

## 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?"

### Micah's Prophecy to Judah—Wicked Leaders Judged and a Future Righteous Ruler (c. 720–715 BC)

Micah 3–5

#### Indictment of Judah's Leaders

3:1 And I said,

"Hear now, heads of Jacob  
And rulers of the house of Israel.  
Is it not for you to know justice?

2 "You who hate good and love evil,  
Who tear off their skin from them  
And their flesh from their bones,

3 Who eat the flesh of my people,  
Strip off their skin from them,  
Break their bones  
And chop *them* up as for the pot  
And as meat in a kettle."

4 Then they will cry out to the LORD,

But He will not answer them.  
 Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time  
 Because they have practiced evil deeds.

5 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray;

When they have *something* to bite with their teeth,  
 They cry, "Peace,"  
 But against him who puts nothing in their mouths  
 They declare holy war.

6 Therefore *it will be* night for you—without vision,  
 And darkness for you—without divination.  
 The sun will go down on the prophets,  
 And the day will become dark over them.

7 The seers will be ashamed  
 And the diviners will be embarrassed.  
 Indeed, they will all cover *their* mouths  
 Because there is no answer from God.

8 On the other hand I am filled with power—  
 With the Spirit of the LORD—  
 And with justice and courage  
 To make known to Jacob his rebellious act,  
 Even to Israel his sin.

9 Now hear this, heads of the house of Jacob  
 And rulers of the house of Israel,  
 Who abhor justice  
 And twist everything that is straight,

10 Who build Zion with bloodshed  
 And Jerusalem with violent injustice.

11 Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe,  
 Her priests instruct for a price  
 And her prophets divine for money.  
 Yet they lean on the LORD saying,  
 "Is not the LORD in our midst?  
 Calamity will not come upon us."

12 Therefore, on account of you Zion will be plowed as a field,  
 Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins,  
 And the mountain of the temple *will become* high places of a forest. [[Jer 26:18](#)]

#### **Millennium—Zion's Future Exaltation**

4:1 And it will come about in the last days  
 That the mountain of the house of the LORD  
 Will be established as the chief of the mountains.  
 It will be raised above the hills,  
 And the peoples will stream to it.

2 Many nations will come and say,  
 "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD  
 And to the house of the God of Jacob,  
 That He may teach us about His ways  
 And that we may walk in His paths."  
 For from Zion will go forth the law,  
 Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 And He will judge between many peoples  
 And render decisions for mighty, distant nations.  
 Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares  
 And their spears into pruning hooks;  
 Nation will not lift up sword against nation,  
 And never again will they train for war.

- 4 Each of them will sit under his vine  
And under his fig tree,  
With no one to make *them* afraid,  
For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
- 5 Though all the peoples walk  
Each in the name of his god,  
As for us, we will walk  
In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. [compare Micah 4:1–5 with [Isaiah 2:1–5](#)]

#### **Millennium—Restoration of a Remnant and Zion**

- 6 “In that day,” declares the LORD,  
“I will assemble the lame  
And gather the outcasts,  
Even those whom I have afflicted.
- 7 “I will make the lame a remnant  
And the outcasts a strong nation,  
And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion  
From now on and forever.
- 8 “As for you, tower of the flock,  
Hill of the daughter of Zion,  
To you it will come—  
Even the former dominion will come,  
The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.

#### **Exile and Deliverance**

- 9 “Now, why do you cry out loudly?  
Is there no king among you,  
Or has your counselor perished,  
That agony has gripped you like a woman in childbirth?
- 10 “Writhe and labor to give birth,  
Daughter of Zion,  
Like a woman in childbirth;  
For now you will go out of the city,  
Dwell in the field,  
And go to Babylon.  
There you will be rescued;  
There the LORD will redeem you  
From the hand of your enemies.

#### **Tribulation—From Siege to Victory**

- 11 “And now many nations have been assembled against you  
Who say, ‘Let her be polluted,  
And let our eyes gloat over Zion.’
- 12 “But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD,  
And they do not understand His purpose;  
For He has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.
- 13 “Arise and thresh, daughter of Zion,  
For your horn I will make iron  
And your hoofs I will make bronze,  
That you may pulverize many peoples,  
That you may devote to the LORD their unjust gain  
And their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

#### **From Helpless Ruler to Ideal King**

- 5:1 “Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops;  
They have laid siege against us;  
With a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek.
- 2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,

Too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
 From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.  
 His goings forth are from long ago,  
 From the days of eternity.” [\[Matt 2:6\]](#)

- 3 Therefore He will give them *up* until the time  
 When she who is in labor has borne a child.  
 Then the remainder of His brethren  
 Will return to the sons of Israel.
- 4 And He will arise and shepherd *His flock*  
 In the strength of the LORD,  
 In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.  
 And they will remain,  
 Because at that time He will be great  
 To the ends of the earth.

#### **Millennium—The Ideal King Will Deliver His People**

- 5 This One will be *our* peace.  
 When the Assyrian invades our land,  
 When he tramples on our citadels,  
 Then we will raise against him  
 Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.
- 6 They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword,  
 The land of Nimrod at its entrances;  
 And He will deliver *us* from the Assyrian  
 When he attacks our land  
 And when he tramples our territory.

#### **Millennium—The Remnant Among the Nations**

- 7 Then the remnant of Jacob  
 Will be among many peoples  
 Like dew from the LORD,  
 Like showers on vegetation  
 Which do not wait for man  
 Or delay for the sons of men.
- 8 The remnant of Jacob  
 Will be among the nations,  
 Among many peoples  
 Like a lion among the beasts of the forest,  
 Like a young lion among flocks of sheep,  
 Which, if he passes through,  
 Tramples down and tears,  
 And there is none to rescue.
- 9 Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries,  
 And all your enemies will be cut off.

#### **Millennium—Obliteration of Military Power and Pagan Worship**

- 10 “It will be in that day,” declares the LORD,  
 “That I will cut off your horses from among you  
 And destroy your chariots.
- 11 “I will also cut off the cities of your land  
 And tear down all your fortifications.
- 12 “I will cut off sorceries from your hand,  
 And you will have fortune-tellers no more.
- 13 “I will cut off your carved images  
 And your *sacred* pillars from among you,  
 So that you will no longer bow down  
 To the work of your hands.
- 14 “I will root out your Asherim from among you

- And destroy your cities.  
 15 “And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath  
 On the nations which have not obeyed.”

## Micah’s Prophecy to Judah—Punishment and Future Restoration (c. 720–715 BC)

Micah 6–7

### A Divine Covenant Lawsuit

- 6:1 Hear now what the LORD is saying,  
 “Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
 And let the hills hear your voice.  
 2 “Listen, you mountains, to the indictment of the LORD,  
 And you enduring foundations of the earth,  
 Because the LORD has a case against His people;  
 Even with Israel He will dispute.  
 3 “My people, what have I done to you,  
 And how have I wearied you? Answer Me.  
 4 “Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
 And ransomed you from the house of slavery,  
 And I sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam.  
 5 “My people, remember now  
 What Balak king of Moab counseled  
 And what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
*And* from Shittim to Gilgal,  
 So that you might know the righteous acts of the LORD.”  
 6 With what shall I come to the LORD  
*And* bow myself before the God on high?  
 Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings,  
 With yearling calves?  
 7 Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams,  
 In ten thousand rivers of oil?  
 Shall I present my firstborn *for* my rebellious acts,  
 The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
 8 He has told you, O man, what is good;  
 And what does the LORD require of you  
 But to do justice, to love kindness,  
 And to walk humbly with your God? [cf. [Deut 10:12–13](#); [Matt 23:23](#)]

### Further Charges and the Sentence

- 9 The voice of the LORD will call to the city—  
 And it is sound wisdom to fear Your name:  
 “Hear, O tribe. Who has appointed its time?  
 10 “Is there yet a man in the wicked house,  
*Along with* treasures of wickedness  
 And a short measure *that is* cursed?  
 11 “Can I justify wicked scales  
 And a bag of deceptive weights?  
 12 “For the rich men of *the* city are full of violence,  
 Her residents speak lies,  
 And their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.  
 13 “So also I will make *you* sick, striking you down,  
 Desolating *you* because of your sins.  
 14 “You will eat, but you will not be satisfied,  
 And your vileness will be in your midst.  
 You will *try to* remove *for safekeeping*,  
 But you will not preserve *anything*,  
 And what you do preserve I will give to the sword.  
 15 “You will sow but you will not reap.

You will tread the olive but will not anoint yourself with oil;  
And the grapes, but you will not drink wine.

- 16 “The statutes of Omri  
And all the works of the house of Ahab are observed;  
And in their devices you walk.  
Therefore I will give you up for destruction  
And your inhabitants for derision,  
And you will bear the reproach of My people.”

#### **A Lament Over a Decadent Society**

- 7:1 Woe is me! For I am  
Like the fruit pickers, like the grape gatherers.  
There is not a cluster of grapes to eat,  
*Or* a first-ripe fig *which* I crave.
- 2 The godly person has perished from the land,  
And there is no upright *person* among men.  
All of them lie in wait for bloodshed;  
Each of them hunts the other with a net.
- 3 Concerning evil, both hands do it well.  
The prince asks, also the judge, for a bribe,  
And a great man speaks the desire of his soul;  
So they weave it together.
- 4 The best of them is like a briar,  
The most upright like a thorn hedge.  
The day when you post your watchmen,  
Your punishment will come.  
Then their confusion will occur.
- 5 Do not trust in a neighbor;  
Do not have confidence in a friend.  
From her who lies in your bosom  
Guard your lips.
- 6 For son treats father contemptuously,  
Daughter rises up against her mother,  
Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
A man’s enemies are the men of his own household.
- 7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD;  
I will wait for the God of my salvation.  
My God will hear me.

#### **A Psalm of Trust**

- 8 Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy.  
Though I fall I will rise;  
Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me.
- 9 I will bear the indignation of the LORD  
Because I have sinned against Him,  
Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me.  
He will bring me out to the light,  
*And* I will see His righteousness.
- 10 Then my enemy will see,  
And shame will cover her who said to me,  
“Where is the LORD your God?”  
My eyes will look on her;  
At that time she will be trampled down  
Like mire of the streets.

#### **Millennium—A Promise of Restoration**

- 11 *It will be* a day for building your walls.  
On that day will your boundary be extended.



- 12 It *will be* a day when they will come to you  
From Assyria and the cities of Egypt,  
From Egypt even to the Euphrates,  
Even from sea to sea and mountain to mountain.
- 13 And the earth will become desolate because of her inhabitants,  
On account of the fruit of their deeds.

**A Prayer, the Lord's Answer and the Response**

- 14 Shepherd Your people with Your scepter,  
The flock of Your possession  
Which dwells by itself in the woodland,  
In the midst of a fruitful field.  
Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead  
As in the days of old.
- 15 "As in the days when you came out from the land of Egypt,  
I will show you miracles."
- 16 Nations will see and be ashamed  
Of all their might.  
They will put *their* hand on *their* mouth,  
Their ears will be deaf.
- 17 They will lick the dust like a serpent,  
Like reptiles of the earth.  
They will come trembling out of their fortresses;  
To the LORD our God they will come in dread  
And they will be afraid before You.

**A Hymn of Praise to God**

- 18 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity  
And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession?  
He does not retain His anger forever,  
Because He delights in unchanging love.
- 19 He will again have compassion on us;  
He will tread our iniquities under foot.  
Yes, You will cast all their sins  
Into the depths of the sea.
- 20 You will give truth to Jacob  
And unchanging love to Abraham,  
Which You swore to our forefathers  
From the days of old.

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