

ISAIAH – Chapter 13

Chapters 13 through 23 describe God’s judgment upon the nations.

Babylon – 13:1-14:27 (21:1-10)

Philistia – 14:28-32

Moab – 15:1-16:14

Damascus (Aram) – 17:1-14

Ethiopia – 18:1-7

Egypt – 19:1-20:6

Edom – 21:11-12

Arabia – 21:13-17

Jerusalem – 22:1-25

Tyre – 23:1-8

Babylon – 13:1-14:27 (21:1-10)

- 1) Lays in the land of Shinar (Gen 10:10), about 50 miles south of Baghdad!

There is no disagreement on its location.

- 2) Encircled by a double system of walls:

- a) inner wall – 21 feet thick containing towers at sixty foot intervals.

- b) outer wall – 11 feet thick.

- c) some ancient writings claim the walls covered 56 miles.

- 3) The main road through the city was 40 to 50 feet wide and paved with stone. Some have been found inscribed with “I am Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. I paved the road of Babylon with mountain stone for the procession of the mighty lord Marduk. May Marduk, my lord, grant me eternal life.” (Marduk was the city’s primary deity – came into prominence in the 18th century B.C.)

- 4) There were more than fifty shrines within the city, fifteen of them built by Nebuchadnezzar – Jer. 50:38. One ancient text speaks of there being “180 open-air shrines for Ishtar” and more than 1,800 pedestals or sacred places for other deities.

- 5) Hammurabi (1792-1750 B.C.) enlarged the city and made it prosperous.
 - 6) The Assyrians controlled it beginning in 710 B.C.
 - 7) Nebopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar's father took control of the city in 626 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar made it the base of his exploits in 605 B.C.
 - 8) Within the reign of Nebuchadnezzar:
 - a) in 604 B.C., Jehoiakim of Judah became his vassal. 2 Kings 24:1-4
 - b) in 597 B.C., Jerusalem came under the direct rule of Babylon. 2 Kings 24:10-20
 - c) in 586 B.C. Jerusalem was destroyed. 2 Chron. 36:5-20
 - 9) The city declined after the death of Nebuchadnezzar.
 - 10) It was conquered next by the Medes and allowed to deteriorate.
 - 11) In 331 B.C., Alexander the Great conquered the Medes and was proclaimed king in the city.
 - 12) Trajan visited the city in 115 A.D.
 - 13) In 199 A.D. it was reported to be deserted.
- Vs. 1 The oracle (burden – to be lifted or carried) a message that was heavy or burdensome to deliver!

Note: Oracle is a common expression found in the prophetic books indicating that delivering these kinds of messages for God was not easy.

Isa. 14:28; 15:1; 17:1; 19:1; 21:1, 11, 13; 22:1; 23:1; 30:6
 Jer. 23:33-34, 36, 38
 Ezk. 12:10
 Nahum 1:1
 Hab. 1:1
 Zech. 9:1; 12:1
 Mal. 1:1

A ministry that was truly burdensome. Isa. 6:8-13

God's message through Isaiah concerns Babylon, a city that is not yet of any significance from a prophetic standpoint. God describes the Babylonian empire's traits and condemns it before it even exists. Prophecy – only the God of Israel can deliver it. Isa. 44:6-8; 41:21-24

Babylon has been a problem since its inception. Gen. 11:1-9
 It becomes the symbol of a God rejecting world. Rev. 17-18

Vs. 2 God has an army planned to deal with her.

It is His army:

I have commanded My...vs. 3

I have called My...vs. 3

The Lord of Hosts is mustering the army, vs. 4

The Lord and His instruments, vs. 5

Again – from Isa. 10:5-6 to Rev. 17:17

Isaiah's message is two-fold – God will deal with Jerusalem and Judah using Babylon and then deal with Babylon, but the real focus of the prophetic word is:

The day of the Lord, vs. 6, 9

I will punish the world for its evil, vs. 11

Put an end to the arrogance of the proud...vs. 11

Make mortal man scarcer than pure gold, vs. 12

I shall make the heavens tremble, vs. 13

In the day of His burning anger

(In the near future – I am going to stir up the Medes against them – again, no such nation yet exists.)

Vs. 3 God's consecrated ones called to execute His anger are the Medes. They will overthrow Babylon in 539 B.C. (This prophecy is being given 65 years before Assyria carries off the northern kingdom in 722 B.C., Isa. 7:8.) Dan 5:16-31, esp. 30-31

Vs. 4 The Medes were God's plan to deal with the Babylonians. Dan. 2:39 (the great statue), Dan. 7:5 (a bear)

Vs. 5 The Medes will be gathered from an area about 300 miles from Babylon.

They will be God's instruments of indignation" to destroy the land controlled by the Babylonians.

Vs. 6-13 Looks forward to the tribulation period.

"The day of the Lord" – "destruction from the Almighty."

Vs. 7-8 Hands will fall limp

Hearts will melt

Terrified

Pains and anguish

Writhe like a woman in pain

Look at one another in astonishment

Isa. 21:3-4; 26:17-21 and Jer. 4:31; 6:22-26; 30:1-9

Vs. 9 In that day He will exterminate the sinners from the land.

Vs. 10 The heavenly bodies will stop shining.

Isa. 34:1-4; Ezk. 32:7-8; Joel 2:1-11, 30-32; 3:12-17; Zech 14:6-7;
Matt. 24:29-31; Rev. 6:12-17

Vs. 11 God's purposes in bringing the tribulation upon the earth:

- 1) Punish the world for its evil.
- 2) Punish the wicked for their iniquity.
- 3) Put an end to arrogance.
- 4) Abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.

Vs. 12 So many will die, people will become as scarce as...

Vs. 13 Therefore, God shall:

Where can man go when God has not only become angry, but is expressing that anger fully?

Vs. 14-16 In the day of the Lord, vs. 6-13

The army formed by God, vs. 1-5
will attack unrelentingly.

The people attacked will be powerless to stop the invasion. Like gazelle and sheep, defenseless and an easy prey for hunters.

Everyone will attempt to flee to his own land (a world populated by immigrants).

No prisoners will be taken – death and rape!

Vs. 17-19 The near situation – The Medes

Who cannot be paid off – what does a person do when money will not buy?

Vs. 18 The Plan of God

Vs. 19 The result of God's plan

Vs. 20-22 Babylon from 200 A.D. through the present.

Sadam planned to change God's plan – he is no more.

Because of Jer. 50:1-51:58 and Rev. 18, there are some who believe that the city of Babylon will be rebuilt before the day of the Lord and destroyed again at the end of the tribulation period.