

## A Trek Through Isaiah 12 - Introduction 13 - 27, 13:1-22

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### Introduction 13 - 27

<b><u>The Kingdom Panorama - Where is True Security? (13 - 27)</u></b>					
	One-world Government	Davidic Monarchy	Collective Security and Self-sufficiency	The People of God	Triumphant End
1	13:1 – 14:27 Oracle of Babylon	14:28-32 Oracle of Philistia	15:1 - 16:13 Oracle of Moab	17:1 – 18:7 Oracle of Damascus	19:1 – 20:6 Oracle of Egypt
2	21:1-10 Oracle of the wilderness of the sea	21:11-12 Oracle of silence	21:13-17 Oracle of Arabia	22:1-25 Oracle of the valley of vision	23:1-18 Oracle of Tyre
3	24:1-20 The city of chaos	24:21-23 The King of glory	25:1-12 Salvation for all peoples	26:1-21 The strong city	27:1-13 Universal Israel

- In ch 7 - 12 God's people are in view, Judah then Israel. In ch 13 - 27 the view expands to the whole world.
- Isaiah reviews the great powers (Assyria, Babylon, Egypt) along with smaller nations, showing that Yahweh rules over all of them.
- He works through them to bring about His purpose of one people, one world, one God.
- Structure
  - By series (vertical)
    - Three series, each with five oracles
    - First series: oracles marked by the keyword "oracle"/"burden", straightforward headings and topics > current times
    - Second series: oracles also marked by the keyword "oracle"/"burden", enigmatic headings > future times
    - Third series: no keyword, oracles divided by topic > end times
  - By solution (horizontal)
    - Answers to the overall question: Where is true security to be found?
    - Answer 1: One world government
      - The world ordered under one centralized government
      - As at Babel (Gen 11)
      - But the "world city" will become the ruined city.

- Answer 2: The Davidic monarchy
  - The house of David seems to have failed but the Lord is not finished with the monarchy or with the city of Zion. It will take time and much darkness, but ultimately the Lord will reign in Zion over all the earth.
- Answer 3: Collective security and self-sufficiency
  - The Gentile nations' pride prevents them from seeking security under the Davidic king. Instead they choose self-sufficiency and fail. But in the end times they (except for Moab) will enjoy the Lord's banquet on Mount Zion.
- Answer 4: The people of God
  - Isaiah observes how Israel and Judah respond to the world around them with alliances and self-sufficiency, both setting aside the Lord. Both fail, but one day the Lord's people will enjoy true security in the strong city.
- Answer 5: The triumphant end
  - The Lord does not give up. In the end, a worldwide community will be gathered to His holy mountain.

#### Series 1: Sure promises

- Five oracles marked by the keyword "oracle" or "burden"
- Definite topics
- Shows that Yahweh is in charge of the world to keep His word and fulfill His promises.

#### Oracle concerning Babylon 13:1 - 14:27

##### Solution: one-world government

- Does not bring true security.
- God is the Lord of history. Arrogant superpowers will be brought low..

##### Structure

- A1 13:2-16 Hand beckoning: God's purpose toward one-world government.
  - B1 13:17-22 Overthrow of Babylon
    - C 14:1-2 God's purpose regarding His people
  - B2 14:3-23 Overthrow of the king of Babylon
- A2 14:24-27 Hand outstretched: Interim assurance

## Introduction 13:1

The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz beheld.

- Isaiah the son of Amoz beheld. Prophetically.
- Babylon.
  - Used to typify one-world government by men. Babylon (Shinar) was where human collective self-reliance first appeared.
  - Isaiah came to see that Babylon would become the greater power. In 14:25-25 he will use Assyria as an intermediate example.

## A1: God's purpose toward one-world government 13:2-16

- Isaiah describes the Day of Yahweh, when the one-world government will be overthrown.
  - V2-3 Yahweh's wrath
  - V4-5 Worldwide destruction
  - V6-8 No defense
  - V9-10 Cosmic effects
  - V11 Moral motivation
  - V12-13 Creation reversed
  - V14-16 No escape, only suffering

## Wrath of Yahweh 13:2-3

### Isaiah 13:2–3 (LSB)

2Lift up a standard on the bare hill, Heighten your voice at them, Wave the hand that they may enter the doors of the nobles.

3I have commanded My set apart ones, I have even called My mighty warriors, My proudly exulting ones, To execute My anger.

- V2
  - Lift up a standard.... Heighten your voice...wave the hand.
    - Summoning a host
    - Three methods, all showing urgency.
  - Doors of the nobles.
    - The main gates of the city which sought to rule the world.
  - wave the hand that they may enter.
    - As if the gates were opened for them. Fortifications are no match for Yahweh.
    - Inclusio with stretched-out hand at the end of the oracle (14:27)
- V3
  - I have commanded...to execute My anger
    - Summoned by the Lord of Hosts to accomplish His work
  - Set apart ones. .
    - Designated instruments
    - As Cyrus
      - Enabled the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple (2 Ch 36:22)
      - Isa 45:1, 4 Thus says Yahweh to Cyrus His anointed, whom I have taken hold of by his right hand... For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.
        - Called for Yahweh's purpose
        - Not a believer
  - Mighty
    - Strengthened for the work
  - Proudly exulting.
    - Full of pride, exulting in themselves, but being used by Yahweh.

Worldwide destruction 13:4-5

Isaiah 13:4-5 (LSB)

4A sound of tumult on the mountains, Like that of many people! A sound of the rumbling of kingdoms,  
Of nations gathered together! Yahweh of hosts is mustering the host for battle.

5They are coming from a far country, From the end of the sky, Yahweh and His instruments of  
indignation, To wreak destruction on the whole land.

- V4
- A sound of tumult.
  - Isaiah breaks forth in exclamations.
  - He hears the army as, historically, Jerusalem many times had heard the sound of armies in the surrounding mountains.
- Nations gathered together
  - From many nations
- Mustering the host
  - Mustered in order.
- from a distant land.
  - The LORD can summon an army from the ends of the earth.
- His instruments of indignation.
  - The moral purpose: to punish the sin of the world
- To wreak destruction on the whole land
  - The whole earth destroyed

No defense 13:6-8

Isaiah 13:6–8 (LSB)

6Wail, for the day of Yahweh is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

7Therefore all hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt.

8They will be terrified, Pains and labor pangs will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame.

- V6
  - The day of Yahweh is near
    - 2 Pet 3:3-10 ...in the last days, mockers will come... saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." ... But the day of the Lord will come like a thief...
      - Unbelievers think that history is uniform.
      - But God can intervene and does intervene.
      - Divine interventions are
        - Unexpected, coming in God's time
        - Irresistible.
    - As destruction from the Almighty
      - Heb play on words (shod/Shaddai). Young translates: "You shall know what Shaddai means, it means destruction so complete as if it were from the destroyer. How great then must be a destruction that comes from Shaddai?"
- V7
  - Wail...dismayed
    - The response of hopelessness. None can stand against Yahweh.
    - As Heb 10:31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God..
  - Hands...heart.
    - Action and thought.
    - Total personal paralysis.
- V8
  - Woman in labor.
    - Not a fruitful birth
    - Painful, comes on suddenly, cannot be avoided.
  - Faces will be aflame.
    - Glowing with fear and shame before a holy God..

### Cosmic effects 13:9-10

Isaiah 13:9–10 (LSB)

9Behold, the day of Yahweh is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation;  
And He will exterminate its sinners from it.

10For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark  
when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.

- V9
  - Cruel, with fury and burning anger
    - A time of judgment. No patience or mercy.
  - He will exterminate its sinners from it
    - The believing remnant will be preserved.
- V10
  - Stars...sun...moon.
    - Creation will be reversed. Then came light and order. Now comes darkness and destruction.

### Moral motivation 13:11

Isaiah 13:11 (LSB)

11Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the  
pride of the arrogant And bring low the lofty pride of the ruthless.

- end to the pride of the arrogant.
  - All the pride of man brought low.

### Creation reversed 13:12-13

Isaiah 13:12-13 (LSB)

12I will make mortal man scarcer than fine gold And mankind than the gold of Ophir.

13Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of  
Yahweh of hosts In the day of His burning anger.

- V12
  - Mortal man scarcer.
    - Because of the destruction of sinners.
- V13
  - Heavens tremble...earth shaken.
    - No stability. Complete confusion.

No escape, only suffering 13:14-16

Isaiah 13:14–16 (LSB)

14And it will be that like a hunted gazelle, Or like sheep with none to gather them, They will each turn to his own people, And each one flee to his own land.

15Anyone who is found will be pierced through, And anyone who is captured will fall by the sword.

16Their infants also will be dashed to pieces Before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished.

- V14
  - Two similes
    - like a hunted gazelle. Fleeing
    - like sheep with none to gather them. Wandering
  - Turn to his own people...flee to his own land
    - The central government collapses.
- V15
  - Anyone who is found.
    - No quarter. No escape.
- V16
  - Infants...houses...wives.
    - No common decency.
    - No mercy.



## Application

We have seen Isaiah's description of the Day of the Lord:

- V2-3 Yahweh's wrath
- V4-5 Worldwide destruction
- V6-8 No defense
- V9-10 Cosmic effects
- V11 Moral motivation
- V12-13 Creation reversed
- V14-16 No escape, only suffering

We who have trusted in Christ will not see the Day of the Lord. What use can we make of this passage?

- Shows how much God hates sin.
  - Ps 7:11 God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.
  - Ps 90:11 Who knows the power of Your anger And Your fury, according to the fear that is due You?
- Show how patient He is, to allow all men the chance to repent
  - 2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some consider slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
- Shows that He will be faithful to deal with sin.
  - Is 65:6 "Behold, it is written before Me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will even repay into their bosom,
- Shows how much He loves us.
  - Ro 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- Shows how much He is grieved when we sin
  - Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...

## B1 The overthrow of Babylon 13:17-22

- Propheying the fall of Babylon

### Yahweh's host 13:17-18

#### Isaiah 13:17–18 (LSB)

17Behold, I am going to awaken the Medes against them, Who will not think about silver or take pleasure in gold.

18And their bows will dash the young men to pieces, They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb, Nor will their eye pity children.

- Medes. Medes and Persians.
- I am going to awaken. Brought by Yahweh.
- against them. Instrument of judgment.
  - No interest in gold or silver.
  - Irresistible.
  - No mercy or pity.
- Here is the depth of human depravity used by God for His purpose.

### Babylon destroyed 13:19-22

#### Isaiah 13:19–22 (LSB)

19And it will be that Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the honor of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

20It will never be inhabited or dwelt in from generation to generation; Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there.

21But desert creatures will lie down there, And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches also will dwell there, and shaggy goats will leap there.

22And hyenas will howl in their fortified towers And jackals in their luxurious palaces. Her fateful time also will soon come And her days will not be prolonged.

- V19
  - Beauty of kingdoms
    - Earthly glory
    - As Da 2:37-38 the head of gold.
  - The honor of the Chaldean's pride. The cause of Babylon's destruction was pride.
  - Sodom and Gomorrah
    - Divine intervention
    - Unexpected
    - Complete destruction
- V20
  - It will never be inhabited
    - Babylon was conquered in 688 BC, desolated in 518 BC.
- V21
  - Desert creatures will lie down there
    - Shows finality

## Application

Gen 11:4 describes the Babylon spirit: And they said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, lest we be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” What are the characteristics of that spirit?

- For ourselves. Excluding Yahweh.
- Reach into heaven. To be God
- A name. Glory
- Lest we be scattered. Disobedient to Yahweh’s word

How does Yahweh respond to the Babylonian spirit? Destroy and scatter.

Can this happen to us today?

## References

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