

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

More Doom On Babylon, Edom And Arabia

Isaiah 21

Lesson Twenty-Four

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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More Doom On Babylon, Edom and Arabia

A Bible student named R.B.Y.Scott said that Isaiah's oracles usually are either reproach, threat, exhortation or promise. That means that God told him to either criticize, frighten, pressure or give comfort. The Scripture today may contain all four of these. Remember one of the meanings of oracle is vision. Isaiah may be looking down the road at something that will happen after he died.

Babylon became a powerful nation, and conquered Jerusalem in 586 AD. What is prophesied here probably took place after Babylon was conquered in 539 BC.

The first thing we notice is a great noise; whirlwinds blowing through the desert and Isaiah has a "dire vision." This is also described as a "stern vision." The prophet knows how serious the vision is and what it means. Read Isaiah 21:1-10.

Verses two talks about the enemy attacking and laying siege. They are merciless. The end of verse three and verse four tell of the prophet's fear when he saw the vision. He calls it a horror. He said that he didn't understand it all.

The picture changes with the Babylonian army having a feast. They are caught unprepared to face the enemy. The prophet said, "get up and get your shields ready." The Medes (*Meeds*) and the Elamites (*E'-lam-ites*) were on the attack. They were traitors and looters.

Again the scene changes. In verse six, Isaiah heard the Lord say that a lookout should be posted in Jerusalem. This lookout was to expect some travelers. When the caravan arrives there is good news. Babylon has been defeated. Isaiah probably saw himself as the lookout.

The message is quite interesting. Verse nine speaks of a traveler in a chariot who says, "Babylon has fallen, has fallen!" You can just hear him shouting the news that he knows the people want to hear. First it is a statement, "Babylon has fallen..." Then he raises his voice to be sure the news is understood: "has fallen!" The gods of Babylon are destroyed. It was common that the winners of battles in those days wrecked the gods made of stone and wood and other substances, to show that their gods had no power.

Isaiah, understanding what Judah had gone through, calls them "crushed on the threshing floor." He said they probably felt like the crop after the farmer had pounded it to get the best seeds broken free. And here's the good news, Isaiah received this vision from God. They can depend on what Isaiah has spoken, since it is directly from God.

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There are two more oracles in this chapter. Read Isaiah 21:11, 12. The first is Isaiah's word from God about Edom. Actually, the name used here is Dumah (*Doo'-maah*). It is the name of a tribe that descended from Abraham's son Ishmael. Verse eleven refers to Seir (*See'-ir*). Both the tribe of Dumah and the city of Seir were in Edom.

This oracle is confusing, or maybe just open-ended. What we have here is the picture of a lookout, maybe the same one mentioned above, being asked twice, "Watchman, what is left of the night?" Another translation of the Bible says, "Watchman, how far gone is the night?"

The answer isn't a final answer. The watchman said either "the morning is coming, but night will come again," or "the morning has come but it is still dark." Either way, since there is no final news, the lookout said to come back later for more news. Read Isaiah 21:13-17.

The last oracle is about Arabia. As we have said, Arabia was southeast of Judah and made up of a lot of nomadic tribes...tribes that moved around to find pasture for their animals, places to grow food and places to fish. They also became the transporters of goods across the deserts.

The Dedanites (*Dead'-uh-nites*) were a strong tribe that had a home base in the desert at an oasis, Dedan. They had been forced away from their home base by attackers who threatened with swords as well as bows and arrows. The tribe that lived in Tema (*Tee'-mah*) was to bring food and water to the fugitive Dedanites. Tema was an oasis on the road to Damascus, about fifty miles from Dedan.

The people of Kedar (*Keh'-der*) seem to be the enemy of the Dedanites. The tribe of Kedar was closely associated with the Dedanites and the tribe of Tema. The Lord told Isaiah that within one year, as counted by a slave under contract for a year, Kedar would be all but destroyed. Only a few of the warriors threatening the Dedanites would be left alive. History says that they were conquered first by the Assyrians and then by the Babylonians. And again Isaiah credits God with this prophesy.

What does this say to us today? God's word is true and He will take care of His own.

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

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Scripture Memory: "In that day men will look to their maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 17:7

Lesson Goal: To point out the fact that God's word is true and He will take care of His own.

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Student Worksheet

More Doom On Babylon, Edom and Arabia—Isaiah 14:24-20:6

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

1. What are the four things God told Isaiah to do in the oracles He gave him?
2. Who were the “traitors and looters”?
3. What was the good news that the lookout in Jerusalem heard?
4. There are two oracles in verses 11-17. To whom were they written?
5. How long did God say it would be before Kedar was destroyed?
6. What does this Scripture say to us today?

Scripture Memory: “In that day men will look to their maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 17:7

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.