

The Black Holes of Life

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction. Text: Isaiah 24-35.

II. There is a time that is inevitably coming upon the earth that will be a terrible time of judgment.

A. Afterward, the new heavens and new earth will come.

B. It is foolish to ignore that a time of trouble is coming.

C. The literal problems of Judah picture the spiritual problems of New Testament believers.

III. Woes.

A. The warning is not to love the material life too much so that a person does not suffer from spiritual paralysis.

1. It reflects uncontrolled self-pleasing.

2. The way of escape is by studying the Word—one must know his Bible. (Romans 12)

3. The kingdom of God is to be sought first, and all needs will be added unto a person.

B. The warning is against mechanical religion.

1. Sudden disaster awakens us to this condition in our lives.

2. The danger here is a form of self-deceit—God is not remote from us.

3. God must assume His proper place in their eyes.

C. The warning against rebellion.

1. This is the danger of self-confidence.

2. The solution is to respond to the counsel of God and return to Him.

D. The warning against misplaced confidence.

1. This trusts the resources of men around instead of God.

2. Human help is unreliable.

3. The solution is fellowship with God.

E. The warning against treachery.

1. God brings just retribution.

2. The solution is a daily recommitment of us to the protection of God.

IV. If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged with the world. (I Corinthians 11)

Application questions:

1. Which warning do you tend to struggle with the most? Is the solution presented consistent with your experience?

2. Which warning do you find the church to be struggling with most today?

3. How would you counsel someone struggling with one of these “black holes?” Explain.
