

## Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Babylon (c. 710 BC)

Isaiah 21:1–10

1 The oracle of *the wilderness of the sea*:

As storm winds passing over in the Negev,

it comes from *the desert*,  
from a frightful land.

2 A hard revelation is told to me;

the treacherous deals treacherously,  
and the destroyer destroys.  
Go up, Elam;  
lay siege, Media!

I put an end to all of her sighing.

3 Therefore my loins are filled *with* anguish;  
pangs have seized me, like *the* pangs of a woman giving birth.  
I am too bent to hear,  
I am too dismayed to see.

4 My mind staggers; fear terrifies me;  
the twilight I desired brought me fear.

5 Set out the table in order!  
Spread out the rugs!  
Eat! drink!  
Rise up, commanders;  
smear *the* shield!

6 For the Lord said this to me:

“Go, set *a* watchman in position.  
He must announce what he sees.

7 When he sees riders,  
a pair of horsemen,  
riders of donkeys,  
riders of camels,  
then he must listen attentively,  
paying attention, paying special attention.”

8 Then *the* watchman called,

“Lord, I *am* standing on *the* watchtower continually by day,  
and I *am* standing at my post throughout the night.

9 And look *at* this! A man's a chariot *is* coming,  
a pair of horsemen!”

Then he responded and said,

“It has fallen! Babylon has fallen!  
And all the images of her gods are smashed on the ground!”

10 My downtrodden people  
and the son of my threshing floor,

I will announce to you what I have heard from Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel.

**Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Edom (c. 709 BC)**

Isaiah 21:11–12

11 The oracle of Dumah:

*One is calling to me from Seir,*

*“Watchman, what of the night?  
Watchman, what of the night?”*

12 *The watchman says,*

*“Morning comes,  
and also the night.  
If you will inquire, inquire;  
come back again.”*

**Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Arabia (c. 708 BC)**

Isaiah 21:13–17

13 An oracle concerning Arabia:

You will spend the night in the thicket in a desert-plateau,  
caravans of Dedanites.

14 When you happen to meet *the* thirsty, bring water.

Inhabitants of the land of Tema came to meet *the* fugitive with his bread.

15 For they have fled from *the* swords,  
from *the* drawn sword and *the* bent bow,  
and from *the* heaviness of *the* battle.

16 For the Lord said this to me:

*“In one more year, like the years of a hired worker,*

*all the glory of Kedar will come to an end.*

17 And the remainder of the number of the bows of the warriors of the sons of Kedar will be few.”

For Yahweh, the God of Israel, has spoken.

**Hezekiah Rebels Against Assyria and Defeats Philistia (705 BC)**

2 Kings 18:7–8

7 Yahweh was with him [Hezekiah]; everywhere he went, he succeeded. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

8 He attacked *the* Philistines up to Gaza and its territory from the watchtower up to the fortified city.**Hezekiah's Tunnel (c. 705–701 BC)**

2 Kings 20:20b

20b he  
made the pool  
and the conduit and brought the water into the city

2 Chronicles 32:30a

30a And this same Hezekiah  
blocked off the flow of the waters of the upper Gihon,  
and directed them down the west *side* of the city of David.

## Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Jerusalem (c. 705 BC)

## Isaiah 22

**Jerusalem Rejoices Even Though She Faces Defeat**

1 *The* oracle of *the* valley of vision:

What business do you have going up, all of you, to the roofs,

2 noisy, tumultuous city,  
exultant town?

Your slain *are* not slain by *the* sword,  
nor *are* *they* dead from battle.

3 All of your rulers have fled together without a bow;  
all of you who were found were captured.  
They were captured together;  
they had fled far away.

4 Therefore I said,

“Look away from me,  
let me weep bitterly;  
you must not insist on comforting me  
for the destruction of the daughter of my people.”

5 For the Lord Yahweh of hosts has a day of tumult and trampling and confusion in *the* valley of vision,  
*a* tearing down of walls and a cry for help to the mountains.

6 And Elam lifted up *the* quiver,  
with chariots *of* men *and* cavalry.  
And Kir uncovered *the* shield.

7 And this happened:

the choicest of your valleys were full of chariots,  
and the cavalry confidently stood at the gate.

8 And he uncovered the covering of Judah.

And you looked, on that day, to the weapons of the House of the Forest,

9 and you saw that the breaches in the walls of the city of David were many,  
and you gathered the waters of the lower pool.

10 And you counted the houses of Jerusalem,  
and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall.

11 And you made a reservoir between the walls for the waters of the old pool,  
but you did not look to its maker,  
and you did not see the one who created it long ago.

12 And the Lord, Yahweh of hosts, called on that day

for weeping and mourning,  
and for baldness and girding with sackcloth.

13 But look! Joy and gladness,  
the killing of oxen and the slaughtering of sheep,  
the eating of meat and the drinking of wine!  
“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”

14 And it was revealed in my ears *by* Yahweh of hosts:

“Surely this sin will not be atoned for you until you die!”  
says the Lord, Yahweh of hosts.

**Steward Shebna Faces Disgrace**

15 The Lord, Yahweh of hosts, says this:

- “Go! Go to this steward, to Shebna,  
 who *is* over the house:  
 16 ‘What business do you have here,  
 and who do you have here,  
 that you have cut a grave cutting here for yourself,  
 carving his grave *on* the height, a dwelling place for him in the rock?  
 17 Look! Yahweh *is* about to really hurl you, man!  
 And he *is* about to grasp you firmly;  
 18 he will wind a winding tightly around you like *a* ball, to a wide land.  
 There you shall die,  
 and there the chariots of your splendor *will be*,  
 disgrace to your master’s house!  
 19 And I will push you from your office,  
 and he will throw you down from your position.

#### Eliakim Replaces Shebna

20 And this shall happen:

- On that day I will call to my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiyah,  
 21 and I will clothe him *with* your tunic,  
 and I will bind your sash firmly about him,  
 and I will put your authority into his hand,  
 and he shall be like a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
 and to the house of Judah.  
 22 And I will put the key of the house of David on his shoulder,  
 and he shall open and no one *will be able to* shut;  
 and he shall shut and no one *will be able to* open.  
 23 And I will drive him in *like* a peg into a secure place,  
 and he will become like a throne of glory to the house of his father.  
 24 And they will hang all of the heaviness of his father’s house on him,  
 the offspring and the offshoot,  
 all of the small vessels,  
 from the bowls to the jars.

25 On that day, declares Yahweh of hosts, the peg that was driven will move away into a secure place, and it will be cut down and fall, and the load that *was* on her will be cut off. For Yahweh has spoken.”

### Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Tyre (c. 705–704 BC)

Isaiah 23

#### Lament Over the Fall of Proud Tyre

23:1 The oracle of Tyre:

- Wail, ships of Tarshish, for the house is destroyed so that no one can enter;  
 it is announced to them from the land of Cyprus.  
 2 Be still, inhabitants of *the* coast,  
 merchant of Sidon, who travels over *the* sea, they filled you.  
 3 And on *the* great waters *is* the seed of Shihor,  
 the harvest of the Nile *is* its produce,  
 and she was *the* merchandise of *the* nations.  
 4 Be ashamed, Sidon, for *the* sea,  
 the fortress of the sea said, saying,  
 “I was not in labor,  
 and I have not given birth,  
 and I have not reared young men,  
 brought up young women.”  
 5 When *the* report comes to Egypt,

they will be in anguish at the report about Tyre.

- 6 Cross over *to* Tarshish!  
Wail, inhabitants of *the* coast!
- 7 Is this your exultant one, her origin from the days of long ago?  
Her feet brought her to dwell afar as an alien.

#### Explanation of God's Plan

- 8 Who has planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns,  
whose merchants *were* princes,  
her traders *the* honored ones of *the* earth?
- 9 Yahweh of hosts has planned it:  
to defile *the* pride of all glory,  
to humble all *the* honored ones of *the* earth.
- 10 Cross over your *own* land like the Nile, daughter of Tarshish;  
there is no longer a harbor.
- 11 He has stretched his hand out over the sea;  
he has made kingdoms shake.  
Yahweh has commanded concerning Canaan  
to destroy her fortresses.

12 And he said,

“You will not continue to exult, crushed one, virgin daughter of Sidon.  
Arise, cross over *to* Cyprus! There will be no rest for you even there.”

- 13 Look *at* the land of the Chaldeans!  
This people no longer exists.  
Assyria destined it for wild animals.  
They erected its siege towers;  
they demolished its citadel fortresses.  
It made her like a ruin.
- 14 Wail, ships of Tarshish!  
For your fortress is destroyed.

#### Tyre's Restoration After Seventy Years

15 And this will happen on that day: And Tyre *will* be forgotten seventy years, like the days of one king. At *the* end of seventy years, it will be for Tyre like the song of the prostitute:

- 16 “Take a harp,  
go around *the* city, forgotten prostitute!  
Do *it* well, playing a stringed instrument!  
Make numerous songs, that you may be remembered.”

17 And this shall happen: at *the* end of seventy years, Yahweh will visit Tyre,

and she will return to her harlot's wages,  
and she will commit fornication  
with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth.

18 And this shall happen: her merchandise and her harlot's wages *will be* set apart for Yahweh;

it will not be stored up,  
and it will not be hoarded,  
but her merchandise will be for those who live before the presence of Yahweh,  
for eating to satiation and for fine clothing.