IT’S A BIG DEAL

Why a passage of four entire chapters to start this series? As a pericope (thematic unit), Isaiah 24–27 contains the inScribe verses Isaiah 24:5, 6, which bring the presence and theme of “the everlasting covenant” into sharp focus. It deals with the concepts of judgment and blessing especially in the last days, when God will have final victory over evil.

The text teaches us that “the everlasting covenant” is not a creation of imaginative theological minds or a mere sideline issue meant for esoteric seminarian study only. It has universal application: “the earth...its people... the earth...its people...earth’s inhabitants” (NIV, cf. Gen. 9:16). And it involves “laws” that if “disobeyed”/“violated,” (NIV) results in devastating consequences: Earth’s “people must bear their guilt,” “a curse consumes the earth,” “earth’s inhabitants are burned up” (NIV).

The resolution of this broken “everlasting covenant,” and the devastating results, emerges later in Scripture in a single, cryptic phrase: “the blood of the eternal covenant” (Heb. 13:20, NIV). The entire biblical revelation swirls around this “blood of the eternal covenant.”

Our purpose this week is to expose ourselves to a sweeping glimpse of that story as it unfolded through the historical succession of subsidiary covenants in both Testaments. Fasten your seat belts. This week will be intense but an important foundation for the journey ahead. No worries if it doesn’t all come together this week; we have miles to go before we sleep.

Fast forward to the creation of our world and Adam.
Write out Isaiah 24–27 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Isaiah 24:5, 6. You may also re-write the passage in your own words, outline, or mind-map the pericope.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Isaiah 24–27. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What patterns do you see in the progression from the covenant with Adam to the one with Israel? (Gen. 3:15; Gen. 9:8–17; Gen. 15:1–6, 18; Deut. 4:13)

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov01-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What are the different designations given of Jesus’ shed blood in the following texts: Matthew 26:28; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 22:25; Hebrews 13:20, 21?

How does the chart help your understanding of the covenants? What is still confusing? What is newly understood?

Why is Christ’s first advent crucial for our understanding of God’s covenantal promises?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov01-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Matthew 7:9–12
Genesis 3:15
Romans 5:20
2 Timothy 1:8, 9
Psalm 105:7–10
Isaiah 42:6, 7
Hebrews 13:20, 21

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Isaiah 24–27?

Review your memorized verse from Isaiah 24–27.
What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What themes come to mind in light of Jesus as a caretaker (Isa. 27:3)?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Isaiah 24–27 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov01-6
inSight

Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the pericope, what are personal promises you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical promises you must apply in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/cov01-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How has the topic of the covenants confused you in the past? What was your initial understanding?

How have you resolved the positive benefits of God’s promise with the negative repercussions of the judgment toward human sinfulness?

Why do you think God used multiple generations to reveal His covenant?

How does seeing the Ten Commandments as a promise instead of rules change your spiritual perspective?

What is a contemporary example of a covenant you have made?

What lessons can you derive from this covenant that parallel God’s covenant with us?

How does the apparent complexity of God’s solution reveal the complexity of humanity’s problem?