

Prophetical Babylon

(Isa 13:1-22; 21:1-10; 47:1-15; Jer 50; 51; Rev 18)

Isaiah 21:1-10

- B. Prophecies Against Gentile Nations (13:1-23:18)**
1. **Against Babylon (13:1-14:23)**
 2. **Against Assyria (14:24-27)**
 3. **Against Philistia (14:28-32)**
 4. **Against Moab (15:1-16:14)**
 5. **Against Damascus and Her Ally, Israel (17:1-14)**
 6. **Against Ethiopia (18:1-7)**
 7. **Against Egypt (19:1-20:6)**
 8. **Against Future Babylon (21:1-10)**

- 1 The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea (**MIDeBAR YAM = Babylon; cf V9**). As windstorms (**KUPHAH = 16x; used 3x in Job; Hos 8:7**) in the Negev sweep on, it comes from the wilderness, from a terrifying land.

Summary:

1. **This prophecy concerns Prophetical Babylon. Cf 21:9**
 2. **It is described here as a “wilderness of the sea.”**
 3. **This is probably being literally fulfilled in Israel at this time with the two witnesses shutting up the sky for 3.5 years. Rev 11:3-6**
- 2 A harsh vision has been shown to me; the treacherous one (**d.a. + BAGHADH = 48x**) still deals treacherously (**Qal Ptc BAGHAD**), and the destroyer (**d.a. + Qal Ptc SHADAD + Qal Ptc SHADAD = destroyer, ravager**) still destroys. Go up, Elam (**western Iran**), lay siege, Media (**Iran, Afghanistan, eastern Turkey**); I have made an end (**Hiph PF SHABAT**) of all the groaning she has caused.

Summary:

1. **This verse includes a twofold description of the Devil.**
2. **His cohort, the antichrist, will rise up out of the abyss during the Trib.**
3. **He is also called Abaddon and Apollyon. Rev 9:11**
4. **The Devil is the real “King of Babylon.” Cf Isa 14:4; 12-14**

5. **Elam and Media have been thoroughly deceived.**
6. **The Lord removed His hand of protection from the “Golden Cup” and her enemies destroyed her.**
7. **Prophetical Babylon will no longer be a tool of the Devil.**

3 For this reason my **(Isaiah)** loins are full of anguish; Pains have seized me like the pains of a woman in labor. I am so bewildered I cannot hear, so terrified I cannot see.

4 My mind reels, horror overwhelms me; the twilight I longed for has been turned for me into trembling.

5 They **(inhabitants of the wilderness of the sea)** set the table, they spread out the cloth, they eat, they drink; "Rise up, captains, oil the shields,"

Summary:

1. **Prophetical Babylon will think nothing is wrong and will be caught completely off guard.**
2. **At the appointed time, the Lord gives the go ahead to proceed.**
3. **Destruction will come when they least expect it, indicating a time of peace has been established. 1 Thes 5:3 cf Rev 6**

6 For thus the Lord says to me **(Isaiah)**, "Go, station the lookout **(Qal Ptc TSAPHAH = 36x; means basically to lean forward)**, let him report what he sees.

Summary:

1. **Most nations have seen the need for sentries throughout history.**
2. **Those that dwell in peace often drop their guard. Cf Judges**
3. **This is a call to be on the lookout for approaching danger. Cf Eze 33**

7 "When he **(the lookout)** sees riders, horsemen in pairs, a train of donkeys, a train of camels, let him pay close attention, very close attention." **(Hiph PF + w.c. QASHABH followed by the noun used 2x with RAB inserted; very closely observe)**

8 Then the lookout called, "O Lord, I stand continually by day on the watchtower **(MITZPAH = 2x; 2 Chr 20:24)**, and I am stationed every night at my guard post.

9 "Now behold, here comes a troop of riders, horsemen in pairs." And one answered and said, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon **(cf Jer 51:8; Rev 14:8; 18:2)** and all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground."

10 O my threshed people, and my afflicted of the threshing floor! What I **(Isa)** have heard from the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, I make known to you.

Summary:

1. **Other passages tell us Prophetical Babylon was not concerned with danger, thinking themselves impervious to it. Jer 50-51**
2. **Some lookouts were paying attention to the danger and see it coming.**

3. In the Tribulation, an angel will also announce “Fallen, Fallen is Babylon the Great.”
4. Isaiah reports what he has seen as a faithful lookout.
5. Nebuchadnezzar once claimed to have built “Babylon the Great” and for that was made to eat grass with the cattle until his great awakening.
Dan 4:28-37

Isaiah 47:1-15

A. Prophecies of Israel’s Deliverance and the Greatness of God (40:1-48:22)

1. The Greatness Of God. 40:1-31
2. Israel Encouraged. 41:1-29
3. God's Promise Of His Servant. 42:1-25
4. Israel Redeemed. 43:1-13
5. Babylon To Be Destroyed. 43:14-21
6. The Shortcomings Of Israel. 43:22-28
7. The Blessings Of Israel. 44:1-8
8. The Folly Of Idolatry. 44:9-20
9. God Forgives And Redeems. 44:21-28
10. God Uses Cyrus. 45:1-7
11. God's Supreme Power. 45:8-25
12. Babylon's Idols. 46:1-13
13. Lament For Babylon. 47:1-15
 - a. The Sins Of Babylon. 47:1-7

- 1 "Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter (**BeTULAH = 50x**) of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans. For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate.
- 2 "Take the millstones and grind meal. Remove your veil, strip off the skirt, uncover the leg, cross the rivers.
- 3 "Your nakedness will be uncovered, your shame also will be exposed; I will take vengeance and will not spare a man."

Summary:

1. The “**virgin daughter**” of Babylon refers to the fact that this “**Babylon**” has not been defiled in the sense of forced servitude to others.
2. It is the “**last Babylon**” to come along, because this one will be annihilated.
3. **Babylonianism began at the Tower of Babel. Gen 11**
 - A. **Human intellect turns against the God.** (baked brick)
 - B. **Human wisdom devises a way to save itself.**
(tar and tower is fitting for the Lord used tar to seal the Ark and the Ark “walked” on the water, i.e. rose above it.)
 - C. **Rebellion against the God establishes a new object(s) of worship.** (make a name, redefine The Name; replace The Name)

- D. **Fear is used to promote Collectivism.** (Come)
 - E. **Collectivism is seen as salvation.** (not be scattered)
 - F. **The attitude actually leads to mass confusion.** (when redefinition of words become commonplace, the result is confusion)
4. **There existed an ancient Babylon, that replaced ancient Sumer, in the Tigris-Euphrates river valley, that existed approximately at the time of Moses. Hammurabi was their most prominent king.**
 5. **That land was conquered by Assyria which held it until 605 B.C., when it was conquered by the Neo-Babylonians, led by Nebuchadnezzar.**
 6. **The land of that Babylon was then conquered by the Persians, then the Greeks under Alexander and then the Romans.**
 7. **As we have seen, this new Babylon is not in the same geographical area, but shares the same worldviews as the original Babylon.**

4 Our Redeemer (**GO'AL = 104x; to redeem; Job 19:25 et al**), the LORD of hosts (**YAHWEH TZABAOTH**) is His name, the Holy One of Israel (**QADOSH ISRAEL**).

5 "Sit silently, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you will no more be called the queen of kingdoms.

6 "I was angry with My people, I profaned (**brought low**) My heritage, and gave them into your hand (**daughter of the Chaldeans**). You did not show mercy to them, On the aged you made your yoke very heavy.

7 "Yet you said, 'I shall be a queen forever.' These things you did not consider, nor remember the outcome of them.

Summary:

1. **Yahweh will redeem His people Israel.**
2. **This final Babylon was considered to be the "queen" of kingdoms.**
3. **Part of the problem with that title is that the "King" of Babylon is Satan himself. See Isa 14**
4. **This title is a manifestation of her arrogance.**
5. **God became angry with Israel, yet based on the Abrahamic Covenant He would not throw them away, so He put this Babylon in charge of their care.**
6. **This Babylon became anti-Jew, for which they must receive sufficient justice.**
7. **This Babylon should have known better.**

b. Reasons For The Doom Of Babylon. 47:8-11

8 "Now, then, hear this, you sensual one (**'ADIYN = 1x**), who dwells securely, who says in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know loss of children.'

Summary:

1. **This Babylon is unique in history concerning its addiction to pleasure.**

2. **It's major problem is that it knows it is the best in the history of the world.**
 3. **It believes that its "husband" the king, will not die.**
 4. **It has come to believe that it cannot be destroyed.**
- 9 "But these two things shall come on you suddenly (**REGA' = a wink**) in one day: loss of children and widowhood. They shall come on you in full measure in spite of your many sorceries (**KESHEPH = 6x; witchcrafts**), in spite of the great power of your spells (**CHEBER = 7x; Deut 18:11 are labeled as an abomination to the Lord; the magic arts**).
- Summary:**
1. **Other passages say, "in one hour of one day." Rev 18:10,17,19**
 2. **Their hopes and dreams for a future will vanish.**
 3. **They believe that they can "charm away" any evil that comes their way with their great intellect and connection to the spirit world.**
- 10 "And you felt secure in your wickedness (**RA' = evil**) and said, 'No one sees me,' Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you; for you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me.'
- 11 "But evil will come on you which you will not know how to charm away; and disaster will fall on you for which you cannot atone, and destruction about which you do not know will come on you suddenly.
- Summary:**
1. **Knowledge makes arrogant. 1 Cor 8:1**
 2. **They believed that their evil thoughts and attitudes were undetected, especially by God.**
 3. **Besides becoming anti-Jew, they became massively arrogant, much like the king they serve.**
- c. Your Gods Won't Save You. 47:12-15**
- 12 "Stand fast now in your spells and in your many sorceries with which you have labored from your youth; perhaps you will be able to profit, perhaps you may cause trembling.
- Summary:**
1. **This is the Lord expressing His permissive will and letting their volition function.**
 2. **Even though it is in arrogant rebellion.**
 3. **The arrogant rebellion may produce a profit and generate fear, but it is doomed to failure.**
- 13 "You are wearied with your many counsels; let now the astrologers, those who prophesy by the stars, those who predict by the new moons, stand up and save you from what will come upon you.
- 14 "Behold, they have become like stubble, fire burns them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame; there will be no coal to warm by, nor a fire to sit before!

15 "So have those become to you with whom you have labored, who have trafficked with you from your youth; each has wandered in his own way. There is none to save you.

Summary:

1. **Even though the inhabitants of Babylon seem to know and have it all, they are wearied by the forecasters.**
2. **This is a challenge to let the so-called latter day "prophets" protect them from what is coming on them.**
3. **The bottom line is that there is no one to save them, for they forsook the Redeemer of Israel.**