

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA
November 22, 2009
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**“The Sky Will Vanish...The Earth Will Wear Out...Its Inhabitants Will Die...But My
Salvation Shall Be Forever.”**
(Text: Isaiah 51:4-8)

Context: The prophet Isaiah was called by God to warn the children of Israel of the LORD’S coming judgment upon them for their disobedience and faithlessness toward Him.

Yet, the prophet, also, announces that God will restore and again bless them. The purpose of the children of Israel, namely to usher in the Savior of the world for all people, would still be carried out. God would refine His people, strengthen a remnant, and keep His promise to provide a world’s Savior through the nation of Israel. Also, the end of this sin-filled and sin-damaged world will come. Judgment Day will occur. The “heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner” (51:6, ESV). Yet, in contrast to the world’s destruction, God’s “salvation will be forever” (51:6, ESV).

- I. **Sinful People Live As If The World Will Last Forever And That They Will Never Have To Give An Account Of Their Lives To The Creator.**
 - A. In darkness, many seek to be strong and powerful by any means possible.
 1. Taking the gifts that the Creator has given them (good health, intellect, etc.), they use them to acquire things and power for themselves.
 2. They ignore the God who has created and blessed them.
 - B. They justify their own behavior before men.
 - C. In darkness, they persecute those who still fear the LORD.
 - D. Believers are tempted to fear the reproach of other men.
 1. Believers are tempted to be dismayed as evil men seem to succeed.
 3. Believers are tempted to redefine righteousness.
 4. Believers are tempted to admire the evil doers.
 - E.This world with its corruption is passing away.
 1. The sky will vanish like smoke and the earth will melt away.
 2. The inhabitants of this world will die.
 - 3.
- II. **God’s Righteousness Is Coming And His Salvation Will Last Forever.**
 - A. God “will set His justice for a light to the peoples” (51:4).
 1. The Law of God brings clarity to people’s lives.
 2. Luther taught that the Law of God has three purposes:
 - a. It serves as a curb, mirror, and rule (guide).
 - b. God’s right ways are right for eternity.
 - c. God’s right ways are true and wholesome for all mankind.
 - B. God will judge the peoples (all people).
 1. All people will have to give an account to God. (See Romans 3:19).
 2. Those who are believers in Christ shall not be judged for Christ is our peace (His merits are seen by God as ours.)
 - a. See John 3:18.
 - C. God’s righteousness is satisfied by Christ on the cross for all peoples.
 1. God’s righteousness is the standard that the Savior would (and now has) met in order to save sinners who are under the Law.
 - D. The salvation is won for all peoples and offered to all peoples.
 1. This salvation, won by the Messiah/Christ, will last for all generations.
 2. Forgiveness of real sins comes to individual lives because of the Christ (God’s “arm”, 51:5).