

Isaiah 14:24–16:14

God Is In Control of the Nations

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In these chapters we find prophecies of judgment in addition to Babylon, upon Assyria, Philistia, and Moab. Other will follow in the next chapters. The remarkable thing is that Isaiah predicts their downfall in a time when they appeared to be world rulers and in great prosperity. These prophecies prove that God not only knows the future, but orchestrates events that determine the future. So accurate are these predictions that liberal writers have proposed a different author after the time of Isaiah and after these events with a common, and much later redactor—they doubt anyone could have written with such accuracy so long before the time of occurrence. Let's take a look:

I. The Fall of Assyria: 627-609 BC

Isaiah prophesied in the years 739–685, approximately. Much of his prophecy was during the rise and dominance of the Assyrian Empire. He was killed by Manasseh, the wicked successor to his father Hezekiah. Isaiah was likely dead by the time the prophecies against Assyria were fulfilled. Assyria fell to the Babylonians.

II. Judgment Upon Philistia (the Philistines)

The Philistines disappear from the written records after the conquest of Philistia by the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar in the 6th century BC.

III. The Prophecy Against Moab

The Moabites descended from the incestuous relationship between Lot and one of his daughters and though related to the Israelites by blood, they cause them untold trouble, especially in the Exodus from Egypt and in the times following. Moab falls from recorded history about 539 BC. Dixion was the capitol of Moab and a place to which many fled in their mourning (Is 16:2)

IV. The Inspiration of Prophecy

All of the prophecies of Isaiah were fulfilled largely after his death. That he wrote with such accuracy and minute detail astonishes conservative scholars and so confounds liberal writers that they doubt Isaianic authorship. None-the-less, God is the God above time and knows all things. Prophecy is one of the many proofs of the trustworthiness and reliability of the Scripture. It is the predictive accuracy of things we can measure and investigate that persuade us of the eternal and spiritual truths that are beyond our ability to analyze.

V. God Is the God of History and Nations

God is in control of the nations; it is He that sits upon the throne of the Universe. Even though Satan is called the god of this world and operates behind the scenes of history in a grand conspiracy against God, he is limited by the parameters defined by God. In the end it will be discovered that God makes even the evil to praise Him and Satan could only do what God permitted.

VI. We Need Not Fear, God Is On the Throne

As children of God we need not fear the future or the politics of our day. Humankind can only do what God permits, and He always has His eye on His beloved. In the end, when evil has run its course, Redeemed Israel and the Church wins. We will inherit the earth and reign and rule with Christ our Lord and Savior—King of Kings and Lord of Lords!