

Oracles Against the Nations (Part 1)

Isaiah 13-17

September 30, 2018

- ❖ **God promised to make Israel a great nation (Gen. 12:2)**
- ❖ **“if you diligently obey...the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.” (Deut. 28:1)**
- ❖ **“if you do not obey...the LORD shall cause you to be defeated before your enemies.” (Deut. 28:15, 25)**

Historical context: the Assyrian invasion

Theological context: the concept of kingdom is integral throughout

I. The sinful condition of Judah and impending judgment (1-12)

A. The present and future of God's people (1-5)

- The current sinful condition of God's people
- God's future restoration of His people

B. God calls and sends Isaiah (6)

C. The coming Assyrian invasion (7-12)

- God promises a miraculous child to reign on the throne of David
- God promises His people a home in the Messianic kingdom

II. God's judgment on the nations (13-23)

God: Lord over the Nations

Babylon
(13:1-14:23)

Assyria
(14:24-28)

Philistia
(14:29-32)

Moab
(15:1-16:14)

Damascus
(17)



Isaiah 13-17

I. Babylon & Assyria (12:1-14:28)

○ The 2 dominant world superpowers

- Babylon exiled Judah, the southern kingdom, in 587/6 BC
- Assyria exiled Israel, the northern kingdom, in 722 BC

The oracle against Babylon

(13:1-5) Summon the armies for battle!!!

- ★ The Lord uses the Medes to destroy Babylon. Therefore, trust in the Lord and not foreign alliances.

(13:6-16) The Day of the Lord will punish the world

- ★ The Lord is sovereign over all

(13:17-22) The destruction of Babylon

- ★ In the near future (v. 17-18), the Medes will destroy Babylon in 539 BC
- ★ In the distant future (v. 19-22), Babylon will be destroyed when Christ returns (Rev. 18:2)

The oracle against Babylon

(14:1-2) God promises Israel and Judah restoration after judgment

(14:3-23) Judah rejoices over the downfall of the king of Babylon

★ **God destroys Babylon, resulting in God restoring Israel**

Why form an alliance with Babylon?

**The God of Israel is not limited to Israel
but holds all nations accountable for
their deeds.**

The oracle against Assyria

(14:24-27) What God plans and purposes matters most

★ God will likewise judge the nations

**All nations are under
the judgment of God.**

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II. Philistia & Moab (14:29-16:14)

○ Judah's 2 southern neighbors

The oracle against Philistia

(14:28-32) The Philistine cities will be destroyed

★ God protects His people

**Why trust in these nations when the Lord will
be not only Judah's hope but ultimately the
hope of these nations as well?**

The oracle against Moab

(15:1-9) The Moabites weep and flee

(16:1-12) The Moabites seek refuge in Judah

★ The Assyrian king, Sargon, overran Moab around 715 BC.



The demise of Moab taught Israel not to depend on that nation any more than others, but to depend on the Lord.

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III. Damascus & Ephraim (17)

○ Judah's 2 northern neighbors

The oracle against Damascus

(17:1-2) Assyria destroyed Damascus in 732 BC

(17:3-11) After forming an alliance, Damascus and Ephraim are addressed together

(17:12-14) Isaiah pronounces a woe on Judah's enemies

**Refusal to depend on God is foolishness which
will result in destruction by the nations.
God is in control of the nations and He will not
permit them to obliterate His people.**

Pride goes before destruction (Prov. 16:18)

- **The World (13:11)**
- **King of Babylon (14:13-14)**
- **Moab (16:6)**

**Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a disgrace to any people.
Proverbs 14:34**