

# Isaiah 14-18 Notes

## Precept study on Isaiah Part 1, Lesson 7

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### 1 Review

- Isaiah 1-5: God judges his people: Woe! as result of their sin. Calls them to repentance. Promise of future restoration.
- Isaiah 6: Isaiah before God's throne. His own sin, confession, atonement, call, and sending to a people who will not listen.
- Isaiah 7-9: Isaiah's message to King Ahaz: do not fear what they fear. Trust God, not man. Fear God, not man.
- Isaiah 9-12: "In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away." Judgement on Israel and Assyria. Then a promise of restoration (Isaiah 11: the branch), and His anger turns away (Isaiah 12).

Read Is 12:1-2

Then you will say on that day,  
"I will give thanks to You, O LORD;  
For although You were angry with me,  
Your anger is turned away,  
And You comfort me.  
"Behold, God is my salvation,  
I will trust and not be afraid;  
For the LORD GOD is my strength and song,  
And He has become my salvation."

- Isaiah 13-14: Oracle concerning Babylon. Babylon used by God to punish Israel, but it over-reached, and became proud. Thus, the LORD humbles and destroys Babylon in Sheol. Symbolic of the world. But Israel again chosen (Is 14:1-4).

Read Is 14:1:

When the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel, and settle them in their own land, then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob.

and contrast with Is 13:9,11.

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,  
Cruel, with fury and burning anger,  
To make the land a desolation;  
And He will exterminate its sinners from it.  
For the stars of heaven and their constellations  
Will not flash forth their light;  
The sun will be dark when it rises  
And the moon will not shed its light.  
Thus I will punish the world for its evil  
And the wicked for their iniquity;  
I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud  
And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.

## 2 Overview, Isaiah 14-18

Who is speaking in Isaiah 15? (v5 and 9, "My" and "I")? It is God. Note God's sorrow. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. That applies to the repentant. Note the weeping of man, but also the weeping of God.

Gen 12:3. We can come to God through the seed of Abraham (Jesus).

Contrast the judgement of Babylon with how He deals with us. See Isaiah 12 and Psalm 30: God's anger turns away and we are not brought down to Sheol (unlike Babylon).

### Psalm 30

- 1 I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up,  
And have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
- 2 O LORD my God,  
I cried to You for help, and You healed me.
- 3 O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit.
- 4 Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones,  
And give thanks to His holy name.
- 5 For His anger is but for a moment,  
His favor is for a lifetime;  
Weeping may last for the night,  
But a shout of joy comes in the morning.
- 6 Now as for me, I said in my prosperity,  
"I will never be moved."
- 7 O LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain to stand strong;  
You hid Your face, I was dismayed.
- 8 To You, O LORD, I called,  
And to the Lord I made supplication:
- 9 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness?"

10 "Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me;  
 O LORD, be my helper."  
 11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;  
 You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness,  
 12 That my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent  
 O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

### 3 Isaiah 14:28-32: Philistia

- Who were the Philistines? See Isaiah 2:6, 9:12, 11:14. Soothsayers (as was King Ahaz). They are used by the LORD to punish Israel. But the remnant of Israel will destroy them.
- Isaiah 14:29. Who is the rod? Either Assyria, or the house of David.
- The Philistines severely afflicted Israel, but see Isaiah 14:32. The LORD provides Zion as a refuge.

Background notes:

- origin unknown. Sea peoples from the Aegean (Greece, Mycenae). Invaded Egypt 1188BC, fought Ramses III (lost). Fought the Hittites and N. Syria. Homeland was Caphor (Crete) according to Amos 9:7. A threat to Israel (Judges). In conflict with Samson. Forced Dan to move north. 1 Sam 4: defeated the Israelites. Saul lost his life at Mt Gilboa.
- Lost their independence to the Assyrian King Tiglath-Pileser in 732BC.
- Philistines are still trying to invade Israel. The 5 cities (Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, Ashkelon), in the Gaza strip.
- Experts in metals, gave them a military advantage.
- Their gods were Dagon (fell over before the ark) Ashtoreh, Beelzebub.
- Then under Byzantine rule.
- 636AD occupied by Turks.
- 12th and 13th centuries, the Muslims
- 1516 incorporated into the Ottoman empire.
- 1799 French, then Ottoman rule restored until WW1. Called it Palestine in 1917. Balfour declaration.
- 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Israel captured 26% of the British Mandate, Jordan captured 25%. Egypt captured Gaza.
- 1964 PLO founded. Formal goal: drive Israel into the sea. Remains a current-day enemy of Israel. 1993: Arafat settles for a 2-state solution. Israel and PLO recognize each other.
- Palestine never a distinct people group.
- 2004 the US Congress declared PLO to be a terrorist organization. PLO considered the richest of terrorist organization (\$50 billion).
- Is 14:29: the rod is either the house of David, or Assyria.
- Lev 25:2, 25:23: God owns the land. Israel must not sell it. 1 Sam 5:7: David captured Zion, the city of David.
- Ps 2:4: the LORD scoffs at the nations. Consider all of Psalm 2. Compare Is 16:5 with Ps 2:6-8.

## 4 Isaiah 15-16: Moab

- What is Moab, then and today? Son of Lot. Ruth a Moabitess, great-grandmother of David and thus an ancestor of Jesus.
- What does this oracle say about Moab? Ruined in a night, weeping.
- Who is “my” and “I” referring to in Isaiah 15:5,9 and 16:9-11? The LORD. He weeps over Moab.
- Why does the LORD weep? They are descended from Abraham, yet are arrogant and proud.
- Isaiah 16:5. Wow! Who is the LORD referring to?

A throne will even be established in lovingkindness, And a judge will sit on it in faithfulness in the tent of David; Moreover, he will seek justice And be prompt in righteousness.

- Compare Is 16:1-5 with Psalm 2. Moab was called to take refuge in Zion.

### Psalm 2:

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar  
And the peoples devising a vain thing? (like Moab's pride; Is 16:6)
- 2 The kings of the earth take their stand  
And the rulers take counsel together  
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
- 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart  
And cast away their cords from us!" (like Babylon; Isaiah 13:13-14)
- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs,  
The Lord scoffs at them.
- 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger  
And terrify them in His fury, saying,
- 6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King  
Upon Zion, My holy mountain."
- 7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD:  
He said to Me, 'You are My Son,  
Today I have begotten You.
- 8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,  
And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.
- 9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, (like Philistia; Is 14:29)  
You shall shatter them like earthenware.'"
- 10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;  
Take warning, O judges of the earth.
- 11 Worship the LORD with reverence  
And rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way,  
For His wrath may soon be kindled  
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him! (like Moab should; Is 16:1-4  
and Is 14:32)

- Yet who does Moab pray to? See Is 16:12. They pray to their idols.

Background notes:

- Dec 9, 1917. Ottoman rule came to an end. 2 days later, British General Allenby declared Jerusalem the capital. Balfour Declaration: said the Jews could return.
- May 1948: the Jews proclaimed the independent state of Israel. 2 days later, Israel was then attacked by Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.
- After the war, the Jordanians held the West Bank. Old city of Jerusalem held by Jordan (Moab). Jews were not allowed 1953: King Hussein gained the throne. 1967: Jerusalem regained by Israel. 1800 years before. Jordan and Israel now live at peace. Jordan 92% Sunni Muslim.
- The wailing and grief that Moab goes through is caused by their pride (Is 16:6). God mourned over them, because Moab had access to the truth and were descendants from Abraham.
- As the judgement comes from the north, it drives the people to the south. Is 15:4: the armed men cry out. The Moabites can escape to Israel (16:1-4). Compare with Ps 2:12.
- Consider also Ruth, great-grandmother of David, and ancestor of Jesus (16:5). She was an outcast of Moab (but not because of the destruction foretold in Isaiah 16).

## 5 Isaiah 17: Damascus

- Who and where is Damascus? What is its relationship with Israel and Judah?  
Capital of Aram, enemy of Israel. Taken captive by Assyria along with Israel (N. Kingdom).
- Isaiah 17:4-11. To whom does the focus shift? Jacob.
- What will happen to Israel (the northern Kingdom)?  
They will be very few, but will look to the LORD and trash their idols. We've seen this before in Isaiah. See 2:19-22.
- Consider Isaiah 17:12. Compare with Psalm 2:1. Who is in uproar?
- What is the result of raging against the LORD? See Is 17:13-14, and also Ps 2:9.

Background notes:

- Oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. Center of Aramean power. In 1918, France took control. Modern-day Syria.
- In 1946: independence from France.
- In 1967: took part in the Arab-Israeli war, and lost the Golan Heights. They Syrians would fire rockets on Galilee.
- Currently ruled by Bashar al-Assad, under the influence of Iran. Official language is Arabic.

## 6 Isaiah 18: Cush

- Who is being addressed in 18:1-2? Cush, or Ethiopia, it appears.
- Who is being addressed in 18:3? All the earth.
- Cush was a part of Egypt. Often mentioned along with Egypt in Scripture (Is 20, for example).