

"Isaiah Bible Study, Lesson 6, Isaiah 13 and 14"

- ✍️ Isaiah 13 deals with the city of Babylon, an incredibly significant city as far as ancient times are concerned, and, because the name is prevalent in Revelation, it will be a very significant city in the near future. If you are serious about learning what the Bible has to say about Babylon's past and future, I would like you to sit down and read, in one sitting, six chapters in the Bible: Isaiah 13 and 14, Jeremiah 50 and 51, Revelation 17 and 18. Write down all the similarities, the things that are repeated, themes and how each chapter adds to that theme. You will see that all six are referring to the literal city of Babylon not just an idiom of Babylon. You will also see the Babylon is a system that encompasses far more than the literal city, a system of idolatry and false teaching. We also need to appreciate Isaiah's struggle as he predicts the destruction of city that hasn't even been built yet! Not to mention a second resuscitation of that city in the latter times. At the time of Isaiah's writing, Babylon is a pawn of Assyrian politics and matters very little in that geo-political environment.
 - ✍️ Ancient Babylon was a city, not quite square in shape, which measured over 15 miles per side; it was divided in almost half by the Euphrates that ran through it. It had double walls, and the river was diverted to fill a moat outside the wall which was its primary defense. The wall was 350 feet high at its highest and 87 feet thick; they would race 6 chariots abreast on top of it. The palace of Nebuchadnezzar has been uncovered and virtually rebuilt; it had a courtyard 200 by 170 feet. The throne room of Nebuchadnezzar was 165 by 143 feet, the same room where God wrote on the wall for Daniel. Its origins back in Genesis 10 and 11 mark it as the city of man and Satan and their alternate lifestyle, religion, faith, empire and attempt at world domination. Babel was the city of confusion and misdirection. What is the city of God? Jerusalem which means "in it there is peace." The Bible can be viewed as a tale of these two cities. Jerusalem is God's system of faith; Babylon is man's system.
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1. Isaiah 13

- ✓ Oracle means, literally, "burden." We speak similarly today when we say, "this is topic or situation is heavy." Isaiah 13:1. This is heavy because of whom God may be referring to, His angelic armies, remember one of God's most common titles is "The Lord of hosts" which literally means the Lord of Armies. God being angry should be a terrifying thing, Isaiah 13:2-3. Nations?, Isaiah 13:4-5. Babylon wasn't conquered by nations, in fact, Babylon was overthrown without firing a shot. Babylon was taken over by the Persians who didn't fire a shot but simply replaced the leadership with their own. It was not destroyed, and, in fact, the residents of Babylon did not learn that Babylon had been taken over by the Persians for as much as three days. Importantly, the Persians did not destroy Babylon and neither did the Greeks who conquered the Persians a couple of hundred years later, in fact Alexander the Great makes Babylon his capital city. Alexander died of alcohol poisoning in Babylon. Babylon was inhabited throughout that entire time and on up until modern times still had people living there. Impossible to see Persia as the one being referred to here since it was just the next-door neighbor to Babylon (Iraq) and Persia (Iran).
 - ✓ The "day of the Lord" tells us that isn't something that has happened in the past but is something that is still yet future Isaiah 13:6. The Bible requires Babylon to be major world power in the end time events. Saddam Hussein spent more than 20 years rebuilding the ancient city. Destroy the sinners out of it? That is a mark of the millennial reign of Christ. This hasn't happened yet!, Isaiah 13:7-9. The world?, Isaiah 13:10-11. I thought this was a judgment on Babylon. The entire existence of the human race will be threatened; this happened at the flood of Noah, but it hasn't happened since, Isaiah 13:12. Note, these great kingdoms no longer exist, but Israel does!, Isaiah 13:13-14. Because the Medes are mentioned here many commentators assume that this whole thing is referring to Babylon's fall to the Medes and Persians in 539 BC but nothing else fits that conclusion. Medes were a nation of people that equivocate to the Kurds of modern day. How do the Kurds feel about the Iraqis today?, Isaiah 13:15-18.
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- ✓ Notice, Isaiah 13:19, this is the actual city not some figurative city that doesn't exist. Sodom and Gomorrah were literal cities as well with visible and literal destruction. Those were wiped off the planet by God completely and this is what is prophesied for Babylon, but that hasn't happened to Babylon yet. These verses, Isaiah 13:20-22, haven't happened, there has been a perpetual civilization there since antiquity, this stuff is yet in the future. For these things to come true for Babylon, there has to be a rebuilding and renewal of it as population and government center.
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2. Isaiah 14

- ✓ Jacob is synonymous with Israel?, Isaiah 14:1. Remember these were both the names of one man, originally, who fathered the twelve tribes of Israel. You can understand, given what this says, why the Jews of Jesus' day were ready for Him to assume His earthly position as their king because this will be the result when it does happen, Isaiah 14:2-3. They were sick of serving other nations. Israel and the nations have never been able to do this since Babylon has never been destroyed and laid low as it describes here, Isaiah 14:4-8. This is a future event and celebration requiring that the capital of paganism and of man-ruled philosophy and religion be rebuilt and resuscitated in future days, also refer to Revelation 18:20-21; and 19:1-6. Sheol is the holding place for the wicked dead, apparently they aren't asleep or in some sort of stasis. They can see, hear and express themselves, Isaiah 14:9-11. They are sentient, aware, and can see what they are missing and where they are headed.
- ✓ There is a major shift in language from verse 12 on, and, instead of the human leaders of Babylon being in view, we will shift to the spirit entity that is behind all of human and physical world that lived in rebellion against God. Only three angels are given names in the Scriptures. Can you name them?, they are Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer. Gabriel is always associated with the Messiah. Michael is always seen as a warrior. Lucifer isn't an angel in the strict sense but is a Cherubim according to Ezekiel. We need to take a quick glance at another passage in the Old Testament, Jeremiah 50, predicting the end of Babylon. North of Babylon is Russia!, Jeremiah 50:1-3. Referring to many nations?, Jeremiah 50:8-13. This has never happened to Babylon! But there it is again, Jeremiah 50:39-40. In Jeremiah 51:7-8 we have a very similar description to the fall of Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18 using identical idioms.

We are tied to Babylon far more than most realize, like Easter, rabbits laying eggs, dates of holidays, Halloween, Christmas trees and yule logs, mistletoe, giving of presents, calendars and names of months and days. These ancient weird ideas have permeated all cultures and are part of all false religions. Everything pagan has its origins in Babylon, it is the city of manmade religion: the capital of the "I'm going to do it my way" faith like that of Cain. "One of the seven angels who had poured out the seven bowls came over and spoke to me. "Come with me," he said, "and I will show you the judgment that is going to come on the great prostitute, who rules over many waters," Revelation 17:1. She rides back into world prominence on the back of the Antichrist and his regime.
