

A Trek Through Isaiah 13 - 14:1-27

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Oracle of Babylon part 2

	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

- Kingdom panorama, first series: current events
- Q: Where is true security found?
- A: 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
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C God's purpose regarding His people 14:1-2

Isaiah 14:1–2 (LSB)

1When Yahweh will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel, and put them in their own land, then sojourners will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob.

2And the peoples will take them along and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them as an inheritance in the land of Yahweh for their male and female slaves; and they will take their captors captive and will have dominion over their taskmasters.

- Isaiah turns from the pagan kingdoms to Yahweh's people (the house of Israel)
- Yahweh will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel.
 - Compassion undeserved, in spite of their sins.
 - Chosen because of God's good pleasure. Election stands.
 - As Hosea 2:23 And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people'; and he shall say, 'You are my God.' "
 - Gomer's 2nd and 3rd children, out of adultery.
 - Names changed from judgment to salvation
- Put them in their own land.
 - Israel will again dwell in the promised land.

- Voluntarily brought by the nations.
- Partly fulfilled in the return from the Babylonian exile. To be completely fulfilled.
- Sojourners...slaves.
 - Sojourner. A Gentile who chose to attach themselves to Israel, adopting their customs and their God. So this is a prophecy of the inclusion of the Gentiles in the kingdom of Christ.
 - Coming in response to the gospel.
 - Voluntary servants in a kingdom of true peace. 9:6 A child will be born to us...Prince of Peace...

B2 14:3-23 Overthrow of the king of Babylon

Introduction 14:3-4a

Isaiah 14:3-4 (LSB)

3And it will be in the day when Yahweh gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh slavery in which you have been enslaved,

4that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, "How the taskmaster has ceased, And how fury has ceased!

- Rest. When the people of God have been delivered
- Re the Exodus
- You will take up this taunt.
 - By God's people
- Against the king of Babylon. Contrast w plural in V5. Not a specific king but the entire line of imperial rulers.

Taunt against the king of Babylon 14:4b-20

- Satire: in the lament form but filled with rejoicing
- Four stanzas
 - V4b-8 Relief upon the earth
 - V9-11 Astonishment in Sheol
 - V12-15 Fall from heaven
 - V16-21 Disgrace on earth

Stanza 1: Relief upon the earth 14:4b-8

The oppressor is broken 14:4b-6

Isaiah 14:4-6 (LSB)

4that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say, "How the taskmaster has ceased, And how fury has ceased!

5"Yahweh has broken the staff of the wicked, The scepter of rulers

6Which used to strike the peoples in fury with unceasing strokes, Which had dominion over the nations in anger with unrestrained persecution.

- V4
 - taskmaster. Imperial oppression based in pride.
- V5
 - Yahweh has broken the staff of the wicked, The scepter of rulers. Divine judgment by the real Lord of history.
- V6
 - Characteristics of imperialism
 - Absolute rule.
 - Unceasing striking in wrath
 - Unrestrained persecution.
- Contrast the rule of the coming King (Isa 9:6-7)
 - The government shall be upon his shoulder
 - his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 - Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end
 - Upheld in justice and with righteousness

The earth rejoices. 14:7-8

Isaiah 14:7–8 (LSB)

7“‘The whole earth is at rest and is quiet; They break forth into shouts of joy.

8“‘Even the cypress trees are glad over you, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, ‘Since you were laid low, no tree cutter comes up against us.’

- V7
 - Whole earth. Oppressed under the one-world government
 - Break forth into shouts of joy. World-side rejoicing
- V8
 - cypresses...cedars. Picture of a forest being spared.
 - Cedars of Lebanon. Ps 104:16 The trees of Yahweh are satisfied, The cedars of Lebanon which He planted.... . To cut down God’s forest is to be God.
 - Since you were laid low. The king of Babylon was cut down just like a tree.

Stanza 2: Astonishment in Sheol 14:9-11

Isaiah 14:9–11 (LSB)

9“‘Sheol from beneath trembles excitedly over you to meet you when you come; It wakens for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth; It raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones.

10“‘They will all answer and say to you, ‘Even you have been made weak as we, You have become like us.

11‘Your pride and the music of your harps Have been brought down to Sheol; Maggots are spread out as your bed beneath you And worms are your covering.’

- V9
 - Sheol. OT place of the dead.
 - Spirits of the dead.
 - OT unbelieving dead.

- Still existing. Death is not termination but change of state.
- Recognizable according to what they were on earth.
- Able to converse with each other
- Weak. Waiting to be reunited with their bodies.
- In a place of torment.
- OT believers went to Abraham's bosom.
- v10
 - Even you have been made as weak as we.
 - Amazement. In life he was greater than them all.
- V11
 - Two contrasting pictures of a funeral
 - Your pride... the music of your harps. Royal pomp and ceremony.,
 - Maggots ... worms. The reality of his end

Stanza 3: Fall from heaven 14:12-15

Isaiah 14:12–15 (LSB)

12“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

13“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

14‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

15“Nevertheless you will be brought down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

- V12 His end
 - How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn!
 - Similar to Canaanite myths of rebellion against the gods.
 - Describes the heights of human arrogance
 - Re Eph 2:2...the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.
- V13-14 His ambition: to ascend to heaven.
 - Progressively higher and higher.
 - Above the stars. The highest visible created things.
 - mount of assembly. Of the gods.
 - above the heights of the clouds. To the top.
 - like the Most High. To be God.
- V15 His end
 - Brought down to Sheol. His actual end. Only a few words are needed.

Stanza 4: Disgrace on earth 14:16-21

Isaiah 14:16–21 (LSB)

16“Those who see you will gaze at you, They will carefully consider you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who caused kingdoms to quake,

17Who made the world like a wilderness And pulled down its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’

18 "All the kings of the nations lie in glory, Each in his own place.

19 "But you have been cast out of your grave Like an abhorred branch, Clothed with those killed who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit Like a trampled corpse.

20 "You will not be united with them in burial, Because you have ruined your country, You have killed your people. May the seed of evildoers not be called upon forever.

21 "Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter Because of the iniquity of their fathers. They must not arise and take possession of the earth And fill the face of the world with cities."

- V16-17
 - Those who see you will gaze at you, They will carefully consider you. Onlookers seeing what is and remembering what was.
- V18 typical end for royalty
 - All the kings...lie in glory.
 - Isaiah emphasizing the significance.
 - Honored burial is the last respect paid to royalty.
- V19-20 the end of the king of Babylon
 - But you. Contrast with other kings
 - Cast out of your grave. Cast out without a grave
 - Abhorred branch. Maybe a diseased branch or miscarriage
 - Clothed with those killed. Weighing him down.
 - Trampled corpse. No burial.
 - Not be called upon forever. No remembrance.
- V21 the end for his sons
 - Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter
 - Referring to the Babylonian culture and spirit, which is in complete opposition to God and so must be completely destroyed.
 - Mat 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
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The end of imperialism 14:22-23

Isaiah 14:22–23 (LSB)

22 "I will rise up against them," declares Yahweh of hosts, "and will cut off from Babylon name and remnant, offspring and posterity," declares Yahweh.

23 "I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction," declares Yahweh of hosts.

- Spoken by Yahweh
- I will. 4x. Divine initiative. The first cause.
- Rise up.
 - Babylon had sought to exalt herself. But it is Yahweh that rises up.
- cut off from Babylon name and remnant, offspring and posterity.
 - Four nouns: the complete posterity and heritage of Babylon will be ended.
- Declares Yahweh. 3x. Seal of authenticity.

A2 14:24-27 Hand outstretched: God's purpose toward the world government fulfilled

Interim assurance: the example of Assyria 14:24-25

Isaiah 14:24-25 (LSB)

24Yahweh of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have counseled so it will stand,

25to break Assyria in My land, and I will trod him down on My mountains. Then his yoke will be removed from them and his burden removed from their shoulder.

- V24 Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have counseled so it will stand...
 - Showing that Yahweh will accomplish His purpose
- V25 Break Assyria.
 - The current manifestation of the Babylonian spirit
 - Interim fulfillment within the experience of Isaiah's hearers.

Yahweh's purpose for the world 14:26-27

Isaiah 14:26-27 (LSB)

26"This is the counsel that is counseled against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations.

27"For Yahweh of hosts has counseled, and who can thwart it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?"

- V24, 27 form an inclusio. As I have intended... Yahweh of hosts has counseled
- V26
 - This is the counsel that is counseled against the whole earth
 - Here is Yahweh's purpose: Man's one-world government will be destroyed.
 - It will be carried out over the whole earth and throughout history: with Babel, Assyria, Babylon, and Babylon the great (Rev 18:2).
 - None can defeat it.
 - Stretched-out hand
 - Pairs w hand waved in 13:1
 - Action. Purpose being fulfilled.
- Ps 2 gives the complete picture.
 - The kings of the earth speak v2-3
The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against Yahweh and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!"
 - We will rule
 - Yahweh speaks v4-6
He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord mocks them. Then He speaks to them in His anger And terrifies them in His fury, saying, "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

- Contempt toward them and their plans
- The King is already decided and installed

- Yahweh's King speaks v7-9

"I will surely tell of the decree of Yahweh: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth as Your possession. 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like a potter's vessel.'"

 - The King declares His sovereignty.

- The psalmist speaks: warning to mankind v10-12

So now, O kings, show insight; Take warning, O judges of the earth. Serve Yahweh with fear And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

 - Submit to Him or be destroyed.

Application

14:5-6 describes the actions of the king of Babylon on earth: unceasing striking in wrath, unrestrained persecution. His intent was to rule all the nations apart from God.

Look at Ja 4:1-2: What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have, so you murder. You are envious and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel...

- Can we act like the king of Babylon?
 - Yes. Murder, envy, fight, quarrel
- What is the cause?
 - Lust, envy. Not content with the Lord's provision.

How does 14:1-2 help us to avoid this?

- Shows how Yahweh treats His people: present trials, future hope
- Describes our hope.

How does 14:3-22 help us to avoid this?

- Shows the Lord's displeasure at pride.
- Shows the sure outcome

References

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