

Salvation is the Main Theme of History

Isaiah 13-25



I. God Controls and Directs Everything that Happens on Earth

Isa. 14:24 The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,

Isa. 14:27 For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?

Isa. 13:19-20 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.²⁰ It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there.

Isa. 40:15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

Lam. 3:37-38 Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?³⁸ Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?

II. God Has a Specific, Detailed Plan for Each Nation

Isa. 16:14 But now the LORD has spoken, saying, "In three years, like the years of a hired worker, the glory of Moab will be brought into contempt, in spite of all his great multitude, and those who remain will be very few and feeble."

Isa. 21:16-17 For thus the Lord said to me, "Within a year, according to the years of a hired worker, all the glory of Kedar will come to an end.¹⁷ And the remainder of the archers of the mighty men of the sons of Kedar will be few, for the LORD, the God of Israel, has spoken."

Isa. 14:28-29 In the year that King Ahaz died came this oracle:²⁹ Rejoice not, O Philistia, all of you, that the rod that struck you is broken, for from the serpent's root will come forth an adder, and its fruit will be a flying fiery serpent.

III. God Uses different Tools to Accomplish His Purposes

Isa. 13:17-19 Behold, I am stirring up the Medes against them, who have no regard for silver and do not delight in gold.¹⁸ Their bows will slaughter the young men; they will have no mercy on the fruit of the womb; their eyes will not pity children.¹⁹ And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.

Isa. 19:2-3 And I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians, and they will fight, each against another and each against his neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom;³ and the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be emptied out, and I will confound their counsel; and they will inquire of the idols and the sorcerers, and the mediums and the necromancers.

Isa. 19:4 and I will give over the Egyptians into the hand of a hard master, and a fierce king will rule over them, declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

Isa. 19:5-7 And the waters of the sea will be dried up, and the river will be dry and parched,⁶ and its canals will become foul, and the branches of Egypt's Nile will diminish and dry up, reeds and rushes will rot away.⁷ There will be bare places by the Nile, on the brink of the Nile, and all that is sown by the Nile will be parched, will be driven away, and will be no more.

IV. God Will Judge the Nations for Their Evil and Arrogance

Proverbs 8:24-27 When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth,²⁶ before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world.²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

Prov. 8:28-36 Therefore, little children, listen to me; and blessed are those who keep my ways!³³ Listen to the counsel and be wise, and do not depart from [it].³⁴ Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching every day at my gates, and standing guard at my door!³⁵ For whoever has found me has found life, and shall receive grace from the Lord;³⁶ But he who sins against me harms his soul: all those who hate me love death."

Prov. 8:13 The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

Isa. 16:6-7 We have heard of the pride of Moab— how proud he is!— of his arrogance, his pride, and his insolence; in his idle boasting he is not right.⁷ Therefore let Moab wail for Moab, let everyone wail. Mourn, utterly stricken, for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth.

Isa. 13:19-20 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.²⁰ It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there.

V. Salvation is the Main Goal of History

Isa. 14:1 For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land, and sojourners will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob.

Isa. 14:32 What will one answer the messengers of the nation? "The LORD has founded Zion, and in her the afflicted of his people find refuge."

Isa. 16:5 then a throne will be established in steadfast love, and on it will sit in faithfulness in the tent of David one who judges and seeks justice and is swift to do righteousness."

Isa. 17:4-7 And in that day the glory of Jacob will be brought low, and the fat of his flesh will grow lean...⁷ In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel.

Isa. 18:7 At that time a gift of homage will be brought to Yahweh of hosts from a people tall and smooth, even from a people feared far and wide, a powerful and oppressive nation, whose land the rivers divide— to the place of the name of Yahweh of hosts, *even* Mount Zion.

Isa. 19:21 And the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to the LORD and perform them.

Isa. 25:8-9 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.⁹ It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Practical Takeaways

- Even the most difficult situations in life are under God's control and direction.
- Everything that happens is directed by God towards the main goal – the salvation of souls and the building up of the Church.
- God will surely judge all injustice, punish all wickedness, and crush all pride.