

# Isaiah 13-14 Notes

## Precept study on Isaiah Part 1, Lesson 6

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### 1 Review: What we learn about God in Isaiah 1-12

- **1:16b: Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight ...**
- **5:12b: But they do not pay attention to the deeds of the LORD, ...**
- **12:4-5: And in that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name Make known His deeds among the peoples; Make them remember that His name is exalted." Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; Let this be known throughout the earth.**

So let's review Isaiah 1-12 by retelling the most excellent deeds of the LORD.

verse	What we learn about God	Why/how relevant to us
1:2; others	the LORD speaks	we listen; we can read His Word
1:3	sons He has reared	
1:4	called the Holy One of Israel, but the people despise Him	He is still holy, and we must not despise Him
1:11-15	the LORD is sick of the people mixing sin with their worship	the LORD doesn't tolerate syncretism, nor sin
1:16-19	He calls the people to repent, and offers to wash their sins away. If they consent, the will eat the best of the land.	we must reply. He can wash our sins away too
1:24-26	He will avenge Himself, smelt away the dross, restore judges as at first	
1:27	those who repent will be redeemed	we can be redeemed too
1:28	those who forsake Him will come to an end	
2:1-4	He will restore Israel, and many peoples will come to Him.	that's us! We can learn His ways.
2:6	abandons His people because they are soothsayers	
2:7-22	brings down the proud, the LORD alone will be exalted.	fear Him only

verse	What we learn about God	Why/how relevant to us
3:1	He will remove the leaders from Jerusalem because of their rebellion	
3:10	says to the righteous: it will go well with them	that's a promise to us, who do not rebel against Him
3:11	says to the wicked: it will go badly, getting the punishment they deserve	
3:13-15	He contends for the poor	
3:16-26	He judges the pride of the daughters of Zion	
4:2-6	the Branch of the LORD is glorious. He will wash away sin and protect His people	He cares about us - cleansing us from sin and watching over us
5:1-7	prepares a people and the land they live in, but they produce worthless grapes and so He will destroy the land. He wants justice, not bloodshed.	He cares about what we do, and wants justice for <i>us</i>
5:8-25	angered at sin, those who swap evil/good, injustice	He will give us justice, and defend us against evil.
5:26-30	calls the distant nation	He rules over the nations of the world and can make them do what He wants
6:1-4	HOLY HOLY HOLY, surrounded by His angels	awesome!
6:5-7	takes away Isaiah's sin	and ours too
6:8-10	sends Isaiah, but they won't listen	He sends us too. We should not be discouraged if they don't listen.
6:11-13	knows and controls the future	we can trust Him to make sure His plans succeed
7:1-9	tells Ahaz not to fear; if you won't believe, you will not last	we should not fear man.
7:10-13	offers a sign, but Ahaz refuses	He is willing to engage with us
7:14-25	gives the sign of Immanuel	Jesus
8:1-8	He gives another sign	another promise we can trust
8:9-10	He ensures that the plans of the wicked nations will fail	we can trust His promise, and know that God is with us.
8:11-18	He tells Isaiah not to fear, but to fear Him and regard Him as holy. He will be a sanctuary.	like Isaiah, we need not fear, either. He is our sanctuary. Like Isaiah, we look eagerly for Him too.

verse	What we learn about God	Why/how relevant to us
9:1-5	promises to give light to the people in darkness, increase their gladness, break their yoke	we can live in His light
9:6-7	a child will be given: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. His zeal will accomplish this.	the child given to us: Messiah Jesus
9:8-21	anger at pride, failure to repent, leaders who lead the people astray	He does not want us to be led astray, and takes serious action when leaders mislead
10:1-4	anger at injustice, plundering widows/orphans, trust in wealth	He is our defender
10:5-34	anger at Assyria, who over-reached and acted outside the plan of the LORD. A promise of a return of the remnant, who will rely on Him.	Rely on the LORD
11:1-9	The branch of Jesse will come: spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength. He will judge the poor in righteousness, and slay the wicked. Knowledge will cover the earth as waters cover the sea.	A promise for us, He will bring true peace.
11:10	He will call the nations, assemble His remnant	we are called
12:1	His anger ends, He comforts me. Contrast with "In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away and His hand is still stretched out." (Is 9:12b, 9:17b, 9:21b, 10:4b)	me too!
12:2-3	He is our salvation	I will not fear; I will draw water from the springs of salvation
12:4-6	He has done excellent things	I will make His deeds known.

## 2 Review of Isaiah 9:8 through chapter 12

- 9:8-12: anger at Ephraim's pride, even after suffering judgement. Thus the LORD sends adversaries (Aram, Philistia)
- 9:13-17: anger at their failure to repent, and for leading the people astray. Thus the LORD has no pity, cuts off head (leaders) and tail (false prophets).
- 9:18-21: anger at their wickedness and self-destruction. Thus the LORD allows their own sin to consume them.
- 10:1-4: anger at injustice. Thus the LORD sends devastation and captivity.
- 10:5-34 Anger at Assyria's arrogance; Thus the LORD destroys them
- 11:1-10: the branch from Jesse
- 11:11-16: the remnant returns
- 12: His anger is turned away, and we rejoice and tell of His excellent deeds.

### **3 Isaiah 13-23: Oracles against the nations**

Lessons 6 through 8 on Isaiah 13-23: Oracles against Babylon, Phylistia, Moab, Damascus, Egypt, the wilderness of the Sea, Edom, Arabia, the valley of vision (Judah), and Tyre.

Why such judgement on the nations? Recall Isaiah 1-12. God is angry at sin and evil. He will vanquish it, and give us peace and justice.

### **4 Isaiah 13-14: Oracle against Babylon**

#### **4.1 Babylon subject to Assyria**

Subject to Assyria, 705BC to 612BC. Men of Babylon deported to Samaria in 670BC.

During the reign of Sennacherib of Assyria (705-681BC), Babylonia was in a constant state of revolt, led by Mushezib-Marduk, and suppressed only by the complete destruction of the city of Babylon. In 689 BC, its walls, temples and palaces were razed, and the rubble was thrown into the Arakhtu, the sea bordering the earlier Babylon on the south. This act shocked the religious conscience of Mesopotamia; the subsequent murder of Sennacherib by two of his sons (681BC) was held to be in expiation of it, and his successor Esarhaddon hastened to rebuild the old city, to receive there his crown, and make it his residence during part of the year. On his death (669BC), Babylonia was left to be governed by his elder son Shamash-shum-ukin, who eventually headed a revolt in 652 BC against his brother in Nineveh, Assurbanipal (who ruled 669BC to 633BC).

Once again, Babylon was besieged by the Assyrians and starved into surrender (652BC) . Assurbanipal purified the city and celebrated a "service of reconciliation", but did not venture to "take the hands" of Bel. In the subsequent overthrow of the Assyrian Empire (612BC), the Babylonians saw another example of divine vengeance. (Albert Houtum-Schindler, "Babylon," Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th ed.)

The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sephar-vaim, and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they possessed Samaria and lived in its cities. 2 Kings 17:24 (this was about 670BC; prophesied 65 years earlier in Isaiah 7:8 in 735BC)

Now when the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the people of the exile were building a temple to the LORD God of Israel, they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we, like you, seek your God; and we have been sacrificing to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here." (Ezra 4:1-2; they were brought in about 670BC)

#### **4.2 Babylon chosen by God to punish Judah**

- 612BC

Under Nabopolassar, Babylon threw off the Assyrian rule in 612 BC and became the capital of the Neo-Babylonian Chaldean Empire.

- Seven years later, Babylon conquers Judah (605BC), deporting Daniel and others.

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god. (Daniel 1:1-2)

"You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. (Daniel 2:37-38)

- Babylon deports Ezekiel and others in 597BC, then destroys Jerusalem and the temple in 586BC.

Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without measure;  
And Jerusalem's splendor, her multitude, her din of revelry and the jubilant within her,  
descend into it.

...

He will also lift up a standard to the distant nation,  
And will whistle for it from the ends of the earth;  
And behold, it will come with speed swiftly.  
No one in it is weary or stumbles,  
None slumbers or sleeps;  
Nor is the belt at its waist undone,  
Nor its sandal strap broken.  
Its arrows are sharp and all its bows are bent;  
The hoofs of its horses seem like flint and its chariot wheels like a whirlwind.  
Its roaring is like a lioness, and it roars like young lions;  
It growls as it seizes the prey  
And carries it off with no one to deliver it.  
And it will growl over it in that day like the roaring of the sea  
If one looks to the land, behold, there is darkness and distress;  
Even the light is darkened by its clouds.  
(Isaiah 5:14,26-30)

- Nebuchadnezzar becomes proud, but is humbled and praises God. Date unknown (before 562BC).

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride. (Daniel 4:37)

### 4.3 Babylon becomes arrogant

Babylon became arrogant and proud (about 562BC to 538BC):

- 13:11: arrogance of the proud, haughtiness of the ruthless
- 14:4b-6: Babylon a furious oppressor, struck people unceasingly, subdued nations
- 14:11a: pomp, music of harps
- 14:13-14: "I will ascend to heaven, ... make myself like the Most High
- 14:16b-17 "Is this the man ... who shook nations?"
- Daniel 5:22-23: Belshazzar is arrogant (538BC)

"Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this, but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified. (Daniel 5:22-23)

### 4.4 Babylon humbled from its pride

God deals with Babylon's arrogance: falls to the Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian in 538BC.

- 13:1-5: The LORD musters his army (the Medes)
- 13:11: arrogance brought to an end
- 13:17-19: the LORD brings the Medes against Babylon
- 14:11: pomp and music brought down to Sheol
- Daniel 5:30-31. 538BC: Babylon conquered by Darius the Mede

That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two. (Daniel 5:30-31)

- Rev 18:7: given torment and mourning

"To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT as A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.'

### 4.5 Babylon utterly destroyed

Babylon brought to an end in Sheol.

- 13:6-16: hands fall limp, hearts melt, anguish, the LORD's fury, sinners exterminated
- 13:20-22: never inhabited again
- 14:4b-5: broken staff of the wicked
- 14:8-10: met and taunted by Sheol
- 14:11b-16a: maggots, thrust down to Sheol

- 14:18-24: rejected branch, no more offspring, swept with the broom of destruction
- Rev 14:6-13: in torment

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality." ... "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

- Rev 17-19:6: the harlot (Babylon) wages war against the Lamb, but will be destroyed.  
"these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire."

## **5 Isaiah 13-14: Judah and the remnant (Judah & Israel)**

### **5.1 Israel was from formerly righteous**

- Gen 15:6: Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.
- Isaiah 1:21: Zion once a faithful city, full of justice.
- 5:1-2: once a well-tended vineyard

### **5.2 Israel becomes impure and arrogant**

- 1:21-22: silver became dross
- 2:12: Judah's arrogance
- 5:3-4: the vineyard produces worthless grapes

### **5.3 Judah humbled from its pride**

- 14:4b-6: Judah was punished by Babylon, who subdued the nations
- 5:5-7: the vineyard is laid waste

### **5.4 The wicked in Judah are utterly destroyed**

- 1:28: transgressors and sinners crushed and come to an end
- 3:11: woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him.
- 6:9-10: their ears are dull, eyes dim. They do not hear nor listen.
- 8:19-22: those who consult the mediums who whisper and mutter. They will curse God and perish in gloom and darkness. They have no dawn (no hope of a coming day).

## 5.5 But then a light shines on the remnant

- 1:18-20: your sins are as scarlet but will be white as snow
- 1:25-27: the LORD will remove their dross
- 3:10: it will go well for the righteous
- 4:5: a canopy will be over Zion
- 6:6-7: Isaiah's sin forgiven
- 6:13: a remnant, a tenth
- 9:1-2: the people who walk in darkness will see a great light (even the Gentiles)

## 5.6 And the remnant is redeemed

- 1:26-27: a city of righteousness, as at first. Redeemed with justice and righteousness.
- Isaiah 4: the remnant called holy, and sheltered in Zion
- 9:1-11: glorious, by the way of the sea, no end to the increase of His government.
- Isaiah 11: the branch of Jesse. Knowledge of the LORD covers the earth.
- Isaiah 12: the LORD no longer angry, He is our salvation.
- 14:1-4a: **Israel** again chosen, returned to their place
- 14:7-8: whole earth at rest
- Rev 19:4-6: the Lord Almighty reigns forever.

Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

- Is 2:2-4: the *nations* will stream to the house of the LORD, and be taught His ways.