THE BUYER & THE SELLER

... And the coming 'Judgment of FIRE'

As we await the time of our redemption, we are all wide-eyed and vigilant to the signs of the times. Of the signs Jesus told his servants to watch for were those *like unto days of Noah and Lot*, where "they did eat, they drank, THEY BOUGHT, THEY SOLD, they planted, they builded". Central to these were "the buyer" and "the seller".

The terms "the buyer" and "the seller" are only ever mentioned together in scripture on two occasions. In both accounts - Isaiah 24v2 and Ezekiel 7v12 - these terms are used co-jointly to describe another prophetic period (like the days of Noah / Lot) wherein unrestrained 'commerce' and 'consumerism' would be a defining characteristic of the activities of man. These activities would also be, an ominous pre-cursor to unthinkable events to come.

In fact both these phrases are remarkably rare in scripture. The phrase " *the buyer*" is only found 3 times , while " *the seller*" occurs just 4 times. Both of them have only one occurrence outside of Isaiah 24 and Ezekiel 7.

It is <u>not without coincidence</u> that the only two passages where these phrases are featured together, are both prophecies that speak to the imminent unsheathing of divine judgment on a truly cataclysmic scale. The question is . . . are we 'fully aware' of what these two parallel prophecies (actually) portend to 'in the last days'?

Both Isaiah 24 and Ezekiel 7 unquestionably have their historical fulfilment in the grievous events of 589-586BC, seen in the siege and destruction of Jerusalem executed by the armies of the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. These terrible events are both historical 'fact' and also serve as ensamples for our learning. None of these ancient prophetic fulfilments are in dispute. However, they also do NOT constitute 'an end' to the outworking of these prophecies, for both incontestably have <u>very real</u> 'end-times' applications that will soon play out.

ISAIAH 24

Isaiah's vision is universally accepted as a true and accurate portrayal of the decaying societal 'pre-conditions' leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Chaldean invaders. The invisible operation of the angelic host bringing to pass the 'divine judgment' ordained upon God's people , ending the rampant idolatry , desecrations and corruption of the nation and its institutions in the most unimaginable circumstances.

AT 'MIDNIGHT' THERE WAS A CRY ...

While the times leading up to December 2019 certainly reflected the 'days of Noah and Lot' with the preoccupation of buying and selling, of building, of man's immoral and god-less pursuits ... all this 'forever changed' on **December 31 2019**.

On this day ... the final day of the year / 10 year / 20 year period the **first official report** of the COVID-19 virus surfaced as China alerted the World Health Organisation (W.H.O) of this deadly new pathogen. The last day, just hours before 'MIDNIGHT'!!

From this moment on , life on earth would change irreversibly.

For **the faithful** who were watching it was a sign , just **as** the Lord fore-warned His bride in the Parable of the Ten Virgins :

"While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered & slept.

And at 'MIDNIGHT' there was a cry made . . .

Behold the bridegroom cometh: go ye out to meet him.".

This was the pronouncement of **THE COMING** (or approach) of the Lord, **NOT** of His immediate personal appearance but of the coming of **HIS JUDGMENTS** during 'the Day of the LORD'

Amid the approaching global lockdowns, and the deepening Gentile darkness, this would be the 'appointed time' of preparation for the virgins (many confined in their homes ... just like the ancient 'Passover') to "trim their lamps" in preparation ... to ENDURE the darkness of the coming night ... & also in readiness to meet their Lord at His glorious return.

The wise virgins are doing this now. The foolish are not.

Now in 2020/21, in the closing days of the Gentiles we are witnessing a truly 'surreal' re-visitation of these identical pre-conditions and events found in Isaiah 24... but on a GLOBAL scale!!

While some bible scholars ardently refuse to accept Isaiah 24 as an 'end-time' prophecy, the evidence clearly suggests otherwise.

With the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was plunged into a dark abyss of *uncertainty*, *fear* and *distress*. Across the globe, wave after wave of extreme lockdowns have brought (and continue to bring) society to a halt in every conceivable way and effected every class and strata of society. Socially, economically, politically. These devastating societal break-downs currently plaguing humanity mirror the very same corruption and decay as described in Isaiah's prophecy.

Moreover, Isaiah 24 further reveals the terrifying <u>aftermath</u> that will immediately follow this current period of "languishing, spoiling and fading away" of the world. In Verse 5, the prophet firstly outlines the three causative reasons which necessitate the apocalyptic judgments to come, before describing in verse 6 the horrifying effects of this un-identified 'CURSE' which very soon will 'devour' the earth, along with the majority of its inhabitants.

In the Hebrew, this 'CURSE' which devours the whole earth, has the idea of "eating / burning up / consuming" the planet, leaving its occupants desolate. The <u>same curse</u> is found in Zechariah 5v3.

Then in Verse 6 the haunting words that follow: "Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are **BURNED** & **few men** left" surely confirm the 'destructive power' employed in this coming global judgment, is that of an *incinerating* '**FIRE**'.

This is in total alignment with the *prophetic* visions of a 'FIERY' final judgment of this world.

The Great Flood of Noah's day was the first. Having promised there would never again be a repeat of this diluvian retribution , the LORD determined His final judgment upon the world (during 'the Day of the LORD') will be executed through a devouring 'FIRE'. Brief glimpses of this terrible period are frequently found throughout scripture [Isaiah 66v15-16 / Zeph 3v8 / Malachi 4v1 / Matt 13v40 / Luke 17v29-30 / 2 Pet 3v10-12]

Yet - most importantly - as we consider Isaiah's prophecy we find no immediate or obvious details revealing <u>THE SOURCE</u> of this all-consuming 'FIRE' which represents the full outworking of the wrath and the indignation of the Almighty.

ISAIAH 24

- v1 Behold, the LORD maketh *the earth* empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.
- v2 And it shall be . . .
 as with the people , so with the priest;
 as with the servant , so with his master
 as with the maid , so with her mistress
 as with THE BUYER , so with THE SELLER
 as with the lender , so with the borrower
 as with the taker of usury so with the giver of usury to him
- v3 The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled : for the LORD hath spoken this word.
- v4 **The earth** mourneth and fadeth away, **the world** languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of **the earth** do languish.
- v5 **The earth** also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws,
 - changed the ordinance,
 - broken the everlasting covenant
- v6 Therefore hath 'THE CURSE' devoured THE EARTH and they that dwell therein are desolate:

Therefore the inhabitants of **THE EARTH** are **burned**, ... and **few men** left

Could it be flames and pillars of fire, sent direct from heaven ?? . . . Could it be a massive 'Seismic' event, igniting the myriads of volcanoes world-wide and showering all mankind with scorching magma and lava from the fiery furnace of the earth's inner chambers ?? . . . or, Could it be the result of a truly cataclysmic 'Solar' event as the immeasurable energy from the Sun rains down unfathomable heat and radiation upon this mortal orb and upon the kingdoms of men ?? None of these scenarios are afforded any credence in God's Word whatsoever. None of them can be supported by any measure of substantive bible evidence. They are simply amplified speculation and unprovable supposition. All of them are 'off-the-chart' fantastical.

THE ANSWER ?? ... The *mysterious source* of this '*FIRE*' (*of* judgment) alluded to in Isaiah 24 , is in fact *far more* plausible and realistic , but no less terrifying . . . and it can be found (quite remarkably *in plain sight*) in the <u>ONLY</u> other bible passage that contains " *the buyer*" and " *the seller*" . . . its 'parallel prophecy' in Ezekiel chapter 7.

EZEKIEL 7

Ezekiel's prophecy is a dark, foreboding vision of impending judgment upon the inhabitants of the land. It is quite unlike any other prophecy in its ominous, dread-filled language that portends to certain doom. We know it had its initial 'ancient' fulfilment over 2,600 years ago, relating specifically to the southern kingdom of Judah in 586BC. Yet just like Isaiah 24, it was also purposed to have an 'end-times' fulfilment relating not only to Israel as a nation, but upon 'all the nations' as well.

This 'dual application' in the latter days is a certainty for two reasons. Firstly, the terrible events associated with the final 'time of Jacob's trouble' are both central to, and contemporaneous with the long foretold world-wide 'time of trouble' (such as never was). Israel's darkest hour will be the catalyst for, and the very centre-piece of God's final judgments upon the nations. Secondly, an examination of the revealing language used within Ezekiel 7 also provides conclusive proof of its 'end-times fulfilment' upon Jews and Gentiles alike.

Like Isaiah 24, "the buyer" and "the seller" are also central to Ezekiel's prophecy. Amid the panic and chaos of this looming event and in the face of their impending fate (vs.12) they're instructed to neither rejoice nor mourn so great is the desperation and hopelessness of their plight. Verse 13 then describes "the seller's" complete and total abandonment of all their former enterprises ... never to return!! Such is the cataclysmic nature of this event.

These things were certainly true of Ezekiel's day ... How do we know they relate to 'global events' in our day ??

As we consider the specific language of Ezekiel 7, a series of revealing details become apparent which confirm this prophecy will soon have an 'end-times' fulfilment - first and foremost to Israel - but also upon the multitude of nations. Also revealed in Ezekiel 7 is the <u>true</u> source of this all-consuming 'FIRE' of judgment.

Perhaps the most notable feature of this chapter is the overwhelming use of 'repetition' of key terms . . . and not just the same terms but also closely-related *synonyms* which further intensify the warning and its urgency. In scripture we know 'any repetition' is purposefully inserted and used by God to underscore and draw attention to critical aspects in His Word, ensuring *important information* cannot be lost on the reader.

From the outset in Ezekiel 7, descriptive terms and repetition are used to convey powerful clues to the immensity and finality of this 'judgment of FIRE' in the last days. Just in the opening verses, the phrase "An end / The end" is repeated '5 times' giving an overwhelming sense this catastrophic event will bring everything to a terminal halt almost as if, it's the cessation of time itself. This sense is added to by other references confirming the ominous arrival of "The time" (x2) and "The day" (x4) underlining the grave, sinister nature of this moment about to unfold.

The repetition then reaches a *fever-pitch*, when the phrases "is come" is replicated a staggering '11 times' and "is near" (x2), thereby stressing the imminence of this devastating event, which will herald the final dreadful chapter for both the nation of Israel & also the kingdoms of men. It's quite literally arrived. There is no escape.

Furthermore, along with the general meaning of "The end" other supplementary terms in Ezekiel 7 also directly reference specific 'end-times' events such as "The day of trouble" (v7) and "The day of the wrath of the LORD" (v19). In addition to these, there are many other allusions which speak expressly to God's disposition and actions amid this final period of divine judgment on His people, and upon 'the nations' at large. "(I) will judge thee"; "pour out my fury"; "I will send | accomplish mine anger"; "my wrath is upon all the multitude". There can be no doubt or confusion, these phrases are unmistakably linked to (and also form a prophetic script for) the calamitous events at 'the time of the end'.

Concerning this coming 'judgment of FIRE', Ezekiel also provides an astonishing 'chain of evidence' that brings to light the actual <u>nature</u> and <u>means</u> by which God will execute His judgment. Once again 'repetition' is key. No less than 'four times' in the first 9 verses the LORD specifically states. He will judge or "recompense" the people "according to THY WAYS" (4 times) and "THINE ABOMINATIONS" (5 times). Beyond this, it is reinforced even further in the culminating 'final verse' of the chapter, when it is repeated yet again ('a fifth time') to leave no doubt at all..." I will do unto them after 'THEIR WAY' and according to 'THEIR DESERTS' will I judge them".

What are 'THEIR WAYS', 'THEIR ABOMINATIONS' and 'THEIR DESSERTS' ... by which they'll be judged ??

THE ANSWER ... is 'immediately revealed' in the next two verses that follow:

v10 Behold THE DAY, behold, IT is come: the morning is gone forth; 'THE ROD' hath blossomed, pride hath budded.

v11 **Violence** is risen up . . . **into 'A ROD' of WICKEDNESS** : none of them shall remain , nor of their multitude , nor of any of theirs : neither shall there be wailing for them.

What is 'THE ROD'? It is man's 'weapons of war'. These will be the 'FIRE' of God's judgment sent upon both His people Israel and ultimately upon all the kingdoms of men. These evil 'weapons of war' are "the curse" (spoken of in Zech 5v3, Isaiah 24v6) that will 'go forth' in the last days, to devour the earth and burn its inhabitants.

Foreseen by the Father (from the times of antiquity) these modern weapons are variously described in His Word as "wicked devices", "mischievous devices", "instruments of death" and "(wicked) imaginations". Most prominent among these are man's 'missiles' metaphorically depicted by their own ancient archetypes, such as: 'qlittering'spears | 'bright'swords | arrows | bows of steel' | 'iron' weapons | 'flying' rolls | ROD of wickedness'

These wicked, destructive 'devices' are abhorrent to God. They are paralleled to the pagan and apostate 'idols' worshipped by the ungodly . . . only worse !! These "abominations" and "detestable things" - imagined and devised by evil minds - on an unimaginable scale kill and maim God's children and destroy His wondrous creation.

Yet, they will be <u>THE</u> mechanism God uses to bring the final judgments 'of FIRE' upon His people Israel and on the wider nations. In like manner as 'His Judgments' in times past have been executed principally through the agency of foreign powers (Assyrians | Babylonians | Romans | Nazi Germany and very soon the Russian Confederacy) He will once again use the corrupt and malignant 'arm/s of the flesh' to render unto them all, a full-outworking of His divine wrath. Psalm 9:16 states: "The LORD is <u>known by</u> the judgment <u>which He executeth</u>: the wicked is 'snared' in THE WORK of his OWN HANDS". The LORD's judgments are always fair, just and 'fittingly' appropriate Those that live by the sword, shall die by the sword. (cp. Matt 26v52)

"PRIDE has budded, VIOLENCE is risen up into A ROD of wickedness". For the nation of Israel today, their great failure is a misplaced trust in their 'own' strength. It will inevitably bring disaster. Their pride and self-assured confidence in their advanced weapons technologies and military prowess will be their final undoing. This faithless, ungodly generation will be judged for their foolish reliance upon and trust in their 'Israeli-developed' missile and weapons systems (ie. Iron-Dome, David's Sling, Iron Beam) ... "I will break THE PRIDE of your power" (Lev26v19).

For a period after the trumpet is blown, Ezekiel 7 v 14-16 indicates war and conflict will continue for Israel, as the SWORD (weapons of war) kills in the field, and the PESTILENCE and FAMINE (products of war) devour in the city. While a remnant do escape to the mountains (v16), verses 21-25 herald the final terrible chapter as "the worst of the heathen" (Russian host) are brought to wreak a great destruction in the Land. While the 'primary' application of this prophecy is on God's people Israel, it's also the 'passing of sentence' upon ALL the nations. This world-wide judgment of FIRE will not only be the inevitable result of the spiralling madness and insanity of global weapons proliferation, but will also represent God's judgment on man's wickedness through the evil works of his own hands.

Now in 2021, in the continuing aftermath of the *Covid-19 Pandemic*, it is clear this event has triggered violent change throughout the world. Nations and economies are in turmoil. Global alliances are shifting rapidly. Authoritarian regimes are ascendant and (*sensing the West is weak and faltering*) are taking increasingly aggressive postures. [Not just overt military aggression but also co-ordinated and sustained efforts to undermine Western strength, subvert political resolve, erode cultural values and severely test alliances.] As pride and avarice push the world closer to a final period of conflict ... *is there more* to this vision of the "ROD of wickedness" beyond Ezekiel?

The word "ROD" [in both of its Hebrew forms H7626 // H4294] is commonly found in prophecies describing the ancient Assyrian empire - prophecies which <u>also</u> speak directly to the 'latter-day' Assyrian (Russia). In these passages "ROD" is frequently used as an illustrative 'metaphor' [ie. a figurative 'stick' to punish, fight or strike with // for chastising (figuratively correction), throwing (a lance), ruling (a sceptre)]. These allusions not only pre-figure God's appointment of the Russian Gog to execute His righteous judgments upon Israel and the nations - but even more astonishingly, they provide a clear vision of Gog's signature weapons (missiles) to be used in these judgments of FIRE.

Isaiah 10:5

O **Assyrian** (latter-day Russia) 'THE ROD' of mine anger And 'the staff' in their hand is mine indignation

Jeremiah 1:11, 14

What seest thou? And I said, I see 'A ROD' of an almond tree...

Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north 'AN EVIL' (Russian Gog)

shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land

Isaiah 10:24

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion be not afraid of the **Assyrian** (Russian Gog): he shall smite thee... with 'A ROD'

Psalm 2:9

Thou shalt break them (heathen) with 'A ROD' of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel

Isaiah 14:29

Rejoice not thou , whole **Palestina** , because '<u>THE ROD' of him</u> (Russian Gog) that smote thee is broken : for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice , and '<u>his fruit</u>' shall be a 'FIERY , FLYING' serpent

Soon to wreak havoc worldwide, could there be more descriptive and vivid illustrations of modern missiles than multitudes of these 'RODS of wickedness' symbolised as "fiery ... flying ... serpents"?? Used by Russia to destroy the Palestinians in the last days ... What else could these mythical objects be? Armed with these fearsome devices Russia will be THE SWORD 'appointed of God' to execute His judgment . . . to punish the nations in His wrath.

In Ezekiel 38 we're told the brutal conquests of Russia's Gog will eventually end on the mountains of Israel. Yet even to this point, God's Word is clear and unambiguous ... "the righteous" (ie. 'the faithful') will **STILL** be in the world and witness many of these events. [For more information (Click Link): SAINTS ENDURE 'THE FINAL TRIBULATION']

Psalm 125:3

For 'THE ROD' of the wicked shall <u>not</u> rest upon the lot of 'the righteous' Lest 'the righteous' put forth their hands unto iniquity.

Isaiah 30:31

For through 'the voice' of the LORD shall the **Assyrian** (Russian Gog) be beaten down ... which smote with 'A ROD'

Psalm 37:17

For 'the arms' (weapons) of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD <u>upholdeth</u> 'the righteous'

In fact "the righteous" (the faithful in Christ) are given an 'absolute promise' that during this impending period of death and destruction (ie. the Day of the LORD / Time of Trouble / Great Tribulation) when these "RODS of wickedness" will rain fire and brimstone upon the earth's inhabitants, the saints will be 'protected' from the effects of these lethal weapons. We will be **kept**, **hidden** and **preserved** in our homes (like the children of Israel in Egypt) in a final end-times '**Passover**'. [For more information (Click Link): THE COMING 'END-TIMES' PASSOVER]

The prophetic visions of these "RODS of wickedness" represent just one small fragment of a truly expansive array of scriptural texts which clearly and unequivocally reveal the 'true nature' of this final period of divine judgment. Over 70+ bible passages PROVE this 'Judgment of FIRE' will come 'principally' through man's wicked devices and not thro' natural elements. [For more information (Click Link): DIVINE JUDGMENT...THRO' MAN'S 'WICKED DEVICES']

In 2021, as the whole planet struggles to free itself from the grip of this crippling plague, do we realise the gravity and urgency of the events we are witnessing? We <u>must</u> heed the fateful warning of "the buyer" and "the seller" (Isaiah 24/Ezekiel 7) while there is time. As all humanity desperately tries to return to their former (pre)occupations - utterly oblivious to a greater disaster coming - we should not only be as the Wise Virgins trimming our lamps, preparing spiritually to <u>endure through</u> this period of 'fiery judgment' on the nations, but as faithful watchmen also be forewarning others of these impending events, and offering a ray of hope to those who may yet be saved.

BRO. CHRIS KOKOTIS (Enfield – Sth Aust) EMAIL: ckokotis@bigpond.net.au

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (`CLICK' on Blue Links)

'BIBLE EVIDENCE ONLY!!' DOCUMENTS

- TIME OF TROUBLE or CHRIST'S RETURN (Which comes first ?)
- SAINTS ENDURE 'THE FINAL TRIBULATION'
- <u>DIVINE JUDGMENT ... THRO' MAN'S 'WICKED D</u>EVICES'
- THE COMING 'END-TIMES' PASSOVER

FURTHER READING (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

- 1. THE TIME OF TROUBLE ... We Are Here Until The End
- 2. THE RETURN OF CHRIST ... The Need For Bible Truth
- 3. THE END OF THE WORLD ... Parable Of The Wheat & Tares
- 4. THE 2020 PROPHECY ... (Job 20) A Warning For The Last Days
- 5. GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR ... & The 'End-Times' Passover

EZEKIEL 7

- v2 Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel AN END, THE END is come upon the four corners of the land.
- v3 Now is **THE END** come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee **ACCORDING TO 'THY WAYS'**, and will **RECOMPENSE upon thee** all thine 'abominations'
- v4 And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I WILL RECOMPENSE 'THY WAYS' upon thee and thine 'abominations' shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.
- v5 Thus saith the Lord GOD; AN EVIL, AN ONLY EVIL, behold, is come.
- v6 AN END is come, THE END is come: it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come.
- v7 The morning is come unto thee , O thou that dwellest in the land :

 THE TIME is come , THE DAY OF TROUBLE is near , and not the sounding again of the mountains.
- v8 Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee ACCORDING TO 'THY WAYS' and will 'RECOMPENSE' thee for all thine 'abominations'.
- v9 And mine eye shall not spare , neither will I have pity :

 I will 'RECOMPENSE' thee ACCORDING TO 'THY WAYS'

 and thine 'abominations' that are in the midst of thee;

 and ye shall know that I am the LORD that smiteth.
 - v10 Behold THE DAY, behold, IT is come: the morning is gone forth;

 'THE ROD' hath blossomed, pride hath budded.
 - v11 Violence is risen up ... into 'A ROD' of WICKEDNESS:
 none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude,
 nor of any of theirs: neither shall there be wailing for them.
- v12 **THE TIME** is come , **THE DAY** draweth near : let not **THE BUYER** rejoice , nor **THE SELLER** mourn for *wrath* is upon all the multitude thereof.
- v13 For **THE SELLER** shall not return to that which is sold, although they were yet alive:
 For 'the vision' is touching the whole multitude thereof, which shall not return;
 neither shall any strengthen himself in the iniquity of his life.
- v14 They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for *my wrath* is upon all the multitude thereof.
- v15 **THE SWORD** is without, and **THE PESTILENCE** and **the famine** within: He that is in the field shall die with **THE SWORD**; and **he** that is in the city, **famine** and **PESTILENCE** shall devour him.
- v16 But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.
- v17 All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water.
- v18 They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads.
- v19 They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed:
 their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in 'THE DAY' of THE WRATH OF THE LORD:
- v24 Wherefore I will bring the 'worst of the heathen', and they shall possess their houses
 I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled
- v25 Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none.
- v26 'Mischief' shall come upon 'mischief' and rumour shall be upon rumour then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.
- v27 The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled I will do unto them AFTER 'THEIR WAY' and ACCORDING TO 'THEIR DESERTS' will I judge them;
 . . . and THEY SHALL KNOW that I am the LORD.