

God Will Cut Off Babylon Never to Rise Again Isaiah 14:12-23

Facilitator: Louise P. McQueen

I. Historical Background and Biblical Context

Isaiah 13 ended with the desolation and gloom that would befall Babylon. It went against God with its evil practices, ignoring His many warnings and continued to live in rebellion. The fall of Babylon was credited to the work of Cyrus the Great, yet it was through God alone that Babylon fell. Even though God can use people to accomplish His purpose, it was through His mighty arm and strength that Babylon fell at the hand of Persia. God cut off Babylon, and it will never rise again.

This chapter holds an amazing prophecy. What begins with a literal prophecy against ancient Babylon expands into the destruction of Satan Himself. He exalted himself to try to be like God. Losing the battle, he was cast down to the earth. He now works in the world system to usurp God's will here on earth. Satan will take something this is evil and twist it into something positive so that people do not recognize what they are professing. This chapter is a wonderful prophecy that God is going to cast out not only the wrong system that Satan has created but also Satan himself.

II. The Lesson: God Cuts Off Babylon Never to Rise Again

1. Verses 12-15.

Babylon was a picture of Satan (Lucifer). The prophet identified the king of Babylon as Lucifer, son of the morning, a far more brightly shining being who inhabited heaven and fell even more dramatically, the king of spiritual Babylon, Satan. In fact, there are four other falls of Satan. Satan fell from glorified to profane (Ezk. 28:14-16; Luke 10:18; Job 1:12; 1 Kings 22:21; Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:9). The son of morning, a title of glory, beauty and honor, fitted Lucifer before his fall. However, Satan transformed himself into an angel of light, deceiving many with his apparent glory and beauty.

God tells us the reason in Verse 13 behind the fall of both the literal and spiritual king of Babylon. The fall was prompted by something he said even though he said it in his heart. The pride, the grasping selfish ambition, the self-will of the king of Babylon is powerfully expressed in five statements:

- a) I will ascend into heaven. (Heaven will be my home, throne).

- b) I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. (I will be exalted above all other beings).
- c) I will sit on the mount of the congregation. (I will sit in a place of glory and honor).
- d) I will ascend above the heights. (I will continue to rise, even in heaven).
- e) I will be like the Most High. (I will be equal to God).

Despite Satan's desire to exalt himself, he will not be exalted at all. This got him thrown out of heaven. He, like all those who desire to exalt themselves, shall be brought down.

2. Verses 16-17.

The fall of the Babylonian king is an antitype of the previous fall of Satan and the future fall of the Antichrist. Isaiah used the fall of Satan to illustrate the mighty fall of the Babylonian king. The nations were amazed at the fall of the king of Babylon. When he fell, his weakness was exposed. Others were so amazed that at one time he had so much power and that so many feared him. Babylon's king will be tossed into the bottomless pit with Satan.

3. Verses 18-23.

Isaiah noted the comfort and ease other earthly kings enjoyed, but not the fallen king of Babylon who was “cast out of your grave like an abominable branch”. He was not given the honorable burial deemed so important for monarchs. Instead of a proper burial, the king of Babylon got a bed of maggots and a blanket of worms. The LORD will cut off from Babylon, both literal and spiritual, the name and the remnant. There will not even be a remnant of Babylon left.

III. Conclusion

Chapter 14 continues God’s message against Babylon, addressing the King of Babylon specifically. God made the promise of Israel’s restoration again, declaring that they would return to the land of Israel from all the foreign nations, making their once captors, captives. This is why God could guarantee Babylon’s downfall. This dynasty would be destroyed by God Himself, and Babylon would become a memory, a desert ravaged by wild animals.