

ISAIAH – Chapter 17

Damascus (Aram)

- 1) The capital of Aram headed by Rezin (joined to Israel) [Isa. 7:8; 17:3] is located about 133 miles north of Jerusalem.
- 2) First mentioned in the Bible during the life of Abraham. Gen 14:14-20, esp. vs. 15.
- 3) When God promised Abraham that he would bear a son of promise, Abraham asked God to use his servant Eliezer, who was from Damascus, to fulfill the promise. Gen. 15:1-3
- 4) It is again mentioned in the life of King David. 2 Sam 8:5
- 5) In the reign of Solomon, Rezon became leader of a band who revolted from Hadadezer. 1 Kings 11:23-25 The time between Abraham and David was about 1,000 years!
- 6) During the life of Isaiah, God united Israel and Aram (headed by Damascus) to oppose Judah. 2 Kings 15:37
- 7) The Arameans were conquered by the Assyrians and the city of Damascus was destroyed. The inhabitants were carried off into Assyria. 2 Kings 16:7-9 (Isa. 7:8; 17:1; Jer. 49:23-24; Amos 1:5)
- 8) The Arameans remained a vassal of Assyria until the capture of Nineveh by the Medes in 625 B.C.
- 9) The land area of Aram was invaded by the Romans in 64 B.C. and Damascus became the seat of power under Roman rule.
- 10) Paul was saved in Damascus. Acts 9:1-25
- 11) Paul visited Damascus on his return from Arabia. Gal. 1:16-17
- 12) Paul's public ministry began in Damascus. Acts 9:18-25
- 13) In 634 A.D., Damascus was conquered by the Moslems.

In 1516, it came under the rule of the Turks.

It is now the largest city in Asiatic Turkey.

(Aram = Syria)

- Vs. 1 The heavy message given by God to be delivered by Isaiah – the capital city of Aram, who had aligned itself with Israel, is to be defeated by the Assyrians (note vs. 4). Damascus the city would become a pile of ruins.

Vs. 2-3 The cities of Aroer are cities in Moab?

The cities around Damascus will be deserted and animals will make the ruins their home.

Both Ephraim (Israel) and Damascus (Aram) are slated to be defeated. Assyria defeated Aram in 732 B.C. and Israel in 722 B.C.

The glory of the sons of Israel (God's chosen ones) will be like those cities.

Vs. 4, 7, 9 In that day (appears to refer to the immediate historical situation rather than the tribulation and millennium).

Vs. 4-6 In that day:

the glory of Jacob will fade.

the fatness will become lean.

the appearance of a field will be as when the reaper removes the grain.

like one gleaned grain in the valley of Rephaim (Josh 15:8; 18:16) – a fertile area west of Jerusalem. (The breadbasket of the land) stripped of its grain.

like an olive tree after it has been shaken; with a handful of olives on the top branches.

so few people left after the slaughter.

Vs. 7-8 In that day:

the inhabitants of the land will be faced with the reality that only the God of Israel can respond!

the altars he has built.

the Asherim poles – the stem of a tree shaped into an image and planted in the ground. Ex. 34:11-14; Judges 6:24-26 At times they were made of silver or of carved stone. 2 Kings 21:1-7 (Manasseh was the son of Hezekiah)

cannot help in the day of calamity.

Vs. 9-11 In that day:

their strong cities will be like forsaken places in the forest – overgrown with underbrush.

like branches from the vineyard abandoned.

Israel has forgotten their God, the rock of their refuge.
they live like tomorrow is guaranteed, But (Matt. 24:37-39)

the harvest will be a heap.

a day of sickliness.

a day of incurable pain.

Vs. 12-13 Assyria was like the roar of surging waters, But

He will rebuke them.

they will flee.

like chaff before the wind.

like dust before a gale.

Vs. 14 at evening time, they bring terror.

By morning, they will be no more. Isa. 37:36

Such will be the end of those who plunder and pillage the apple of His eye.