

**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 This is a message about Babylon that God revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz:

- 2 On a bare hill raise a signal flag,  
shout to them,  
wave your hand,  
so they might enter the gates of the princes!
- 3 I have given orders to my chosen soldiers;  
I have summoned the warriors through whom I will vent my anger,  
my boasting, arrogant ones.
- 4 There is a loud noise on the mountains—  
it sounds like a large army!  
There is great commotion among the kingdoms—  
nations are being assembled!  
The LORD who commands armies is mustering  
forces for battle.
- 5 They come from a distant land,  
from the horizon.  
It is the LORD with his instruments of judgment,  
coming to destroy the whole earth.
- 6 Wail, for the LORD's day of judgment is near;  
it comes with all the destructive power of the sovereign judge.
- 7 For this reason all hands hang limp,  
every human heart loses its courage.
- 8 They panic—  
cramps and pain seize hold of them  
like those of a woman who is straining to give birth.  
They look at one another in astonishment;  
their faces are flushed red.
- 9 Look, the LORD's day of judgment is coming;  
it is a day of cruelty and savage, raging anger,  
destroying the earth  
and annihilating its sinners.
- 10 Indeed the stars in the sky and their constellations  
no longer give out their light;  
the sun is darkened as soon as it rises,  
and the moon does not shine. [[Matt 24:29](#); [Mark 13:24](#)]
- 11 I will punish the world for its evil,  
and wicked people for their sin.  
I will put an end to the pride of the insolent,  
I will bring down the arrogance of tyrants.
- 12 I will make human beings more scarce than pure gold,  
and people more scarce than gold from Ophir.
- 13 So I will shake the heavens,  
and the earth will shake loose from its foundation,  
because of the fury of the LORD who commands armies,  
in the day he vents his raging anger.
- 14 Like a frightened gazelle  
or a sheep with no shepherd,  
each will turn toward home,  
each will run to his homeland.
- 15 Everyone who is caught will be stabbed;  
everyone who is seized will die by the sword.
- 16 Their children will be smashed to pieces before their very eyes;  
their houses will be looted and their wives raped.

**God Will Destroy Proud Babylon**

- 17 Look, I am stirring up the Medes to attack them;  
they are not concerned about silver,  
nor are they interested in gold.
- 18 Their arrows will cut young men to ribbons;  
they have no compassion on a person's offspring,  
they will not look with pity on children.
- 19 Babylon, the most admired of kingdoms,  
the Chaldeans' source of honor and pride,  
will be destroyed by God  
just as Sodom and Gomorrah were.
- 20 No one will live there again;  
no one will ever reside there again.  
No bedouin will camp there,  
no shepherds will rest their flocks there.
- 21 Wild animals will rest there,  
the ruined houses will be full of hyenas.  
Ostriches will live there,  
wild goats will skip among the ruins.
- 22 Wild dogs will yip in her ruined fortresses,  
jackals will yelp in the once-splendid palaces.  
Her time is almost up, her days will not be prolonged. [[Rev 18:2](#)]

**God Will Restore Israel**

- 14:1 The LORD will certainly have compassion on Jacob; he will again choose Israel as his special people and restore them to their land. Resident foreigners will join them and unite with the family of Jacob.
- 2 Nations will take them and bring them back to their own place. Then the family of Jacob will make foreigners their servants as they settle in the LORD's land. They will make their captors captives and rule over the ones who oppressed them.

**A Taunt Song for the King of Babylon**

- 3 When the LORD gives you relief from your suffering and anxiety, and from the hard labor which you were made to perform,  
4 you will taunt the king of Babylon with these words:

- Look how the oppressor has met his end!  
Hostility has ceased!
- 5 The LORD has broken the club of the wicked,  
the scepter of rulers.
- 6 It furiously struck down nations  
with unceasing blows.  
It angrily ruled over nations,  
oppressing them without restraint.
- 7 The whole earth rests and is quiet;  
they break into song.
- 8 The evergreens also rejoice over your demise,  
as do the cedars of Lebanon, singing,  
'Since you fell asleep,  
no woodsman comes up to chop us down!'
- 9 Sheol below is stirred up about you,  
ready to meet you when you arrive.  
It rouses the spirits of the dead for you,  
all the former leaders of the earth;  
it makes all the former kings of the nations  
rise from their thrones.
- 10 All of them respond to you, saying:  
'You too have become weak like us!  
You have become just like us!
- 11 Your splendor has been brought down to Sheol,  
as well as the sound of your stringed instruments.

- You lie on a bed of maggots,  
with a blanket of worms over you.
- 12 Look how you have fallen from the sky,  
O shining one, son of the dawn!  
You have been cut down to the ground,  
O conqueror of the nations!
- 13 You said to yourself,  
“I will climb up to the sky.  
Above the stars of El I will set up my throne.  
I will rule on the mountain of assembly  
on the remote slopes of Zaphon.
- 14 I will climb up to the tops of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High!”
- 15 But you were brought down to Sheol,  
to the remote slopes of the pit.
- 16 Those who see you stare at you,  
they look at you carefully, thinking:  
“Is this the man who shook the earth,  
the one who made kingdoms tremble?
- 17 Is this the one who made the world like a desert,  
who ruined its cities,  
and refused to free his prisoners so they could return home?”
- 18 As for all the kings of the nations,  
all of them lie down in splendor,  
each in his own tomb.
- 19 But you have been thrown out of your grave  
like a shoot that is thrown away.  
You lie among the slain,  
among those who have been slashed by the sword,  
among those headed for the stones of the pit,  
as if you were a mangled corpse.
- 20 You will not be buried with them,  
because you destroyed your land  
and killed your people.  
The offspring of the wicked  
will never be mentioned again.
- 21 Prepare to execute his sons  
for the sins their ancestors have committed.  
They must not rise up and take possession of the earth,  
or fill the surface of the world with cities.”
- 22 “I will rise up against them,”  
says the LORD who commands armies.  
“I will blot out all remembrance of Babylon and destroy all her people,  
including the offspring she produces,”  
says the LORD.
- 23 “I will turn her into a place that is overrun with wild animals  
and covered with pools of stagnant water.  
I will get rid of her, just as one sweeps away dirt with a broom,”  
says the LORD who commands armies.

**God's Plan to Crush Assyria**

- 24 The LORD who commands armies makes this solemn vow:  
“Be sure of this:  
Just as I have intended, so it will be;  
just as I have planned, it will happen.
- 25 I will break Assyria in my land,  
I will trample them underfoot on my hills.  
Their yoke will be removed from my people,

- the burden will be lifted from their shoulders.
- 26 This is the plan I have devised for the whole earth;  
my hand is ready to strike all the nations.”
- 27 Indeed, the LORD who commands armies has a plan,  
and who can possibly frustrate it?  
His hand is ready to strike,  
and who can possibly stop it?

### 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 I said, “Listen, you leaders of Jacob,  
you rulers of the nation of Israel!  
You ought to know what is just,
- 2 yet you hate what is good,  
and love what is evil.  
You flay my people's skin  
and rip the flesh from their bones.
- 3 You devour my people's flesh,  
strip off their skin,  
and crush their bones.  
You chop them up like flesh in a pot—  
like meat in a kettle.
- 4 Someday these sinners will cry to the LORD for help,  
but he will not answer them.  
He will hide his face from them at that time,  
because they have done such wicked deeds.”
- 5 This is what the LORD says:  
“The prophets who mislead my people  
are as good as dead.  
If someone gives them enough to eat,  
they offer an oracle of peace.  
But if someone does not give them food,  
they are ready to declare war on him.
- 6 Therefore night will fall,  
and you will receive no visions;  
it will grow dark,  
and you will no longer be able to read the omens.  
The sun will set on these prophets,  
and the daylight will turn to darkness over their heads.
- 7 The prophets will be ashamed;  
the omen readers will be humiliated.  
All of them will cover their mouths,  
for they will receive no divine oracles.”
- 8 But I am full of the courage that the LORD's Spirit gives,  
and have a strong commitment to justice.  
This enables me to confront Jacob with its rebellion,  
and Israel with its sin.
- 9 Listen to this, you leaders of the family of Jacob,  
you rulers of the nation of Israel!  
You hate justice  
and pervert all that is right.
- 10 You build Zion through bloody crimes,  
Jerusalem through unjust violence.
- 11 Her leaders take bribes when they decide legal cases,  
her priests proclaim rulings for profit,  
and her prophets read omens for pay.

Yet they claim to trust the LORD and say,  
 “The LORD is among us.  
 Disaster will not overtake us!”

- 12 Therefore, because of you, Zion will be plowed up like a field,  
 Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins,  
 and the Temple Mount will become a hill overgrown with brush! [[Jer 26:18](#)]

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

- 4:1 In the future the LORD’s Temple Mount  
 will be the most important mountain of all;  
 it will be more prominent than other hills.  
 People will stream to it.
- 2 Many nations will come, saying,  
 “Come on! Let’s go up to the LORD’s mountain,  
 to the temple of Jacob’s God,  
 so he can teach us his commands  
 and we can live by his laws.”  
 For Zion will be the source of instruction;  
 the LORD’s teachings will proceed from Jerusalem.
- 3 He will arbitrate between many peoples  
 and settle disputes between many distant nations.  
 They will beat their swords into plowshares,  
 and their spears into pruning hooks.  
 Nations will not use weapons against other nations,  
 and they will no longer train for war.
- 4 Each will sit under his own grapevine  
 or under his own fig tree without any fear.  
 The LORD who commands armies has decreed it.
- 5 Though all the nations follow their respective gods,  
 we will follow the LORD our God forever. [compare Micah 4:1–5 with [Isaiah 2:1–5](#)]

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

- 6 “In that day,” says the LORD, “I will gather the lame,  
 and assemble the outcasts whom I injured.
- 7 I will transform the lame into the nucleus of a new nation,  
 and those far off into a mighty nation.  
 The LORD will reign over them on Mount Zion,  
 from that day forward and forevermore.”
- 8 As for you, watchtower for the flock,  
 fortress of Daughter Zion—  
 your former dominion will be restored,  
 the sovereignty that belongs to Daughter Jerusalem.

#### **From Distress to Deliverance**

- 9 Jerusalem, why are you now shouting so loudly?  
 Has your king disappeared?  
 Has your wise leader been destroyed?  
 Is this why pain grips you as if you were a woman in labor?
- 10 Twist and strain, Daughter Zion, as if you were in labor!  
 For you will leave the city  
 and live in the open field.  
 You will go to Babylon,  
 but there you will be rescued.  
 There the LORD will deliver you  
 from the power of your enemies.

#### **From Siege to Victory**

- 11 Many nations have now assembled against you.

They say, “Jerusalem must be desecrated,  
so we can gloat over Zion!”

- 12 But they do not know what the LORD is planning;  
they do not understand his strategy.  
He has gathered them like stalks of grain  
to be threshed at the threshing floor.
- 13 “Get up and thresh, Daughter Zion!  
For I will give you iron horns;  
I will give you bronze hooves,  
and you will crush many nations.”  
You will devote to the LORD the spoils you take from them,  
and dedicate their wealth to the sovereign Ruler of the whole earth.

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

- 5:1 But now slash yourself, daughter surrounded by soldiers!  
We are besieged!  
With a scepter they strike Israel’s ruler  
on the side of his face.
- 2 As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah—  
from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf,  
one whose origins are in the distant past. [\[Matt 2:6\]](#)
- 3 So the LORD will hand the people of Israel over to their enemies  
until the time when the woman in labor gives birth.  
Then the rest of the king’s countrymen will return  
to be reunited with the people of Israel.
- 4 He will assume his post and shepherd the people by the LORD’s strength,  
by the sovereign authority of the LORD his God.  
They will live securely, for at that time he will be honored  
even in the distant regions of the earth.

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

- 5 He will give us peace.  
Should the Assyrians try to invade our land  
and attempt to set foot in our fortresses,  
we will send against them seven shepherd-rulers,  
make that eight commanders.
- 6 They will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,  
the land of Nimrod with a drawn sword.  
Our king will rescue us from the Assyrians  
should they attempt to invade our land  
and try to set foot in our territory.

#### **The Remnant Among the Nations**

- 7 Those survivors from Jacob will live  
in the midst of many nations.  
They will be like the dew the LORD sends,  
like the rain on the grass,  
that does not hope for men to come  
or wait around for humans to arrive.
- 8 Those survivors from Jacob will live among the nations,  
in the midst of many peoples.  
They will be like a lion among the animals of the forest,  
like a young lion among the flocks of sheep,  
which attacks when it passes through;  
it rips its prey and there is no one to stop it.
- 9 Lift your hand triumphantly against your adversaries;  
may all your enemies be destroyed!

**Obliteration of Military Power and Pagan Worship**

- 10 “In that day,” says the LORD,  
 “I will destroy your horses from your midst,  
 and smash your chariots.
- 11 I will destroy the cities of your land,  
 and tear down all your fortresses.
- 12 I will remove the sorcery that you practice,  
 and you will no longer have omen readers living among you.
- 13 I will remove your idols and sacred pillars from your midst;  
 you will no longer worship what your own hands made.
- 14 I will uproot your images of Asherah from your midst,  
 and destroy your idols.
- 15 I will angrily seek vengeance  
 on the nations that do not obey me.”

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

Micah 6–7

**A Divine Covenant Lawsuit**

- 6:1 Listen to what the LORD says:  
 “Get up! Defend yourself before the mountains!  
 Present your case before the hills!”
- 2 Hear the LORD’s accusation, you mountains,  
 you enduring foundations of the earth!  
 For the LORD has a case against his people;  
 he has a dispute with Israel!
- 3 “My people, how have I wronged you?  
 How have I wearied you? Answer me!
- 4 In fact, I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
 I delivered you from that place of slavery.  
 I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to lead you.
- 5 My people, recall how King Balak of Moab planned to harm you,  
 how Balaam son of Beor responded to him.  
 Recall how you journeyed from Shittim to Gilgal,  
 so you might acknowledge that the LORD has treated you fairly.”
- 6 With what should I enter the LORD’s presence?  
 With what should I bow before the sovereign God?  
 Should I enter his presence with burnt offerings,  
 with year-old calves?
- 7 Will the LORD accept a thousand rams,  
 or ten thousand streams of olive oil?  
 Should I give him my firstborn child as payment for my rebellion,  
 my offspring—my own flesh and blood—for my sin?
- 8 He has told you, O man, what is good,  
 and what the LORD really wants from you:  
 He wants you to promote justice, to be faithful,  
 and to live obediently before your God. [cf. [Deut 10:12–13](#); [Matt 23:23](#)]

**Further Charges and the Sentence**

- 9 Listen! The LORD is calling to the city!  
 It is wise to respect your authority, O LORD!  
 Listen, O nation, and those assembled in the city!
- 10 “I will not overlook, O sinful house, the dishonest gain you have hoarded away,  
 or the smaller-than-standard measure I hate so much.
- 11 I do not condone the use of rigged scales,  
 or a bag of deceptive weights.
- 12 The city’s rich men think nothing of resorting to violence;  
 her inhabitants lie,

their tongues speak deceptive words.

- 13 I will strike you brutally  
and destroy you because of your sin.
- 14 You will eat, but not be satisfied.  
Even if you have the strength to overtake some prey,  
you will not be able to carry it away;  
if you do happen to carry away something,  
I will deliver it over to the sword.
- 15 You will plant crops, but will not harvest them;  
you will squeeze oil from the olives, but you will have no oil to rub on your bodies;  
you will squeeze juice from the grapes, but you will have no wine to drink.
- 16 You implement the regulations of Omri,  
and all the practices of Ahab's dynasty;  
you follow their policies.  
Therefore I will make you an appalling sight,  
the city's inhabitants will be taunted derisively,  
and nations will mock all of you."

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

- 7:1 I am depressed!  
Indeed, it is as if the summer fruit has been gathered,  
and the grapes have been harvested.  
There is no grape cluster to eat,  
no fresh figs that I crave so much.
- 2 Faithful men have disappeared from the land;  
there are no godly men left.  
They all wait in ambush so they can shed blood;  
they hunt their own brother with a net.
- 3 They are determined to be experts at doing evil;  
government officials and judges take bribes,  
prominent men make demands,  
and they all do what is necessary to satisfy them.
- 4 The best of them is like a thorn;  
the most godly among them are more dangerous than a row of thorn bushes.  
The day you try to avoid by posting watchmen—  
your appointed time of punishment—is on the way,  
and then you will experience confusion.
- 5 Do not rely on a friend;  
do not trust a companion!  
Don't even share secrets with the one who lies in your arms!
- 6 For a son thinks his father is a fool,  
a daughter challenges her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law her mother-in-law;  
a man's enemies are his own servants.
- 7 But I will keep watching for the LORD;  
I will wait for the God who delivers me.  
My God will hear my lament.

### **A Psalm of Trust**

- 8 My enemies, do not gloat over me!  
Though I have fallen, I will get up.  
Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light.
- 9 I must endure the LORD's anger,  
for I have sinned against him.  
But then he will defend my cause,  
and accomplish justice on my behalf.  
He will lead me out into the light;  
I will experience firsthand his deliverance.



10 When my enemies see this, they will be covered with shame.  
They say to me, "Where is the LORD your God?"  
I will gloat over them.  
Then they will be trampled down  
like mud in the streets.

**A Promise of Restoration**

11 It will be a day for rebuilding your walls;  
in that day your boundary will be extended.  
12 In that day people will come to you  
from Assyria as far as Egypt,  
from Egypt as far as the Euphrates River,  
from the seacoasts and the mountains.  
13 The earth will become desolate  
because of what its inhabitants have done.

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

14 Shepherd your people with your shepherd's rod,  
the flock that belongs to you,  
the one that lives alone in a thicket,  
in the midst of a pastureland.  
Allow them to graze in Bashan and Gilead,  
as they did in the old days.  
15 "As in the days when you departed from the land of Egypt,  
I will show you miraculous deeds."  
16 Nations will see this and be disappointed by all their strength,  
they will put their hands over their mouths,  
and act as if they were deaf.  
17 They will lick the dust like a snake,  
like serpents crawling on the ground.  
They will come trembling from their strongholds  
to the LORD our God;  
they will be terrified of you.

**A Hymn of Praise to God**

18 There is no other God like you!  
You forgive sin  
and pardon the rebellion  
of those who remain among your people.  
You do not remain angry forever,  
but delight in showing loyal love.  
19 You will once again have mercy on us;  
you will conquer our evil deeds;  
you will hurl our sins into the depths of the sea.  
20 You will be loyal to Jacob  
and extend your loyal love to Abraham,  
which you promised on oath to our ancestors in ancient times.

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