The word Desolate refers to something that has been ruined or left in ruins. For example, if a building is destroyed by a bomb, the debris and remains left behind are called Desolate. Similarly, when a city is burned down, the leftover ruins of that city are Desolate.

God has often used this word to illustrate the kind of destruction that comes as judgment upon those who do not fear Him.

Here are some of the Bible passages where the word Desolate (ruins) is used:

Leviticus 26:30–32 (NIV)

> *I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars and pile your dead bodies on the lifeless forms of your idols, and I will abhor you.*
> *I will turn your cities into ruins and lay waste your sanctuaries, and I will take no delight in the pleasing aroma of your offerings.*
> *I myself will lay waste the land, so that your enemies who live there will be appalled.*

Ezekiel 6:14 (NIV)

> *And I will stretch out my hand against them and make the land a desolate waste from the desert to Diblah—wherever they live. Then they will know that I am the Lord.*

Jeremiah 51:42–43 (NIV)

> *The sea will rise over Babylon; its roaring waves will cover her.*
> *Her towns will be desolate, a dry and desert land, a land where no one lives, through which no one travels.*

Jeremiah 4:7–8 (NIV)

> *A lion has come out of his lair; a destroyer of nations has set out. He has left his place to lay waste your land. Your towns*

> *will lie in ruins without inhabitant.*
> *So put on sackcloth, lament and wail, for the fierce anger of the Lord has not turned away from us.*

(See also Ezekiel 12:20; Ezekiel 29:12; Amos 9:14)

Even today, this world will one day be reduced to Desolate (ruins). No matter how advanced civilization becomes, or how beautiful cities are built, everything will one day be destroyed. The Lord Jesus Himself said that not one stone would be left on another (Matthew 24:2). Everything we see today will be dismantled and consumed by fire when the Day of the Lord comes—just as the flood in Noah's time cleansed the first world.

2 Peter 3:10–12 (NIV)

> *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives*

> *as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.*

The important question for us is this: Where are you and I investing our lives? Is it in this temporary world, or in heaven? Remember, life on earth is short and fleeting, but eternal life awaits us beyond this world.

God’s plan to turn this world into ruins is not because creation itself is bad, but because humanity has corrupted it through sin. Therefore, it must be destroyed and renewed.

That is why we must not share in God’s wrath. Instead, we must embrace the salvation offered through Christ. Remember—the Rapture is near. We should not be surprised if these things begin to unfold even in our own generation.

Shalom.

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