

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Babylon's

DOOM

Isaiah 13:1-14:23

Lesson Twenty-Two

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Babylon's Doom

Isaiah shifts his attention to Babylon. This is very sudden. The time spoken of in these chapters is almost a hundred years after the events we have been reading about with Assyria. In that one hundred years Assyria lost some of their strength and in 626 BC, Babylon conquered Assyria and became the greatest nation in the world. In 586 BC, as we have said, Babylon conquered Judah; something Assyria had never done. It is interesting to note that Babylon became the most hated of all the enemies of the Jews. Often times that name is used to identify those who mistreated the Jews. In the New Testament the name Babylon was used to identify the Roman Empire. Read Isaiah 13:1-6.

Some think that this was written by someone other than Isaiah, since Babylon was not much of a threat to Judah when Isaiah was alive, but God showed Isaiah the future. And the future for Babylon didn't look good. According to this, Babylon would be defeated by the Medes, a nation to their north. This was pictured as a great army put together by God to destroy Babylon.

In verses six through twenty-two, various terrible things happen. There would be panic, hysteria, awful pain and horror. The sinners would be wiped out. All the natural light of creation would become black. The arrogant and braggers would be told to shut up. Isaiah speaks also of the ruthless. These are people who treat others like they were of no value at all. They didn't care who they hurt. Read Isaiah 13:9, 10, 11, 17, 19, 20. Or Read Isaiah 13:7-22.

It would be every person for themselves. We are reminded of the situation at the building of the tower of Babel. When their languages were confused, they wandered off with no contact with others. (See Genesis 11). All the structure of civilization would be gone.

After all this destruction, all that is left is briar patches and desert. No one would want to live there. It will be filled with wild animals. Humans living there would be as uncommon as the purest gold. God's judgment would be thorough. Nothing would be left untouched. (See Jeremiah 50:35-40 for another account of this.)

Chapter fourteen is one of the greatest writings in all history. It is written as though it has already taken place, but as we have seen, it would not take place for many years. It is written as a sure thing. There is no way it will not happen. The first three verses tell Judah that there will be an end to the suffering caused by the king of Babylon and their captivity. Isaiah promised that Judah would return home and foreigners would come with them.

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He promised that their pain would be over and that they were going to sing a song of victory. We see a “taunt,” a mocking comparison, of what the king thought when he was alive, and what was true and real when he was dead. Read Isaiah 14:1-4.

First, there is joy that the king is dead. God had broken the scepter of the king. The scepter was a staff that was held only by a king. The people break out in rejoicing. Even the trees, said Isaiah, the cypress trees and the cedar trees of Lebanon, joined in the joy.

Second, in Sheol, where the dead people are, other kings gather around and congratulate the king of Babylon on becoming just like all other dead kings. He was now as weak as they were. All his greatness was left behind on earth, and now he suffered death just like everyone else. He, who had considered himself indestructible, who had caused such damage and suffering on earth was now just another dead guy.

Third, they said that he had seen himself as becoming a god...ascending to heaven and reigning above the clouds. That will never happen.

Fourth, now he was helplessly captive forever in death. He who had been free to send armies to conquer other nations; who had been honored, even worshipped by his people; who had marched captives from many miles away to be slaves in his kingdom; was now helpless. Read Isaiah 14:8-14.

The final taunt begins in verse sixteen. Read Isaiah 14:16, 17, 21. This is what would happen on earth when the king is killed. He would be buried on the battlefield, like an ordinary soldier, rocks piled on his body, without a tombstone. And the final embarrassment would be that his children would be slaughtered because of the king’s sins.

Four things we learn here: First, proud ruthless kings will destroy themselves. Second, pride will ultimately be rewarded. Third, death humbles all humans. Fourth, none of us is indestructible. Even the greatest of kings can be conquered by enemies.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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Scripture Memory: “The Lord will have compassion on Jacob; once again He will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Isaiah 14:1b

Lesson Goal: To assist students to see how Isaiah saw God dealing with Babylon.

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Student Worksheet

Babylon's Doom—Isaiah 13:1-14:23

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. What nation conquered Assyria?
2. What are some of the terrible things that will happen to Babylon mentioned in 13:6-22?
3. What are the five “taunts” spoken to the king of Babylon?

Scripture Memory: “The Lord will have compassion on Jacob; once again He will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Isaiah 14:1b

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.