

Isaiah Chapters 13:1-14:28

The Fall of Babylon and of Satan

February 27, 2022

"This is one of the clearest predictions of a future event that can anywhere be found, and the exact, minute fulfillment of it furnishes the highest possible evidence that "Isaiah spake as he was moved by the Holy Ghost." How will the infidel account for this prophecy and its fulfillment? It will not do to say that it was an accident. It is too minute and too particular. It is not due to human sagacity. No human sagacity could have foretold it. It is not fancied fulfillment. It is real in the most minute particulars. And if so, then Isaiah was commissioned by Jehovah as he claimed to be. And, if this prophecy was inspired by God, by the same train of reasoning it can be proved that the whole Bible is a revelation from heaven. (James Burton and Thelma B. Coffman, *Of the Major Prophets: Commentary on Isaiah*, vol. 1, The James Burton Coffman Commentaries (Abilene Christian University Press, 1990), Is 13-23.)

The Hebrew word for *oracle* in its usual and customary use means "*burden*." The prophecy in these verses is the burden God will bring upon Babylon and which the people of Babylon must bear.

I. **God's Judgment on Babylon is Effortless**

- A. The means of assembling the masses (mighty army) of judgment
 - 1. A flag on a hill (v.2a)
 - 2. A simple call, the voice of God (v.2b)
 - 3. A wave of the hand of God (v.2c)
- B. God will use the Medes as His mighty warriors to execute judgment on Babylon (vv.3-4)
- C. They are the instruments of His indignation to destroy the whole land (v.5)

II. **The Terror of the Judgment Day of the Lord**

- A. The terror that will strike the Babylonians (vv.6-8)
- B. Compare with Daniel 5:5-31 and the handwriting on the wall for Belshazzar
- C. A glimpse of the future destruction of Babylon the Great (vv.9-16)
- D. Babylon is never to be inhabited again (very.20-22) but is a type of the rebellious city under antichrist's rule

III. **The Horror of the Overthrow by the Medes and the Persians (vv. 17-22)**

- A. The Medes and Persians are important because they bring God's judgment on Babylon
- B. They are also important because Cyrus the Great becomes their king in 559 BC and reigns until 530 BC. It is he who allows the return and the provision for the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem to return and rebuild the temple and the city walls. (Is 44:28; 45:1-7)

IV. **The Return of the Jews and the Judgment Upon Satan(Chapter 14)**

- A. Isaiah prophesies the return of the Jews who have been taken captive (vv.1-2)
- B. The king of Babylon is both specific (Belshazzar) and general (all rebellious kings & rulers) (vv.3-8)
- C. The ultimate symbolic king of Babylon is sarcastically greeted by all the rulers he deceived (vv.9-11)
- D. The plan and ultimate destruction and judgment of Satan (vv.12-23)
 - a. Compare with Revelation 14:6-8, especially verse 8
 - b. Compare also Revelation 20:1-4, the defeat and binding of the serpent of old, Satan