

Isaiah Chapters 11-20

The Beginning of the Prophecy Proper

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John D. W. Watts, Old Testament Editor of the Word Biblical Commentary, perhaps sums up the ten chapters, 21-30, best when he writes,

Yahweh is seen as the true God of humankind. As in Genesis 1—11, he stands in judgment over human pride and ambition (cf. Isa 2:9-22...). He also is master of life and death for all the people of the land (cf. especially chaps. 24-26).

The core of the Vision's theological message, however, is that Yahweh is the Lord of History. He calls and dismisses the nations. He determines their destinies. He divides the ages and determines the eventual courses of mankind. (WBC, Vol. 24, p. iv)

I. Judgment and Destiny of the Nations

- A. 21:1-10 Babylon
- B. 21:11-17 Edom and Arabia
- C. 22:1-25 The Valley of Vision
- D. 23:1-18 Tyre
- E. 24:1-23 General punishment of all the earth

II. The Sovereignty of God, the Lord of History, and the Will and Choice of Humankind

- A. If God is the Lord of History, how can human beings be held accountable for their choices?
- B. If God is the Sovereign Ruler of the nations, how can Satan be the god of this world? (2 Cor 4:4)
- C. If the rulers of this world have free will, how can God pre-write the outcome of history?
- D. If God is sovereign and human rulers choose evil, how is God not responsible for their actions?

The Return of Jesus Christ: A Preview of His Kingdom (Chapters 25—27)

- A. Background: 24:18b-23)
(The deity of Jesus Christ: *For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, v23b*)
- B. The nations will be subdued when Jesus returns as King of Kings (25:1-5)
- C. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be celebrated on Mt. Zion (25:6-10a)
- D. All the nations will revere Him, prophecy of the resurrection of God's people (26:19)
- E. That old serpent will be banished (v27:1) and Israel will blossom and flourish (27:6 ff.) (see Rev. 13:1)

IV. Judah is Offered Deliverance and Warned if She Does not Take it (Chapters 28—30)

(Prophecy of the coming Messiah: (28:16) a costly Cornerstone firmly placed (1 Peter 2:1-8)

- A. ¹³ *Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote, (Isa 29:13 NAU)*
- B. ¹⁵ *Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are done in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?" (Isa 29:15 NAU)*
- C. ¹⁶ *You turn things around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, That what is made would say to its maker, "He did not make me"; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding "? (Isa 29:16 NAU)*
- D. **DO NOT TRUST IN EGYPT!**
The essence of the message of chapter 30 is a severe warning against trusting in Egypt, both literally and symbolically *the arm of the flesh* (human beings). Human beings will fail, Egypt will be overthrown.
¹⁵ *For thus the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength." But you were not willing, (Isa 30:15 NAU)*
¹⁸ *Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.*
¹⁹ *O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. (Isa 30:18-19 NAU)*