worship was filled with Hallelujahs! Christ the Lord is Risen Today! Alleluia…Ending as per our tradition with the Hallelujah Chorus! Isaiah begins and ends the final chapter of his Gospel with Judgment of the Wicked…John knows this…Turn to Rev 19. This is the only place in the New Testament where the word Hallelujah is used. Note it is repeated 4 times! Note that salvation is connected directly with the overthrow and judgment of the wicked. That God will one day intervene on behalf of his people to deliver them from the wicked is a ground of hope founded in the Justice of God.**

# **Vv.1-4 The final judgments of God upon the unrepentant**

## **The oracle is secured by the assertion that what is to follow is to be understood as God’s words, not the prophet’s. Thus, says the Lord…Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool and how the Temple is but a dim reflection, a microcosm, a symbol of the reality…but not the reality itself. See 1 Kings 8:27 and 2 Chr 6:18 as well as Stephen’s words in Acts 7:49,50.**

## **Because God has made them…they are his…to govern. But God will look only to the humble and contrite…not unlike Jesus’ words in the Beatitudes in Mt 5.**

## **Then God rails against those who worship falsely, perhaps outwardly as faithful but inwardly idolaters…further, some scholars see this as anticipation of the end of the sacrificial system. God denounces his wayward people and verse 4 sounds much like the theme from Jn 1:10,11 in the prologue of John’s Gospel.**

# **Vv.5-9 The deliverance of the faithful remnant**

## **V.5 Once again the prophet uses an oracular formula… “Hear the word of the Lord…” “Your brethren who hate you and cast you out for my name’s sake”…imagine they are serving God but in fact are serving the enemy…and shall be put to shame…because they shamed the faithful remnant…notice how the punishment must fit the crime.**

## **V.6 Notice the voice of the Lord…in the Temple…rendering judgment to his enemies…see Mk 12:1ff and 13:1ff.**

## **Vv.7-9 Notice this poetic account continues as to how God will bless his faithful ones…they will be fruitful, naturally…in v.8 we hear Second Exodus language of a ‘nation being brought forth in one moment…’The picture is of Mount Zion bringing forth children by the power of God…who rolls back the curse upon Eve in Gen 3:16.**

# **Vv.10-14 The comfort and prosperity of the Kingdom to Come**

## **Vv.10-11 Now God issues a command, an imperative…“Rejoice with Jerusalem”. Jerusalem here serves as a metonymy…that a part standing as a symbol for the whole. She is also depicted as beloved by God’s true people who respond to and recognize her as their mother.**

## **Vv.12-14 Again, God secures his words with an oracular announcement…“Thus says the Lord” …God also issues another imperative… “Look” or ‘Behold’ and God declares his promise to bless Israel by rolling back the calamities that have befallen Israel because of her covenant unfaithfulness…and once again the Promised Land will provide for all of Israel’s needs…like a mother…and that behind the fertility and productiveness of the Land is God himself providing…as a mother. See how the Apostle Paul sees himself fulfilling this role and prophecy in 2 Cor 1:3,4.**

# **Vv.15-17 The wicked will be judged to the Glory of God**

## **The wrath of God is pictured as coming in fire, associated with God’s glory or the shekinah, a theophanic appearance of God, seen in the storm, fire, fury, and wind…when God appears in glory it is Judgment Day.**

## **Those who engage in idolatry imagine that they will escape God’s judgment but they are mistaken.**

# **Vv.18-21 God glorified in Israel and Gentile converts serving as priests**

## **Just as Paul declares in Phil 2:9 “Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess” …because they will see His glory. As God’s glory is declared and manifested worldwide, human rebellion will be addressed with God’s retributive justice…nevertheless, God will rescue a portion of the Gentiles enfolding them into Israel, ordaining them as priests, who intercede for the world and serve the Lord in worship depicting God’s glory in their willing submission to Yahweh, the God of Israel…and in freely giving of their wealth to God in Jerusalem.**

# **Vv22-14 The Final Blessing and Curse**

## **The Apostle John concludes the Book of Revelation in light of this prophecy…God promises to make the world “New” through judgment…he will remove the wicked, which will affect the vindication and deliverance of the righteous…who will populate the New Heaven and New Earth…but…**

## **The wicked will die, spiritually, physically and eternally in Final Judgment…Jesus Himself quotes this final verse in Mk 9:48. Though in this life the wicked may seem to prosper and succeed. In eternity, Justice will be done.**

# **Next Year, I will be teaching what I would describe as Theological Geography in preparation for the upcoming trip to Israel and the West Bank. Often the places where things happened in the Bible, are critical to understanding what happened there and why. So, I will seek to walk through the itinerary of the trip speaking of the Biblical significance of each place in the unfolding story of God’s redemption.**