

## WILL EARTH BE WITHOUT ANY HUMAN INHABITANTS?

From the following verses of Isaiah 24 and Revelation 20:1-3 the Seventh Day Adventists teach that the earth will be completely without human inhabitants for 1000 years and that Satan will be kept on his own on earth as his domain for that period of time. During the same period the faithful will be immortal in heaven.

- ❖ “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and **Satan, and bound him a thousand years**, And cast him **into the bottomless pit**, and shut him up, and set a **seal upon him**, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season” (*Rev. 20:1-3*).
- ❖ “Behold, the LORD maketh the **earth empty**, and maketh it **waste**, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof ... <sup>3</sup>The **land shall be utterly emptied**, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word ... <sup>9</sup>The earth is utterly broken down, **the earth is clean dissolved**, the earth is moved exceedingly” (*Isa. 24:1, 3, 19 KJV*).

This teaching is based largely on taking certain phrases from Isaiah 24 in an absolutists sense and then using them in an out of context manner.

### EXAMPLE OF THE USE OF ABSOLUTIST TERMS

- ❖ “Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they are **a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein**, ... <sup>6</sup>Wherefore my fury and mine anger was poured forth, and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are **wasted and desolate**, as at this day” (*Jer. 44:2, 6*).
- ❖ “But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard **left certain of the poor of the land** for vinedressers and for husbandmen” (*Jer. 52:16*).

Here, the statements in Jeremiah 44:2, 6 presented in absolutist terms are qualified by the fact that some people were still in the land. So desolate does not mean to make absolutely without inhabitants.

### EXAMINING ISAIAH 24

- ❖ “The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, **the haughty people of the earth do languish**. <sup>5</sup>The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. <sup>6</sup>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** ... <sup>9</sup>They shall not drink wine with a song; **strong drink shall be bitter to them** that drink it. <sup>10</sup>The city of confusion is broken down: every **house is shut up, that no man may come in**. <sup>11</sup>There is a **crying for wine in the streets**; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone. <sup>12</sup>In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction. <sup>13</sup>When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done. <sup>14</sup>They shall lift up their voice, they shall **sing for the majesty of the LORD**, they shall **cry aloud from the sea** ... <sup>23</sup>Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the **LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion**, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously” (*Isa. 24:4-6, 9-14 KJV*).

## MORTALS IN THE KINGDOM ON EARTH

- ❖ “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and **all nations shall flow unto it**. And **many people** shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for **out of Zion shall go forth the law**, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And **he shall judge among the nations**, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall **beat their swords into plowshares**, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (*Isa. 2:2-4*).
- ❖ “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and **the former shall not be remembered**, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, **and her people a joy**. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, **and joy in my people**: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but **the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed**”  
(*Isa. 65:17-20*).

## SUMMARY

1. Satan is bound and put in the bottomless pit for the thousand years, rather than kept as a prisoner on earth.
2. The context of Isaiah 24 speaks of the activities of a diminished human population on a devastated but not empty earth.
3. In the end times Isaiah 24:6 says there will be “**few men left**,” so that it cannot be absolute desolation as in the example of Jerusalem in Jeremiah 44 and 52.
4. There will be mortals on earth during the millennium according to Isaiah 2 and 65

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