



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Which Exalted One Will You Trust?

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Isaiah 13:1-13; 12:1-6; 2:11-12; Gen. 11:1-9; Rev. 17-18; Ps. 20:7; Phil. 2:9-11

We've just finished the song of Isaiah 12—the joy-filled vision of that coming day when God's anger has turned to comfort, when His people will say, *"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid."* But now, Isaiah 13 pulls us back to the present. The prophet shifts from songs of salvation to the heavy word—the **burden of Babylon**—a message of judgment.

Why Babylon? Assyria was the superpower in Isaiah's day. Babylon wasn't yet the dominant empire—it wouldn't be for almost a century. But Babylon stood as something more than a city. It represented the human heart at its proudest—the symbol of **arrogant self-sufficiency**, of trusting in what looks powerful, impressive, and exalted instead of the God who rules above it all.

And that's where Isaiah's question hits home: **"Which exalted one will you trust?"** Will we trust the biggest thing in view—whatever looms large before our eyes—or the One who is exalted above the heavens?

1. GOD'S JUDGMENT EXPOSES FALSE SECURITY (Isaiah 13:1-5)

The chapter begins: *"The burden concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw."* The word "burden" (*māsā'*) literally means "the heavy load." And Babylon—this symbol of pride and human greatness—is about to come under the weight of divine judgment.

Isaiah sees the Lord summoning an army. *"Lift up a banner on a bare mountain... I have commanded my consecrated ones... I have called my mighty ones for My anger."* God Himself is calling the nations to battle. He's the one raising the banner, assembling the troops, orchestrating history. To the human eye, it looks like political maneuvering—kingdoms clashing—but Isaiah says, "No, Adonai Tzva'ot is mustering His army."

The Lord is reminding His people: *I'm still in charge of what looks chaotic.* The rise and fall of nations are not random. The powers that seem unstoppable are only tools in His hands. Babylon's pride, like every form of human arrogance, will collapse under its own weight.

And this is the first challenge of the passage: **Stop putting your hope in what looks stable but isn't.** If we place our confidence in the Babylons of our world—systems, alliances, political power, or personal strength—they'll eventually crumble. God uses the shaking to expose false security, so we'll run back to Him.

2. THE DAY OF THE LORD SHAKES EVERYTHING THAT'S PROUD (Is 13:6-10)

Isaiah cries, *"Wail, for the Day of Adonai is near—it will come as destruction from Shaddai!"* The Day of the Lord is not just a date on a calendar—it's any moment when God steps in to confront human pride and rebellion. And when He comes, Isaiah says, *"All hands will fall limp, every heart will melt."* The same hands that built their own kingdoms will hang powerless.

People who trusted in their strength will discover they have none. Those who prided themselves in wisdom will be struck dumb. Their courage will evaporate; their confidence will crumble. And Isaiah compares it to a woman in labor—not the joyful birth kind of pain, but the inevitable, unstoppable kind. It's coming, and there's no escaping it.

Then he says the heavens will go dark—the sun, moon, and stars will cease to shine. The lights people once looked to for guidance—the “exalted ones” they trusted, worshiped, and tried to manipulate—will be extinguished. The message is clear: *Everything humanity has exalted above God will be brought low.*

When we trust what glitters, God lets the lights go out. When we worship power, He allows it to collapse. He does it not to destroy us but to deliver us from our delusions. Because darkness reveals what we’ve been leaning on—and it drives us back to the true Light that never fades.

3. THE LORD ALONE WILL BE EXALTED (Isaiah 13:11-13)

Then comes the verdict: *“I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their iniquity. I will put an end to the arrogance of the proud and humble the insolence of tyrants.”* This is the consistent message of Isaiah—from chapter 2 to chapter 13 and beyond: **human pride will not stand.** God resists the proud because pride refuses to acknowledge reality. Pride says, “I can do this without You.” Babylon says, “I will make a name for myself.” But the Lord says, “Every name will bow before Mine.”

And so the Day of the Lord comes to level what’s uneven—to balance the scales, to shake the heavens and the earth until only what cannot be shaken remains. It’s not destruction for destruction’s sake; it’s purification.

Isaiah ends this section saying that people will become “scarcer than gold.” Pride has a way of thinning the ranks, of leaving only emptiness behind. But for those who humble themselves, who trust the One exalted above all, there is safety in the shaking. So the question remains: **Which exalted one will you trust?** The idols of power and pride? The false lights that promise control? Or the Holy One of Israel—the true Exalted One—whose throne can’t be moved?

CONCLUSION

Isaiah 13 reminds us that the powers we fear today will be dust tomorrow. Babylon may look impressive now, but God already sees its end. The same is true of everything we exalt—our careers, our politics, our pride. They all fade. But there’s One whose light never dims. There’s One who doesn’t tremble when the earth shakes. His name is Yeshua—the exalted One, the Lord of Armies, who conquered not by pride but by humility, not by power but by surrender. The question is simple, but it cuts deep: **Which exalted one will you trust?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some “Babylons” people trust in today—things that look exalted but can’t save?
2. How does God’s judgment expose the false securities in our lives?
3. Why do you think pride is such a serious sin in Scripture?
4. What does it mean to “trust in the Lord” when everything else is shaking?
5. How can we live as people whose confidence is rooted in God’s unshakable kingdom?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Adonai, You alone are exalted above the heavens. Forgive us for trusting in what looks big, powerful, and secure, but cannot save. Teach us to fix our eyes on You, the true Light that never goes out. When the world shakes, let our hearts remain steady in Your hands. Level our pride, cleanse our hearts, and fill us with humble trust. You are our salvation, our strength, and our song. May we live to proclaim Your greatness among the nations.

B’Shem Yeshua... In the Name of Yeshua, Amen