

**Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Babylon (c. 720 BC)**

Isaiah 13:1–14:27

**Destruction on the “Day of the LORD”**

13:1 The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.

- 2 Lift up a standard on the bare hill,  
Raise your voice to them,  
Wave the hand that they may enter the doors of the nobles.
- 3 I have commanded My consecrated ones,  
I have even called My mighty warriors,  
My proudly exulting ones,  
To *execute* My anger.
- 4 A sound of tumult on the mountains,  
Like that of many people!  
A sound of the uproar of kingdoms,  
Of nations gathered together!  
The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle.
- 5 They are coming from a far country,  
From the farthest horizons,  
The LORD and His instruments of indignation,  
To destroy the whole land.
- 6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near!  
It will come as destruction from the Almighty.
- 7 Therefore all hands will fall limp,  
And every man's heart will melt.
- 8 They will be terrified,  
Pains and anguish will take hold of *them*;  
They will writhe like a woman in labor,  
They will look at one another in astonishment,  
Their faces aflame.
- 9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,  
Cruel, with fury and burning anger,  
To make the land a desolation;  
And He will exterminate its sinners from it.
- 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations  
Will not flash forth their light;  
The sun will be dark when it rises  
And the moon will not shed its light. [[Matt 24:29](#); [Mark 13:24](#)]
- 11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil  
And the wicked for their iniquity;  
I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud  
And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.
- 12 I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold  
And mankind than the gold of Ophir.
- 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,  
And the earth will be shaken from its place  
At the fury of the LORD of hosts  
In the day of His burning anger.

- 14 And it will be that like a hunted gazelle,  
Or like sheep with none to gather *them*,  
They will each turn to his own people,  
And each one flee to his own land.
- 15 Anyone who is found will be thrust through,  
And anyone who is captured will fall by the sword.
- 16 Their little ones also will be dashed to pieces  
Before their eyes;  
Their houses will be plundered  
And their wives ravished.

### God Will Destroy Proud Babylon

- 17 Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them,  
Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold.
- 18 And *their* bows will mow down the young men,  
They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb,  
*Nor* will their eye pity children.
- 19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride,  
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.
- 20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation;  
Nor will the Arab pitch *his* tent there,  
Nor will shepherds make *their flocks* lie down there.
- 21 But desert creatures will lie down there,  
And their houses will be full of owls;  
Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there.
- 22 Hyenas will howl in their fortified towers  
And jackals in their luxurious palaces.  
Her *fateful* time also will soon come  
And her days will not be prolonged. [[Rev 18:2](#)]

### God Will Restore Israel

- 14:1 When the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel, and settle them in their own land, then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob.
- 2 The peoples will take them along and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them as an inheritance in the land of the LORD as male servants and female servants; and they will take their captors captive and will rule over their oppressors.

### A Taunt Song for the King of Babylon

- 3 And it will be in the day when the LORD gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved,
- 4 that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say,
- “How the oppressor has ceased,  
*And how* fury has ceased!
- 5 “The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked,  
The scepter of rulers
- 6 Which used to strike the peoples in fury with unceasing strokes,  
Which subdued the nations in anger with unrestrained persecution.
- 7 “The whole earth is at rest *and* is quiet;  
They break forth into shouts of joy.

- 8 “Even the cypress trees rejoice over you, *and* the cedars of Lebanon, *saying*,  
‘Since you were laid low, no *tree* cutter comes up against us.’
- 9 “Sheol from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come;  
It arouses for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth;  
It raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones.
- 10 “They will all respond and say to you,  
‘Even you have been made weak as we,  
You have become like us.
- 11 ‘Your pomp *and* the music of your harps  
Have been brought down to Sheol;  
Maggots are spread out *as your bed* beneath you  
And worms are your covering.’
- 12 “How you have fallen from heaven,  
O star of the morning, son of the dawn!  
You have been cut down to the earth,  
You who have weakened the nations!
- 13 “But you said in your heart,  
‘I will ascend to heaven;  
I will raise my throne above the stars of God,  
And I will sit on the mount of assembly  
In the recesses of the north.
- 14 ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High.’
- 15 “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol,  
To the recesses of the pit.
- 16 “Those who see you will gaze at you,  
They will ponder over you, *saying*,  
‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,  
Who shook kingdoms,
- 17 Who made the world like a wilderness  
And overthrew its cities,  
Who did not allow his prisoners to *go home*?’
- 18 “All the kings of the nations lie in glory,  
Each in his own tomb.
- 19 “But you have been cast out of your tomb  
Like a rejected branch,  
Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword,  
Who go down to the stones of the pit  
Like a trampled corpse.
- 20 “You will not be united with them in burial,  
Because you have ruined your country,  
You have slain your people.  
May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever.
- 21 “Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter  
Because of the iniquity of their fathers.  
They must not arise and take possession of the earth  
And fill the face of the world with cities.”

22 “I will rise up against them,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and will cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity,” declares the LORD.

23 “I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” declares the LORD of hosts.

### **God’s Plan to Crush Assyria**

24 The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, “Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand,

25 to break Assyria in My land, and I will trample him on My mountains. Then his yoke will be removed from them and his burden removed from their shoulder.

26 “This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations.

27 “For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate *it*? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”

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