

Segment 9 – Isaiah 13:1ff; 14:1-28; 21:1-10

The Oracle (Burden) of Nations: Babylon/Assyria

Isaiah 13:1

The “Oracle” or “Burden”

(It is used 11 times in the next 8 chapters: Is 13:1; 14:28; 15:1; 17:1; 19:1; 21:1, 11, 13; 22:1, 25; 23:1.

Other similar uses: Ezekiel 12:10; Nahum 1:1; Habakkuk 1:1; Zechariah 9:1; 12:1)

The word means to lift up or to carry. It is associated with a responsibility or a load or strife (Deuteronomy 1:12). The words of the prophet record a burden that these nations must bear. This is prophetic judgment on the nations.

The Oracle (Burden) Concerning Babylon

The Babylonian and Assyrian kingdoms occupied the same territory. At the time of this prophecy (Isaiah 14:28), Assyria was the ruling kingdom. However, in about 100 years, the Babylonians would replace Assyria as this nation from beyond the Euphrates. The “king of Babylon” replaced “the king of Assyria” or “the Assyrian.” As Assyria executed God’s judgment and carried away Northern Israel, Babylon will execute God’s judgment in the days of Jeremiah and carry away southern Judah. Some scholars point out that Babylon was an important city in the Assyrian Empire and that from 729 on, until Nineveh fell to the Babylonians in 612BC, the kings of Assyria also assumed the title of “king of Babylon.” In this chapter, Babylon and Assyria share the same burden. (See verse 25.)

In terms of understanding future prophecies, Assyria and Babylon represent the same territory which today in modern time is the nation of Iraq.

This area of the world between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is Mesopotamia. It is the Fertile Crescent. The southern end of this territory near the Persian Gulf is known as Chaldea. Abraham was from Ur of the Chaldeans (Gen 15:7; Nehemiah 9:7).

This is the land of Shinar.

Genesis 11:1-9 – The Tower of Babel (Babylon)

Genesis 10:8-11 – This first world kingdom started by Nimrod was Babel.

Babel is Babylon. Other names of this kingdom: Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. A common belief from a study in etymology is that a modern name derived from “Erech” is “Iraq.”

Nimrod also founded the capital of Assyria – Nineveh.

Historically, the ancient city of Nineveh fell to the Babylonians in 612 BC, and the ancient city of Babylon fell to the Persians in 539 BC.

Sections of Scripture regarding judgment on Babylon

Isaiah 13:1ff; 14:1-28; 21:1-10; 43:1-21; 46:1ff; 47:1ff

Jeremiah 50:1ff; 51:1ff

Nahum 1:1ff; 2:1ff; 3:1ff – (This is actually judgment on Nineveh/Assyria.)

Zephaniah 2:13-15

Zechariah 5:1ff – (This will occur in the land of Shinar.)

Revelation 16:17-21; 17:1ff; 18:1ff

Isaiah 13:1-16

The use of “day of the LORD” in these verses clearly has end time implications. Although the city of Babylon was defeated by the Persians in 539BC, the usage of these judgments of the day of the LORD and the fact that the Book of Revelation was written almost 600 years after the ancient city was destroyed indicate a Babylon at the end of the age.

Isaiah 13:17-19 – A prophecy that God would stir up the Medes to overthrow Babylon. Cyrus the Persian brought the original defeat of Babylon (Isaiah 45:1).

Isaiah 13:20-23

In end time prophecies, an allied group of kings from the north come against the land of Shinar, Babylon, and bring the land to desolation. Isaiah 21:9; Jeremiah 50:8 and 9, 23, 41, 45 and 46; 51:7 and 8, 27-29, 37, 48, 60-64; Revelation 14:7 and 8; 18:1-3, 8-10, 21

Isaiah 14:1-21

A taunt against the king of Babylon

“Star of the morning, Lucifer,” is talking about the king of Babylon.

Isaiah 14:22-28

Babylon will be cut off, swept with “the broom of destruction.”

This is the plan devised against the whole earth, against all the nations.

Segment 10 – Isaiah 14:29-32; Isaiah 15:1-23; 18

Judgment on the Nations: Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Ethiopia/Cush, Egypt, Edom, Arabia, Tyre

God will judge the nations (Jeremiah 25:14-38; Joel 3:1-17; Zechariah 9:1-10).

The nations listed here in Isaiah are all Arab nations from the Middle East.

Philistia

Isaiah 14:29-32

Today-The Gaza Strip together with the West Bank make up the Palestinian Authority.

Jeremiah 47:1ff

Ezekiel 25:15-17

Amos 1:6-8

Zephaniah 2:4-7

Zechariah 9:5-7

Moab, Ammon, and Edom (Mt Seir/Esau)

Isaiah 15:1ff; 16:1ff; 21:11-12

Today – The country of Jordan

The nations of Moab and Ammon came from the children of Lot (Gen 19:30-38).

Edom came from the brother of Jacob, Esau (Gen 36:1-9, 43).

Jeremiah 48:1ff; 49:1-22

Ezekiel 25:1-14; 35:1ff

Amos 1:11-15

Obadiah 1:1ff

Zephaniah 2:8-11

Syria (Capital City – Damascus)

Isaiah 17:1ff

Today – The country of Syria

Jeremiah 49:23-27

Amos 1:3-5

Zechariah 9:1-2

Ethiopia

Isaiah 18:1ff; 20:1-6

Today – The countries of Sudan and Ethiopia

Zephaniah 1:12

Egypt

Isaiah 19:1ff; 20:1-6

Today – The country of Egypt

Ezekiel 29:1ff; 30:1ff; 32:1ff

Arabia

Isaiah 21:13-17

Today – The country of Saudi Arabia

Jeremiah 49:28-33

Tyre and Sidon

Isaiah 23:1ff

Today – The country of Lebanon

Ezekiel 26:1ff; 27:1ff; 28:1-24

Amos 1:9-10

Zechariah 9:2-4

Isaiah 22:1-14

The valley of vision

Isaiah 22:15-25

Eliakim to replace Shebna over the royal household