

EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #22

Isaiah 14:1-23

The most humiliated and mistreated group of people on the face of this earth have been the Jews. The “legacy of hatred” against them is incomparable. There have been various times in her history when she has been targeted for total extermination and annihilation. Three world leaders who tried it have names that begin with the letter “H” - Haman, Hitler and Hussein. Even right now Israel is threatened at every border by Arab nations.

Israel has been putting up with the taunts and threats of the Arabs in her land since before the days of Isaiah some 2700 years ago. We can see today that that Arab world makes life miserable for Israel. Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and, of course, Iraq have all threatened her and have humiliated Israel. **But the good news of the Bible is that God says there is coming a day when that will all change for Israel.** There will come a day when Israel has the upper hand and she will be the one who will be doing the taunting. There will come a day when Israel will nationally celebrate the fall and elimination of all her Arab enemies and the one who caused it all to happen, Satan.

The nation Israel is not looking for the Rapture, like the Church; she is looking for peace in her land and one day she will have it. That is what this section in Isaiah is designed to communicate:

GOD WILL ONE DAY COMPLETELY DELIVER ISRAEL FROM ALL HER ARAB ENEMIES AND ONE OF THOSE ENEMIES WILL BE IRAQ AND WHEN GOD DOES THIS, ISRAEL AND THE WORLD WILL HONOR GOD AND REJOICE BECAUSE GOD WILL ALSO RID THE WORLD OF SATAN.

Now the discussion among Bible scholars is whether or not this prophecy has already been fulfilled when Sennacherib (705-681 B.C.), king of Assyria and king of Babylon, ultimately was assassinated some eight years after he destroyed Babylon (II Kings 19:35-37). We would certainly agree that when he died, this would have brought great comfort to Judah, knowing he was gone; however when we carefully analyze this passage, we must conclude with Dr. Jennings who said it is “impossible” to say that the things in this text have had their “final fulfillment” (*Studies in Isaiah*, p. 176). As John Oswalt said, “Students have long been aware that more than just an individual king is being discussed” (*Isaiah*, p. 207). These are things which are yet to be fulfilled, and they will be fulfilled when God obliterates Babylon which is modern day Iraq. Now the passage breaks down quite nicely into four major prophetic predictions:

PREDICTION #1 – There is coming a day when God will completely bless Israel. **14:1-4**

In these opening verses, there are some amazing blessings promised to Israel. It is true that Judah was taken captive by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. and then Babylon was conquered by the Medes and the Persians in 539 B.C. and then the Jews were permitted to return to their land in 536 B.C.; but when you analyze the blessings that are predicted to occur here, there is no possible way we can say all of them have happened yet. There are eight specific blessings Israel has been promised to have:

Blessing #1 - God will have compassion on Israel. **14:1a**

Blessing #2 - God will settle Israel in her land. **14:1b**

Blessing #3 - People from all over the world will want to associate with Israel. **14:2a**

Blessing #4 - People from all over the world will help Jews get back to their land. **14:2b**

Blessing #5 - People from all over the world will become willing servants of Israel. **14:2c**

Blessing #6 - Israel will rule over all her oppressors. **14:2d**

Blessing #7 - Israel will have no more pain, turmoil, trouble or enslavement. **14:3**

Blessing #8 - Israel will be able to sing a prophetic song of deliverance. **14:4**

The Hebrew word “taunt” means that Israel will be able to assimilate a song and sing about the fact that all enemies are gone (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 517).

The reason why the “the king of Babylon” is mentioned is because chronologically, just before Israel gets all of these blessings, Iraq will be obliterated (Revelation 17-19). Israel will assimilate all of the Tribulation deliverances of God, which climaxes with the leveling of Iraq and she will sing for joy. The Arab enemies will be gone.

PREDICTION #2 – There is coming a day when God will cause complete peace and rest in the whole world. **14:5-8**

Now it is clear that when this happens, there is a removal of a major evil power who is called “the king of Babylon” (**14:4**). There has been a major discussion over the years in the history of interpretation of this text as to the identity of this king. Some have said it is a specific reference to Sennacherib, who was both the king of Assyria and the king of Babylon for awhile because Babylon became a subject nation to Assyria at the end of the 10th century. As we said, there is no doubt that when Sennacherib was assassinated (II Kings 19:36-37) it brought great joy to Judah. However, there seems to be some things in this prophecy which would take this far beyond just a reference to him. **In fact, in verse 12 the Latin word for “morning star” is Lucifer. He is the driving force behind all hatred of Israel and all evil in the world. This then is a reference to Satan.**

There are four worldwide events which are predicted to occur when God does this:

Worldwide Event #1 - All evil rulers will have been removed. **14:5-6**

There has never been a time in history where all evil rulers have been removed. But during the Tribulation that is exactly what God will do. He will destroy all evil nations and powers. According to Revelation 16:13-16, God will gather all nations at Armageddon to destroy them and then He will set His sights on Babylon (Revelation 17-18).

Worldwide Event #2 - The whole world is at rest and peace . **14:7a**

There has never been a time in history where the whole earth is at rest and quiet.

Worldwide Event #3 - The whole world is joyful . **14:7b**

There certainly has never been a time in history when the whole world has been joyful.

Worldwide Event #4 - Even the trees are rejoicing because this evil power is removed. **14:8**

Even to this day all creation groans for deliverance (Romans 8:22). The only place this fits is after the Tribulation when Jesus Christ has established His Millennial Kingdom on earth, and **the only evil person this all fits is Satan** . I believe, with many other interpreters, that there are things here that can only refer to Satan. As we said, the Latin word for “morning star” in **verse 12** is Lucifer . Even in the early days of interpretation, men like Tertullian (A.D. 160-230) said there are things here that can only refer to Satan, who has been the driving force behind all hatred and political powers against Israel. Satan has been the deceiver of the nations throughout all of time (Revelation 20:3). **Satan has been the blinding force of the Arab world and when he is removed, the whole world will be at peace and will honor Israel** .

So Israel will have joy and peace in her land and the world will have joy and peace in its existence when the ultimate king of evil - Satan - is destroyed; and when Jesus Christ returns, the Antichrist and the false prophet will be cast into hell (Revelation 19:20-21) and Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-3).

PREDICTION #3 – There is coming a day when there will be a big uproar in hell. **14:9-21**

Here is one of the most remarkable parts of Isaiah’s prophecy. As Dr. Walvoord said, this prophecy goes way “beyond the literal Babylon of history or prophecy” (*Prophecy Knowledge Handbook*, p. 100). Isaiah was permitted by God to see Satan’s arrival into hell. The Hebrew word “Sheol” refers to a subterranean place where the dead are gathered (*Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 798). Another name for this is “Hades” or “hell.” Apparently there is an upper chamber, called “Abraham’s bosom” and a lower chamber called “Hades” (Luke 16:22-23). It is this lower part that Isaiah sees.

Any time a big satanic political leader enters hell, there is obviously some awareness of it; but there will be no bigger moment in hell than when Satan is cast there. Dr. Harry Ironside said these next verses “cannot apply to any mere mortal man” (*Isaiah*, p. 88). In these verses are two main prophetic facts concerning Satan:

Prophetic Fact #1 - Satan’s arrival in hell will stir major excitement among all those there. **14:9**

Now I want you to carefully notice who is in hell - all those who lacked life and all the leaders and kings of the world. Do you see that? Don’t miss this point. Almost all political leaders of the world are in hell. Very few loved God and loved Jesus Christ.

Satan is the ruler of this world and you can know without a doubt that very few political leaders love God, His Word or Jesus Christ and promote truth. Most are in hell waiting for Satan's arrival who gave them their power.

Prophetic Fact #2 - Satan's arrival in hell will be a major disappointment to all those there. **14:10**

Notice **verse 10** says they will "all" respond to Satan's arrival with disappointment. None there will honor Satan any more. Satan will be totally and completely humiliated. He will not enter hell as some honored king. I count at least ten verbal statements that will be made about him:

Verbal Statement #1 - You are just as weak as we are in hell. **14:10b**

Any person in hell is in a weak state. The Pual stem of the Hebrew indicates that all those in hell are the recipients of the action, in that Jesus Christ has made them in this weakened state and cast them into hell. They didn't put themselves there. That Hebrew word "weak" means, any person in hell is without any strength and is in terrible pain, such as when one is completely diseased (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 279). There is no one in hell that has any strength or lack of pain.

Verbal Statement #2 - Your grandeur in the world is gone. **14:11a**

The word "pomp" means Satan was lifted up high and exalted in the world (Ibid., p. 151).

Verbal Statement #3 - Your music from the world is gone. **14:11b**

God will remove all forms of satanic music. There is no doubt that Satan has influenced the world by and through music.

Verbal Statement #4 - You are covered with maggots and worms. **14:11c**

This is the same anointed cherub angelic being that once was the sum total of the creative beauty and genius of God (Ezekiel 28:12-14). He is in hell covered with maggots and worms. Here is what Satan will do to you if he can; he will ruin you. He will take something God made beautiful and bring it down to vile and terrible low levels.

Verbal Statement #5 - You were once so glorious but now you are nothing. **14:12a**

You were once the "star of the morning," the "son of the dawn"; you were the greatest angel in the heavens and now you have been cut down and here is where you are.

Verbal Statement #6 - You once weakened the nations. **14:12b**

There is no denying that Sennacherib weakened many nations - Phoenicia, Philistia, Egypt, Moab, Edom, Cilicia, northern Arabia and much of Judah, but he did not weaken all the nations of the world (14:9).

Verbal Statement #7 - You once boasted that you would be like the Most High God.
14:13-14

The idea here is that you once boasted that your will could overtake God's will. You said "I will" do what I want to do not what God wants me to do; but look where you are? You said you would ascend to God's heaven, you would be above all other angels, you would rule Israel and you would be like the Most High God. That is what you claimed, but look at you now. No will of puny man or even of an angel can overtake the will of God. That arrogant mindset of "free will" is, as Dr. J. Vernon McGee said, "nonsense."

Verbal Statement #8 - You are thrust down to hell and the recesses of the pit . **14:15**

This clearly reveals that Satan is bound and is in this bottomless pit (Revelation 20:3). God will put Satan in this pit for 1000 years (20:2) and then cast him into the eternal lake of fire (20:10).

Verbal Statement #9 - We cannot believe you are actually the one who affected the world .
14:16-17

All those in hell will "gaze" at Satan and "think about" what he did in the world and they will be astonished at what they see. When they see Satan they will be totally amazed. Now most of the things described here will have their finale during the Tribulation, when Satan wreaks havoc with the whole world (Revelation 12:12). But when he finally gets into hell, those there will find it almost shocking that this maggot and worm-covered being could have done so much damage. They will ask:

- 1) Is this the one who made the earth tremble? **14:16b**
- 2) Is this the one who shook up kingdoms? **14:16c**
- 3) Is this the one who made the world like a wilderness? **14:17a**
- 4) Is this the one who overthrew cities? **14:17b**
- 5) Is this the one who held so many captive? **14:17c**

Verbal Statement #10 - You are totally humiliated more than all the kings . **14:18-21**

Even kings of the world have tombs (**14:18**), but you have been cast out of the world which has been your tomb and you have been brought to the bottom of the pit like a trampled corpse (**14:19**). You have ruined the world and your offspring of evildoers will not be remembered (**14:20**). In fact, none of your sons or relatives will exist anywhere in the world (**14:21**).

PREDICTION #4 – This will all happen when God completely destroys Babylon and makes it desolate. **14:22-23**

When Iraq is destroyed all of these prophecies will come true.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

1. Death is not the end of existence. A grave may take your body but heaven or hell gets your soul.
2. Most leaders who are applauded by the world end up in hell. Very few world leaders care about the Word of God or will of God and they lead their nation away from God.
3. Satan will never lead any nation or individual to happiness and fulfillment but to complete pain and misery.
4. Israel will one day be the most honored nation in this world and she will have every inch of her promised land and she will honor God and God will honor her.
5. A pride that says "I will" and "my will" not "Thy will," is a satanic pride that ends in disaster and death.