

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

THE GOD OF OUR SALVATION

ISAIAH CHAPTER 13:1-22

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER WN-649 OCTOBER 14, 2015

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“HE WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE”

Discovering the Salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ Through The Grace of God

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Worship, Prophecy, Israel, Millennium, Christ's Government

Introduction to the Text; **Isaiah 13:1-22**

- President James A. Garfield

“History is the unrolled scroll of prophecy.”

Daniel 4:25

They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.

July 28, 1787 said Benjamin Franklin,

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?

The Apostle Paul put it this way...

Acts 17:26

God has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings (borders),

This is truly an exciting and awesome section of Isaiah.

From chapter 13 to chapter 23 we look to the future while at the same time we look at the spiritual powers behind the governments of the world.

HE WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE

1.) The Unfathomable ways of God vs. 1-22

1a.) God will ultimately judge Babylon vs. 1

The burden (Judgment) against **Babylon** which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.

Assyria had invaded the northern tribes of Israel. Babylon invaded the southern kingdom of Judah.

Here is an amazing reality regarding **Israel Alone**,

God has set aside **Israel** above all other nations of the earth. **They** are His **chosen people** and **the land** is His **promised land**. He says in the scripture that His covenant with **Israel is forever**.

**Yeah, even though Israel is God's chosen people,
They are not exempt from His discipline or His correction.**

Amazing!

The prophecy here recorded by Isaiah regarding Babylon is given 100 years in advance of Babylon being a regional power. At the time of the prophecy, Babylon wasn't a city or an empire, it was an insignificant village on the Euphrates river.

In just 100 years Babylon will become
the first and greatest world empire of ancient times.

Babylon the World's First Great Empire

Babylon Empire Map

<https://sharinhislove.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/babylonian-empire-606-536-bc.jpg>

Ishtar Gate #1 of Babylon

http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5235/5818677513_0c1225e889_b.jpg

Ishtar Gate #2 of Babylon

http://www.softwareartist.com/SCRAPBOOK/Berlin/Ishtar%20Gate%20Babylon_02.jpg

Nebuchadnezzar is the Head of Gold

Daniel 2:31-46

"You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. :36 "This is the dream.

Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. 37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. 39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. 41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom

shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” :46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face,

HE WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE THE UNFATHOMABLE WAYS OF GOD

1b.) God will ultimately rule over the nations vs. 2-5

2 “Lift up a banner on the high mountain, Raise your voice to them; Wave your hand, that they may enter the gates of the nobles. 3 I have commanded My **sanctified** ones; I have also called My **mighty ones** for My anger— Those who rejoice in My exaltation.” 4 The noise of a multitude in the mountains, Like that of many people! A tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together! **The LORD of hosts** musters The army for battle. 5 They come from a far country, From the end of heaven— The LORD and His weapons of indignation, To destroy the whole land.

**God will allow the evil plans of the Assyrians
and the Babylonians to be successful against His people Israel.**

Does God Love America?

What if today, because of **America's godlessness and disobedience**, that God would do the same thing to us. What if God has allowed our nation to be attacked and to be under the threat of terrorism by the very religion that is an enemy to Judaism, Christianity atheist, freedom you name it?

Remember Church...

There is both the **Near** and **Far** Fulfillment of the Prophecy.
There is also the **Visible** and **Invisible** Aspects to the Prophecy.

The Babylonian prophecy was fulfilled in part in 539bc. when the Medes and the Persians invaded Babylon.

The ultimate future fulfillment with result in Babylon, in Iraq today, being totally consumed by the wrath of God as He sends an earthquake and fire to destroy it.

Babylon is Coming Church

The Bible predicts that the later it gets on God's clock the darker the days will become.

There is a "Fantastic" reason as to why...

1 Thessalonians. 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Tribulation / Second Coming Event

Revelation 9:13-15

Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

HE WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE THE UNFATHOMABLE WAYS OF GOD

1c.) God will ultimately punish His enemies vs. 6-22

6 Wail, for **the day of the LORD** is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt, 8 And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames.

Here is a "Must Stop" if we're going to understand this chapter

Isaiah 13:6,9,13

Wail, for **the day of the LORD** is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. :9 Behold, **the day of the LORD** comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it., :13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In (because) **the wrath of the LORD of hosts** And in **the day of His fierce anger**.

Tribulation / Second Coming Event

Psalms 2:1-5

Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

Tribulation / Second Coming Event

Mark 13:7-8

But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings (of birth pains) of sorrows.

Tribulation / Second Coming Event

1 Thessalonians 5:3

For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Jeremiah 50-51

Also records this same series of events regarding both; Babylon's (1) **penal** destruction and then (2) it's **ultimate** destruction.

Revelation 17-18

Deals with the future and ultimate destruction of a New Babylon. Babylon is a geographic location. (2) Babylon will become a center for spirituality. And (3) Babylon will again become a commercial center.

Daniel 5 Also describes in amazing detail the event of Babylon's demise as Daniel prophecy's to Nebuchadnezzar that his kingdom will last forever but would in fact be invaded by the Medo-Persian empire.

Verse 9-11

9 Behold, **the day of the LORD** comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. 11 "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Here is the wonderful point to this chapter, YHWH

will destroy all false worship systems and punish the inhabitants of the earth for their sins.

Jeremiah 50:1-2

The word that the LORD spoke against Babylon and against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet. 2 "Declare among the nations, Proclaim, and set up a standard; Proclaim - do not conceal it - Say, 'Babylon is taken, **Bel** is shamed. Merodach is broken in pieces; Her idols are humiliated, Her images are broken in pieces.'

Bel also known as **Enlil** and **Nebo (Nabu)** were two of the primary gods that were worshipped in ancient times by the Babylonians.

Isaiah 46:1-2

Bel bows down, Nabu stoops; Their idols were on the beasts and on the cattle. Your carriages were heavily loaded, A burden to the weary beast. 2 They stoop, they bow down together; They could not deliver the burden, But have themselves gone into captivity.

Tribulation / Second Coming Event

Luke 21:20-22, 25-27

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.... **Luke 21:25** “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Tribulation / Second Coming Event

Matthew 24:29-30

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Tribulation / Second Coming Event

Revelation 6:12-17

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Verse 12-16

12 I will make a mortal (human) more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir.
13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In **the wrath of the LORD of hosts** And **in the day of His fierce anger**. 14 It shall be as the hunted gazelle, And as a sheep that no man takes up; Every man will turn to his own people, And everyone will flee to his own land. 15 Everyone who is found will be thrust through, And everyone who is captured will fall by the sword. 16 Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished.

Verse 17-22

17 “Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, Who will not regard silver; And as for gold, they will not delight in it. 18 Also their bows will dash the young men to pieces, And they will have no pity on the fruit of the womb; Their eye will not spare children. 19 ***And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans’ pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.*** 20 ***It will never be inhabited, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation; Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there.*** 21 ***But wild beasts of the desert will lie there,***

*And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches will dwell there, And wild goats will caper there. 22
The hyenas will howl in their citadels, And jackals in their pleasant palaces. Her time is near to come,
And her days will not be prolonged."*

Babylon was conquered in a series of invasions

and for a time had some "glory days" but never again was it re-built after the death of Alexander
The Great in 323 BC.

**It is Interesting to note that the exact location of ancient Babylon is a
matter of archeological facts.**

The Ancient City was divided by the Euphrates River that flowed through the center of the city.

**What Saddam Hussein Called "Babylon" was several miles
from the river.**

The Ruins of Babylon Today

Babylon Today 1

http://brianmoranhdr.smugmug.com/HDR/Brian-Moran-HDR-Photos/Babylon6/1019633225_5fyt-M.jpg

Babylon Today 2

http://globalheritagefund.org/images/uploads/blogs/hotw_babylon1.jpg

Babylon Today 3

<https://thesovereign.files.wordpress.com/2007/08/babylon2.jpg?w=470>

With the first invasion of Jerusalem by Then General Nebuchadnezzar in 606BC.
it begins the "Time of The Gentiles" and that time continues to this moment..."

Babylon the City:

The city proper was 15 miles by 60 miles circumference.

It was believed to be invincible with walls 260 to 300 feet high and towers on the walls
another 100 feet high (400 ft.). 6 chariots wide would race atop its walls.

It had an inner wall and an outer wall with a mote that could be flooded.

End of Study