

“Babylonian Judgment”

Isaiah 13

In this section Isaiah turns to the judgment of the Nations and starts with Babylon (modern-day Iraq). Babylon was the cultural and civilizational center of the world at that time. Although they were not a world military power (isolationists) they were the center for knowledge, law, and wisdom which resulted in great pride and national glory. Isaiah 13-27 written approximately 720 B.C. Judah fell to Babylon in 605 B.C. and Babylon fell to the Persian Empire (Medes) in 538 B.C. Parallel passage ***Jeremiah 50-51***.

“In that Day” or “The Day of the Lord” – Current geo-political, and/or Messianic time, and/or End Times.

Terror to Come V. 2-8

“Hill and Mountains” V.2, 4 – The Medes and Persians were north and east of Babylon in the hill country of Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan.

“Consecrated, mighty men, exulting ones” V.3 – Those to be used by God for God’s purpose, just as Babylon was used by God. These will be mighty men of war and prideful people.

“Nations Gathering” V.4 – The Babylonians, Medes, and Persians made and broke many alliances for self gain. They would use one country against another then turn on their allies to conquer them. The Persians and Medes would ban together to destroy Babylon.

“Almighty” V.6 – Judgment is from God alone not any earthly Kingdom or ruler.

“Feeble” V.7-8 – Nothing can withstand or divert the judgment of God.

Sinful Pride V. 9-13

“Desolation” V.9 – Judgment is on the people as well as the land itself. Both will vanish into desolation and dust.

“Stars” V.10 – All creation will be under judgment. ***Matthew 24:29-31***

“The pomp of the arrogant” V.11 – Judgment comes because of Human Pride.

“Rare” V.12 – The arrogant and proud will be thoroughly destroyed.

“Earth” V.5, 9, 13 – The whole earth will be judged for pride. ***Psalms 103:15-19***

The Collapse V. 14-22

“Flee” V.14 – Captives set free, retreat and abandoning of the army is the only option. Destruction and death are certain.

“Medes” V.17 – Northern hill country of Iran. The largest tribe of the Medes was the Scythians. ***Jeremiah 51:11***

“Sodom and Gomorrah” V.19 – The City of Babylon will be wiped off the map and never inhabited again. ***Jeremiah 50:39-40***

“Never inhabited” V.20 – The City of Babylon was discovered in the mid 1800’s 56 miles south of Bagdad.

“Wild animals” V.21 – Only wild animals will populate the city of Babylon.

Zephaniah 2:13-15

Application

Discussion Questions

What prideful thing have you held onto in your life?

What desolation has resulted from your pride?

What can you do with your pride (Proverbs 11:2, 13:10, 14:3)?

Homework

Read *Isaiah 14*

Answer the following questions:

1. What does God's Word say? List the facts.
2. What does God's Word mean? Learn the lessons.
3. What does God's Word mean to me? Listen to His voice.
4. How will I respond to God's Word today? Live it out.

Find one time each day to practice humbleness, wise advice, and soft speech.