

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 71

June 28, 2020



Jonah Praying before the Walls of Nineveh by Rembrandt Cir 1665

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message Seventy-One

THE JUDGMENT AGAINST ASSYRIA

June 28, 2020

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Isaiah 30:27–33

²⁷Behold, the name of Jehovah cometh from far, burning with his anger, and in thick rising smoke: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue is as a devouring fire; ²⁸and his breath is as an overflowing stream, that reacheth even unto the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of destruction: and a bridle that causeth to err shall be in the jaws of the peoples. ²⁹Ye shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come unto the mountain of Jehovah, to the Rock of Israel. ³⁰And Jehovah will cause his glorious voice to be heard, and will show the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and the flame of a devouring fire, with a blast, and tempest, and hailstones. ³¹For through the voice of Jehovah shall the Assyrian be dismayed; with his rod will he smite him. ³²And every stroke of the appointed staff, which Jehovah shall lay upon him, shall be with the sound of tabrets and harps; and in battles with the brandishing of his arm will he fight with them. ³³For a Topheth is prepared of old; yea, for the king it is made ready; he hath made it deep and large; the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of Jehovah, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it (ASV, 1901).

INTRODUCTION

This prophecy initially seems to apply to the Assyrian nation in the near term from Isaiah's day. It is better understood as a prefigurement, type, shadow or model of all the nations that defy the Lord culminating with the last beast of the Times of the Gentiles. The final end of the last days of the earthly Gentile empires have a lot of events that cast a shadow before them. This last empire is imperialism which many refer to as a revived Rome will be led by its king the Antichrist. The parallels are unmistakable with its reference to the terms, *nations*, (Hebrew *ameem*) in plural and *Topheth*. He will consume all nations of the world when He comes to make war with the Antichrist and his kings of the earth as the Word of God and setting the king into Gehenna the Lake of Fire, called here *Topheth*.

THE LORD COMES IN HIS TERRIBLE INDIGNATION

Isaiah 30:27–28

²⁷Behold, the name of Jehovah cometh from far, burning with his anger, and in thick rising smoke: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue is as a devouring fire; ²⁸and his breath is as an overflowing stream, that reacheth even unto the neck, to sift

the nations with the sieve of destruction: and a bridle that causeth to err shall be in the jaws of the peoples. (ASV, 1901).

The name of the Lord means the Lord's name will be heard and all will understand who He is as He comes in judgment. The location from which He comes is referred to as *from far*, meaning from the farthest sense of the third Heaven. The first heaven is the earth's atmosphere, and the second being outer space. His tongue refers to His uttered word. The picture of rising smoke and devouring fire describes His appearance to the world as He leaves eternity, which is, the third Heaven for the earth in time and space. The manifestation of His glory was like a devouring fire on the top of the mount Sinai when He gave Moses the Law.

Exodus 24:17

¹⁷And the appearance of the glory of Jehovah was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel (ASV, 1901).

His *eyes* shall be *as a flame of fire*: and when He comes to judge the world, He will descend in *flaming fire*, (Revelation 19:12; II Thessalonians 1:7) and the day of the Lord will burn as an oven, (Malachi 4:1), and *the burden thereof is heavy*; means the punishment He will inflict, in His burning anger and hot displeasure, which will be heavy, and intolerable, that is to say heavier than it can be endured. *His lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire*; refers to the words He will utter, as the Word of God giving the sentence He will pronounce in judgment on the earth's nations. It will be dreadful as the sharp sword that goes out of the mouth of Christ, with which He will smite the nations (Revelation 19:15). This is the awful sentence pronounced by Him on the wicked when He says, "*go, ye cursed, into everlasting fire*", (Matthew 25:41) which is the Lake of Fire.

Earlier Isaiah said of the Messiah that with the breath of His lips He would slay the wicked (Isaiah 11:4). Here the breath of God is said to be like a stream that overflows. This is the first of several illustrations in these verses that Isaiah uses as he describes the wrath of the Lord. His breath or spirit is like a wadi, which is a dry river bed that quickly fills up with water when the heavy rains fall and then overflows in a flood of raging waters. The Lord Jesus warned the Jews who become believers to pray when they saw the abomination in the middle of the Tribulation to not flee in the winter time. Between April and October, not one drop of rain will fall throughout the country. Israel receives all her rain between October and April. When it does rain during the winter months, it often comes down heavily, creating flood condition at times. However, during the winter rainy months when rain falls along the mountain ranges of Israel, water rushes down the wadis with tremendous speed and force, washing out the highways. This flood is deep and it quickly reaches to a man's neck. This flood is unable to resist or protect oneself and it carries everything with it. Against it no nation cannot stand. Water that rises to the neck is water that can drown; feeling this flood the world will be nearing destruction and is in great danger.

There is, of course, a reason why this wrath is so powerful and overwhelming; it is for the purpose of sifting the nations in a sieve (strainer) of ruin. The Lord is indeed sovereign, and the time has come for Him to sift the nations so that His punitive wrath may fall upon those nations that are deserving of judgment. The sieve that He will use is one that will result in the ruin of the nations that are sifted. The nations are also illustrated as wild horses that cannot be restrained,

but are now kept in check by means of bridles in their cheeks. They are held back so that they are not able to flee the judgment, and therefore they receive a just destruction. *A bridle that causeth to err shall be in the jaws of the peoples* is also a representation of prisoners as they appear on Assyrian inscriptions (Isaiah 37:29). This is an omen or sign of the Messiah's conquest of the lawless among the Gentiles (Revelation 16:13-16; 19:17-21) at His Second Coming and establishing His Kingdom (Psalms 46:9; 76:3; Isaiah 2:4). It also provides the sense of *leading astray*, or in the wrong direction, with a near term application to the fact that Sennacherib was misled by a false report regarding Tirhakah, the king of Ethiopia (II Kings 19:8–13).

This bridle is a spirit of deception or blinding which He makes the nations that wear it unaware of the true nature of the events in which they are participating. Therefore, they are restrained from understanding the course of events as if their consciences are burned and will not work properly.

I Timothy 4:2

¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron (KJV).

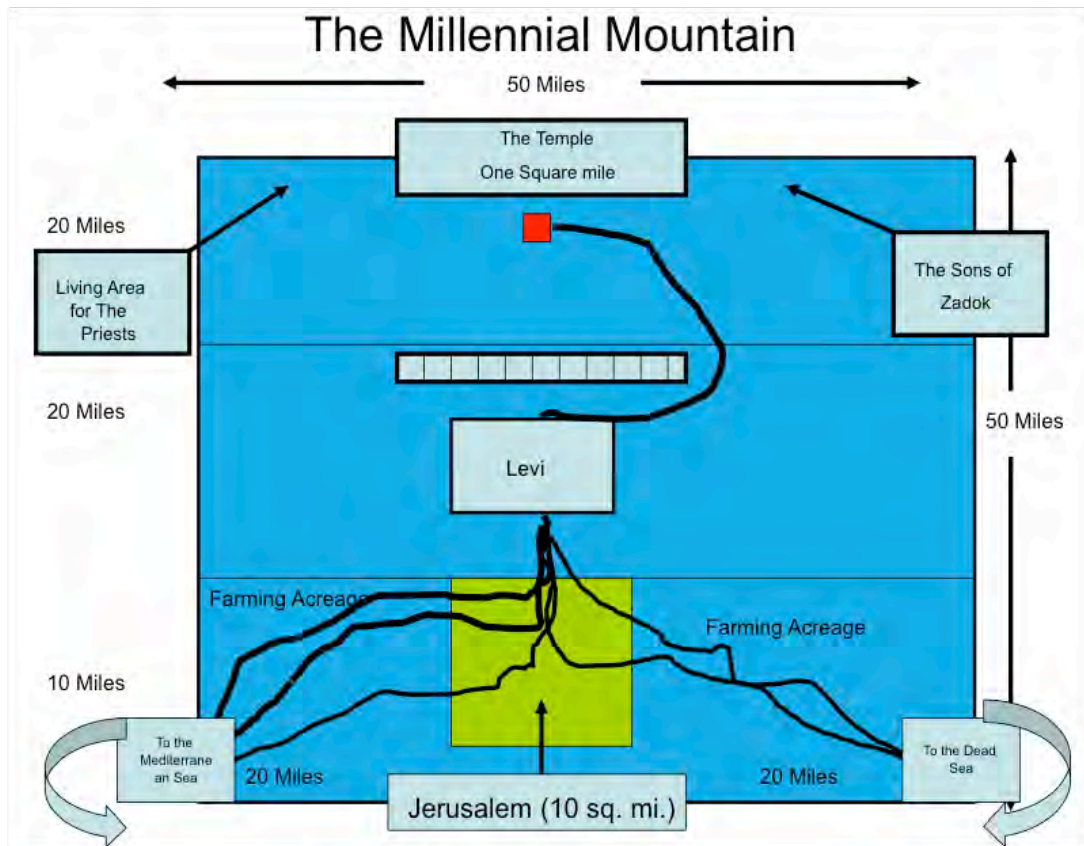
SALVATION WILL BE CELEBRATED

Isaiah 30:29

²⁹Ye shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come unto the mountain of Jehovah, to the Rock of Israel (ASV, 1901).

Then established in their Kingdom blessing, restored Israel will have a song, as in the heart, as one marching, to the leading of one playing a flute to go up to Jerusalem. This is where the millennial mountain of the Lord will be located, to celebrate the feasts in the millennial Temple (Ezekiel 45:21-25) as in the days of old when the nation Israel was under the old Covenant (Deuteronomy 16:16; Ezra 2:64-65; Psalm 122: 1-4).

No fear shall affect those whose mind is focused on Jehovah stated here as *the Rock of Israel* who has shown them to be tried, great and precious. These shall sing, as in the night of their feasts, when they reminisce of their delivery from Egypt at the first Passover. So too will all the saved of all humanity, and the Heavenly Host rejoice, at the fall of Babylon, (Revelation 15:1, 2, 3 and 19:1, 2). This song will be sung *as in the night, when a holy feast is kept*. The Jewish feasts always began the evening before the actual event, and were brought in with singing of songs and psalms, especially the feast of the passover, which it is alluded to here.



Map by the author, Daniel E. Woodhead

So then, it will be at evening-time that the latter-day glory shall break out, and songs of joy heard from the uttermost parts of the earth, (Zechariah 14:7) *as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the Lord;* and the temple. It was quite common for persons in the diaspora, that came from distant parts of Israel and other countries to the temple in Jerusalem for worship, to bring pipes. They would play them as they were travelling, to prepare them, and the company that were with them for the expectation of blessing to follow in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 42:4). One of the names of the Messiah, is *the mighty One of Israel;* or, *Rock of Israel* (II Samuel 23:3) to whom the song of praise and triumph shall be sung, in the latter day, by those that stand upon Mount Zion with harps in their hands, having gotten the victory over the Antichrist and his image, (Revelation 14:1–4 and 15:1–4).

THE LORD REVEALS HIS INDIGNATION

Isaiah 30:30–32

³⁰And Jehovah will cause his glorious voice to be heard, and will show the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and the flame of a devouring fire, with a blast, and tempest, and hailstones. ³¹For through the voice of Jehovah shall

the Assyrian be dismayed; with his rod will he smite him. ³²And every stroke of the appointed staff, which Jehovah shall lay upon him, shall be with the sound of tabrets and harps; and in battles with the brandishing of his arm will he fight with them (ASV, 1901).

The Assyrian, is again a prefiguration of Israel's final end time enemies. The Lord's glorious voice, raised against the Assyrian enemy, prefigures as Isaiah describes; His *lips are full of indignation, and his tongue is as a devouring fire; and his breath is as an overflowing stream* against Israel's great end-time enemy, the armies of the Antichrist (Revelation 19:19). The *lighting down of his arm* symbol of His omnipotence; (Psalm 38:2; Isaiah 53:1) represents the Lord as a mighty Warrior, striking the foe with indignation *and the flame of a devouring fire along with a blast, and tempest, and hailstones*. The Lord's voice (Isaiah 11:4) would terrify the Assyrian, also is a prefiguring to God's enemies of the last day. *And the Assyrian be dismayed; with his rod will he smite him* (Isaiah 10:26; 11:4). The rod of the Assyrian that beat others would itself be beaten down by the mere voice of the Lord (Revelation 19:15). Every blow of the rod of punishment which the Lord will lay on him, that is the Assyrian (Isaiah 10:24), *shall be with the sound of tabrets and harps*; (I Samuel 18:6; Jeremiah 31:4). The Lord is presented as a great Warrior In battles, brandishing weapons (Ezekiel 32:10) fighting the Assyrians. The Lord is the leader of the Divine Council or Heavenly Host which is His army.

Psalm 82:1

¹ *God stands among the divine council; He renders judgment among the gods (MEV).*

This is a term used throughout the Hebrew Tenach, the Old Testament describing the pantheon of divine beings who administer the affairs of the cosmos. The divine council of Israel, led by Jehovah known primarily through the psalms, is referencing the group in Heaven who follow God's direction and fight for Him.

Some examples of this are:

1. The kings of Judah and Israel were discussing the potential outcome of a battle against the Syrians at *Ramoth-gilead*. Jehoshaphat the king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah wanted to hear from a prophet regarding the efficacy of engaging in this battle. Ahab the evil king of the Northern Kingdom said we can ask *Micaiah*, the prophet but I hate him because he always prophesies evil toward me and not good. Ahab put him in prison for prophesying truth. Jehovah sits on His throne among His heavenly host.

1 Kings 22:19

¹⁹*And Micaiah said, Therefore, hear thou the word of Jehovah: I saw Jehovah sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left ²⁰And Jehovah said, Who shall entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead (ASV, 1901)?*

2. When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane he instructed His apostles not to take up arms against the chief priests and elders of the people. He could if desired bring the Heavenly Host down from Heaven to rescue Him.

Matthew 26:53

⁵³ Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels (KJV)?

3. Near the end of the Campaign of Armageddon the Lord Jesus returns to battle the forces of evil which are led by the armies of the Antichrist. He is set with the Heavenly Host to conquer.

Revelation 19:19

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army (KJV).

THE FINAL DESTINATION OF THE WICKED

Isaiah 30:33

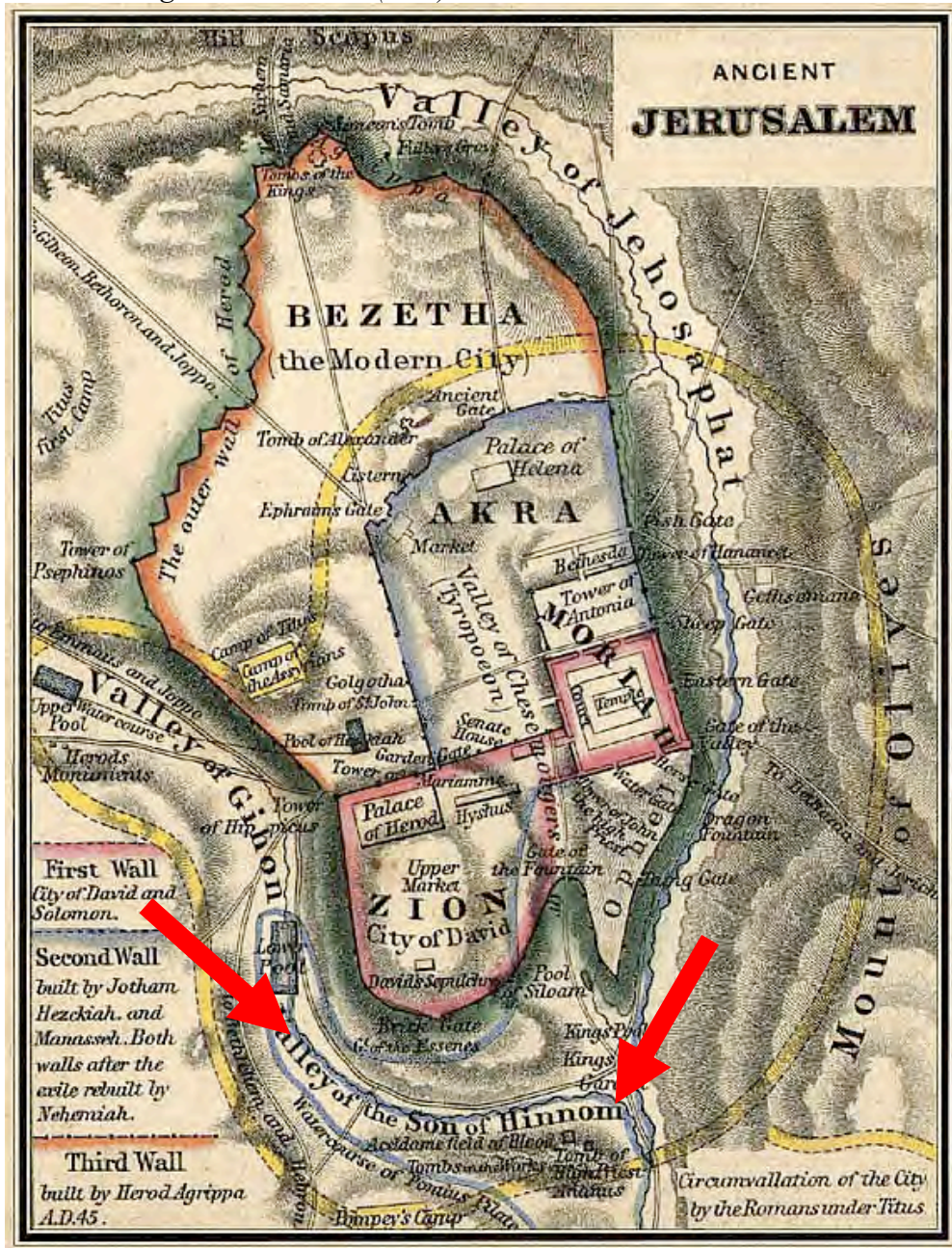
³³For a Topheth is prepared of old; yea, for the king it is made ready; he hath made it deep and large; the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of Jehovah, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it (ASV, 1901).

Topheth was and will be a place of burning. It was in the southeast extremity in the valley of the son of Hinnom, (Jeremiah 7:31) which is "by the entry of the east gate" in Jerusalem (Jeremiah 19:2). The name Tophet occurs only in the Old Testament. (II Kings 23:10; Isaiah 30:33; Jeremiah 7:31,32; 19:6,11,12,13,14). It was defiled by idols and polluted by the sacrifices of Baal as well as burning victims, primarily sacrificed babies that were fed to the fire to Molech, the Babylonian demonic god. Therefore, it became the place of abomination, the very gate or pit of hell. The pious Southern Judean kings defiled it and threw down its altars and high places, pouring into it all the filth of the city, till it became the abhorrence of Jerusalem, and a burning garbage dump. Then, by this association, Tophet, as well as the more general name, Valley of Hinnom, was applied by the later Jews to the place of future torment.

It is here described as a fitting end for the king of Assyria prefiguring the future Antichrist. When Topheth later became the city dump, where fires were kept, they burned continually. Hence, it came to denote Gehenna in the New Testament (The Lake of Fire) where the beast (Antichrist), whom Assyrian prefigures, will be cast alive at Christ's Second Coming. So, the Fire of Gehenna is literal but it also is supernatural, symbolizing the destiny and punishment of the unsaved, Satan, the False Prophet and demons.

Revelation 19:20

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone (KJV).



The term *Lake of Fire* is found in four passages of Scripture, only in the Revelation

1. Revelation 19:20: *the beast and the false prophet* are cast into *the Lake of Fire*;
2. Revelation 20:10 states that Satan is thrown into the *Lake of Fire*;
3. Revelation 20:14: ... *death and Hades were cast into the Lake of Fire*;
4. Revelation 21:8, which states that the *Lake of Fire* is called *the Second Death*.

It is important to see that the eternal punishment described is for all the lost, of both the celestial realm and people both bodily and spiritually. It is a place that is described as fire with brimstone (sulphur) and results in eternal torment.

Next message: THE LORD WILL DEFEND JERUSALEM

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