

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Sep 2016

Isaiah

Holy Living

Lesson # 8 Babylon vs. Jerusalem

INTRODUCTION

In scripture, Babylon (Is 13:19) symbolizes the city man has built in defiance of God (like Babel). Jerusalem represents God's chosen city. Is Washington DC more like Babylon or Jerusalem? Why?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Isaiah 13:1 - 14:23; 21:1-10

Note: "The desert of the sea" (21:1) is probably the area around the Persian Gulf. Isaiah uses the image of a "desert storm" as he describes the attack of the Assyrians against Babylon, which took place in 689 B.C. At that time, Babylon and Assyria were rival powers, although Assyria was stronger; and the nations in the Fertile Crescent hoped that Babylon would stop the advance of Assyria. Alas, Babylon fell to Assyria; opening the way for Assyria to sweep across the region in conquest.¹

1. How does Isaiah express God's sovereignty? 13:1-5, 17-19
2. Isaiah's prophecy is more than the ups and down of an ancient city. How does Babylon show God's judgment?
3. Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, is the epitome of a king with wealth, glory and power. How does Isaiah describe Belshazzar's arrival to his life after death? 14:3-23
4. Whether God is dealing with kings or angels (Lucifer) what is their downfall? **Pr 16:18**
5. What is Isaiah's reaction to Babylon's fall? Vv 21:3-4, 10; Why? **Jer 51:8; Rev 18:2**

Read Isaiah 14:24-32

6. God used the ungodly nation of Assyria as a tool to punish but not destroy Judah. Who or what can thwart God's purpose and plans? 14:24; **Daniel 4:35; Acts 4:28; Ps 2:1-2**
7. Envoys (reporters) tell of the fall of the Assyrian king (Philistia's enemy) but Isaiah highlight's God's provision for His people. Vs 32 What would it take for today's media to acknowledge God's role in world events?

APPLICATION

Are you a holy remnant living in Babylon? What alliances are you making that prevent you from fully trusting God? How can you fully accept God's role in your life?

"Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. We will bury you!"

The Premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev, made that statement to a group of Western diplomats on November 18, 1956. But Khrushchev is dead; and as I write these words, the Marxist system that threatened to bury the West is burying itself. Khrushchev's boastful prophecy was not fulfilled. Is there a pattern to history? Is anyone in charge? The British historian Edward Gibbon called history "little more than the register of crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind." But the American missionary leader Arthur T. Pierson said that "history is His story." Which one is right? ²