

## **God Will Raise the Medes to Destroy Babylon**

Scripture: Isaiah 13:13-22

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### **I. Historical Background and Biblical Context**

There is a pattern to history. History is His story. The first eleven chapters of the book of Isaiah are certainly evidence that God is at work in the nations of the world. God is in control of the nations of the world, and He can do with them what He pleases. These revelations from the Lord through the prophet, Isaiah, were about events and judgments that were to come against the enemies of and around Israel. These prophecies were specifically for God's people to continue to put their trust in Him alone, and not in kings, kingdoms, or foreign gods. Lord God of Israel was and is the God of all nations. This same alarm is sounding to us today. Great and small nations have risen and fallen. God is sovereign, holy, and righteous. He will tolerate sins, disobedience, and idolatry with no regard to true repentance.

Isaiah's prophecy in this chapter foretells Babylon's destruction. Even during the time of the Assyrian Empire, the dominant power of the time city of Babylon was formidable and stood at the head of list of Israel's enemies to be destroyed. God's anger turned away from Israel and toward the oppressive foreign power.

The fall of Babylon to the Medes was merely a short glimpse of the ultimate fall of Babylon at the hands of universal forces of God (Rev 18:2-3).

Isaiah's prophecy looks beyond the immediate conquest of the city of the Medes to a greater day of the Lord. It anticipates the final destruction of Babylon by the intervention of the Messiah, "In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the people; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious" (Isaiah 11:10).

## II. God Will Raise the Medes to Destroy Babylon

### 1. v. 13.

Therefore, I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the Lord Almighty, in the day of his burning anger.

There are at least four times we see the word “wrath” in this chapter. Rev Alice Tamrie addressed this in the lesson last Sunday, God’s wrath is the personal manifestation of God’s holy, moral character in judgment against sin. One of the problems that we have today that most people want to hear about love and grace and never about the wrath of God. God’s wrath is not inconsistent with God’s love. The Bible speaks about the wrath in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament (Deut 9:8; Ps 2:5, 38:1; John 3:36; Rom 1:18; and Rev 6:17)

The Word of God gives us warning about the wrath of God and eternal judgment. To understand the wrath of God is to understand that God’s holiness cannot and will not coexist with sin in any form whatsoever. God’s wrath is His righteous indignation at everything that is unrighteous. God cannot overlook sin, wink at it, nor pretend it is not there. His wrath happens when holiness meets sin, righteous meets unrighteous, justice meets rebellion, and lastly, when perfect good meet pure evil. As long as God is God, He will not dismiss lightly those who trample holy will. Praise God that He is longsuffering, slow to anger abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished.

### 2. vv. 14-16.

What a daunting picture as prophecy by Isaiah that those fleeing Babylon will be hunted down and run through. The armies attacking will bring immense human suffering. The Medes will attack, and they will be merciless. No one will spare not even the

women and children. The homes will be looted, and they will take liberties with the women.

3. **vv. 17-18.**

God raised up the Medes against Babylon. These events are not taking place without purpose and meaning. God is bringing judgment on a people who will not acknowledge His name or live in according to His glory. The Babylonians could bribe or buy off the Medes. The Medes were all in to get it all. They were ready for vengeance. They were filled with rage and wrath.

4. **vv. 19-20.**

In the justified reason for the destruction of Babylon. It was the jewel of kingdoms, the pride and glory of the Babylonians. God's judgment came against the Babylonians because of their sinful pride and arrogance. Isaiah 2 already displayed how much God hates human pride, arrogance, and boasting. Pride is not looked favorably with God. Proverbs 16:18 states that "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." If we can recall, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, he was prideful, puffed up, boastful of his power and glory. Through Daniel, God gave him a warning, but he did not listen. Therefore, God sent His judgment upon him. He was struck with insanity for seven years. He was driven away from the people. He ate grass like cattle for seven years. When he humbled himself and repented of his ways, our merciful God restored to him his sanity. He then lifted his eyes toward heaven and praised the most high God. Babylon did not learn.

5. **vv. 21-22.**

The city was deserted. No humans would ever live in Babylon again. It became the dwell place for wild animals. They filled the

houses. The final word in this chapter is “Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged.”

The alarm of God’s judgment has been sounded and the time is drawing near for it to take place. God’s judgment is coming. Isaiah and other prophets have warned people to flee from the wrath to come. It is a terrible thing to fall in the hands of the living God. The fate of this city is a proof of the truth of the Word of God, and a sign of the approaching ruin of the New Testament Babylon.

Because the day of the Lord is coming and is closer every day, we need to be alert, conscious of how it will end, and living as those who are children of God. It is not a matter of if but a matter of when – the day of judgment draws nigh.

### **III. Conclusion**

Will we sound the alarm that now is the time to get right with God? Will we be part of the remnant that stands for God? Will we remain faithful to God at all costs – the world behind us and the cross before? Will we be committed to go and tell the world that we serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today; we know that He is living, whatever others say; we see His hand of mercy, we hear His voice of cheer, and just when we need Him, He’s always near.