

The Book of Isaiah

The Burden of Babylon (Pt. 2)

Chapter 14

Isaiah chapter 14 is a continuing thought of chapter 13. Chapter 13 brings us through the destruction of Babylon, to the return of the Lord and the destruction of the armies of the antichrist at the battle of Armageddon, to the purging of the land and the time of Israel's rest as head over the nations (14:1-3).

Israel's Rest and Dominion (1-3): Once the establishment of the kingdom takes place, Israel will no longer be subservient to the nations (see **Deut. 28:1, 23-13, 15, 43-44**). Israel will be the head of all the nations, it will be to Israel that all the Gentile nations will seek (**Isaiah 2:2; 60:1-5; Micah 4:1-3**). The "times of the Gentiles"¹ will come to an end (**Lk. 21:24 i.e., Daniels's image**).

It will be at this time that Israel will have their long awaited "rest" from the Lord (**vs. 3,7 cf. Isaiah 11:10, 32:18; Heb. 3 & 4**).

The Proverb against Babylon (4-23): The proverb or taunting speech is against Babylon (see **Jer. 24:9; Hab. 2:6**). The devil will also be addressed, the one who is behind the moving of the kings against God's land and God's people. The prophet in addressing Satan in the midst of a passage is the same as Ezekiel did when addressing the historical Prince of Tyrus: The Prince of Tyrus (**Ezek. 28:1-10**) verses the King of Tyrus (**Ezek. 28:11-19**).

(**vss. 4-6**) Babylon historically was the head of gold in the image given to Nebuchadnezzar (**Dan. 2:37-38**). Prophetically, Babylon will be the center of commerce of which gold will be one of its valued communities (see **Rev. 17:4; 18:12, 16**).

(**vs. 7**) Once the oppression of Babylon is broken the nations will break forth into singing and the whole earth will be at rest which looks out to the coming establishment of the Kingdom and verses 1-3.

¹ Do not confuse this with the "fullness of the Gentiles" in Romans 11:25. The "times of the Gentiles" goes from Babylon to the Second advent and the destruction of the 10-nation confederacy. The "fullness of the Gentiles" refers to God visiting the Gentiles to call out of them a people for His name (Acts 15:14). These people make up "the body of Christ". Someday the number of Gentiles will complete the body of Christ, then the "fullness of the Gentiles will be come in" and the rapture of the church will occur.

(vss. 8-23) The final destruction of the antichrist is what is in view in these passages. It is the similarities to the historical Babylon and its king with the coming Babylon that gives the LORD through the prophet Isaiah opportunity to give such prophetic details concerning the antichrist (**Isaiah 14:28**).

All the nations that were deceived by the antichrist will see the antichrist for who he is, Satan the deceiver, the one that deceived all the kings and kingdoms of the earth (**Daniel 7:11 cf. Isaiah 14:9-12; Ezek. 28:17,18**). He will be “cut down to the ground” (**Isaiah 14:12**) laid before the kings of the earth who will say, “Art thou also become weak as we? Art, thou become like unto us?” (**Isaiah 14:10**), “Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; that made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the houses of his prisoners? (**Isaiah 14:16-17**). He will then be “delivered to the flame” (**Daniel 7:11**), the “grave” where the “worms cover thee” (**Isaiah 14:11, 18**); “down to hell, the sides of the pit” (**Isaiah 14:15**).

(vss. 12-15) **The fall of Lucifer:** Satan’s fall is in view here. “How art thou fallen from heaven” is the statement (**vs. 12**). He will be cast out of his heavenly abode (**vs. 12 cf. Rev. 12:7-9**) where he will enter the man of sin and begin his extermination policy against Israel (**Rev. 12:13**). And at his destruction will be laid out before the kings of the earth (**Daniel 7:11 cf. Isaiah 14:9-12; Ezek. 28:17,18**) before he is brought down to hell (**vs. 15**).

Lucifer was Satan’s given name when he was created as the anointed cherub. Lucifer meaning ‘light-bearer’ or ‘bright one’ or ‘shinning one’. However, Lucifer did not stay the light-bearer but fell and became Satan. We are given insight to Lucifers “iniquity” that led to his fall in **Ezek. 28:11-19** and in these verse in **Isaiah**.

- a. **I will ascend into heaven (vs. 13)**
 - i. **I will exalt my throne above the stars of God (vs. 13)**
 - ii. **I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north (vs. 13)**
 - iii. **I will ascend above the heights of the clouds (vs. 14)**
- b. **I will be like the most High (vs. 14)**

The last of the five “I wills” is the stated goal: “I will be like the most High God” (**vs. 14**). The first 4 “I wills” are how this stated goal will be accomplished. Satan’s desire to be “like” the most High God will be accomplished by being the possessor of heaven and earth (**see Gen. 14:18-22**). This is Satan’s desire; this is his goal.

Satan did not keep this desire within himself but put the plan into action by first seeking to “ascend into heaven”. This accenting was not just any old ascension, but specific locations within the heavenly realm that if occupied, would give him feigned authority over that realm. He would be “like” the most High and thereby half of his plan of evil would be accomplished. The only remaining portion would be the earthly realm. To be “like the most High God” you need to be possessor of both the heaven and earth. So, it is the earth that would now become the battle for dominion. Let me simply state that Satan has proven to be successful in overthrowing the monarch of the earth Adam and it was through the fall of Adam that Satan became possessor of the earth. He became the god of this world (**Luke 4:5,6 cf. 2 Cor. 4:4**).

Once Satan is cast out of heaven (**Rev. 12:7-9**) it will be the battle over the earth that now becomes the issue (**Rev. 12:12**), Satan’s last-ditch effort to retain possession over the earth.

What you have in this chapter of Isaiah vss. 4-23 is the end of all Satan’s occupation over the earth and how the “nations” respond to it. Satan will be “cast into hell, to the sides of the pit” (**vs. 15 cf. Rev. 20:1-3**).

God’s Eternal Purpose in the Destruction of the Assyrian (24-28): The purpose of God is the total destruction of the Assyrian. This is the purpose of God to end the dominance that Satan has over this earth and the end of gentile dominance over His people Israel.

The Prophecy concerning the Fruit of Ahaz (29-32): This latter end is concerning the whole land of Palestina which is the Philistines. The prophet is warning the Philistines not to rejoice that Ahaz is dead for out of his lineage will come “cockatrice” and his fruit shall be a “flying serpent” (**vs. 29**). The man that will be more of a threat to the Philistines than that of Ahaz will be Hezekiah (see 2 Kings 18:8).