

“THE HAND STRETCHED OUT OVER THE NATIONS”

Isaiah 13-17

Introduction

- 1) The **Lord** rules over the nations of the earth (Dan. 4:17; Psa. 22:28; 47:7; 103:19; Job 12:23)
- 2) God is “sovereign” – the supreme ruler over all (1 Chron. 29:11-12; Acts 17:26)
- 3) God stands in judgment of all men and nations – evil will be punished by God (Prov. 16:4)
- 4) Isaiah refers to God’s judgment as the “purpose of the Lord” and “His hand stretched out” (14:26-27) as he announces the “burden” of the Lord against numerous nations

I) The Proclamation against Babylon (13:1 – 14:23)

- A) “Burden” (13:1) – oracle/prophesy/proclamation/verdict of judgment
- B) God calls His army to battle against Babylon (13:2-5)
- C) “Day of the Lord” will bring destructive judgment (13:6-16)
- D) The Medes will bring Babylon down; city will remain uninhabited (13:17-22)
 - 1) Prophecy fulfilled in 539 BC (Dan. 5:25-31)
- E) Remnant of God’s people will be returned by His mercy (14:1-2)
- F) Proverb of triumph over the arrogant king of Babylon (14:3-21)
 - 1) He is a bright morning star that will fall from heaven (v. 12)
 - a) “Lucifer” = from Latin translation meaning “light-bearer”; not a reference to Satan
 - 2) Will be brought down to Sheol (grave, death)
- G) Babylon destroyed (14:22-23)

II) Assyria and Philistia Destroyed (14:24-32)

- A) God will break the Assyrian in “My land”; remove its yoke/burden (vv. 24-27)
 - 1) God’s purpose can never be annulled; His hand will never be turned back (cf. 19:12; 23:9)
- B) Proclamation against Philistia came in the year king Ahaz died (v. 28; 726 BC)
 - 1) Destruction will come against Philistia from the north like a viper (vv. 29-31)
 - 2) Zion will be a place of refuge (v. 32)

III) Proclamation against Moab (15:1 – 16:14)

- A) Devastation will come to all parts of Moab, from Ar (north) to Kir (south) (15:2-4)
 - 1) Even Isaiah is moved to compassion for Moab and its ruin (15:5-9)
- B) Moab told to turn to Judah for help and relief (16:1-5)
 - 1) Moab’s pride is its downfall (16:6-12)
- C) Punishment will happen within three years; only a small remnant will remain (16:13-14)

IV) Proclamation against Syria and Israel (17:1-14)

- A) Damascus (capital of Syria) will become a ruinous heap (vv. 1-2)
 - 1) Ephraim (Israel) and Damascus linked together as a coalition (v. 3; cf. 7:1)
- B) The “glory of Jacob” (Israel) will become lean; only a few will remain (vv. 4-6)
 - 1) Some will learn to turn to the Lord away from idols (vv. 7-8)
 - 2) The nation came to desolation because they had forgotten the God of their salvation and had not been mindful of the Rock of their stronghold/refuge (vv. 9-11)

Conclusion

The nations of the earth go about like the “rushing of many waters,” but God is the one in complete control. He can rebuke even the strongest of nations and scatter it like chaff (vv. 12-14). The sovereign power and reign of God over the kingdoms of men continues to this day.