

The Book of Isaiah

**Salt & Light Institute
Winter 2010**

**Week 7: From Assyrian to Babylonian Power
Isaiah 13-39**

The Assyrian Empire

- The Role of Assyria
- The Broad Outline of History in Isaiah 1-12
 - Assyria would ravage God's vineyard
 - Assyria would be judged
 - Ahaz would be replaced by Immanuel
 - The new king and a new Israel would arise
- The Transition from Assyria to Babylon
 - Already implied with Babylon's prominent position in starting chapter 13
 - Clear at the end of Isaiah 39

Outline of Isaiah 13-39

- Yhwh is the God of the Nations (13-23)
- A Tale of Two Cities (24-27)
- A King Will Come in Righteousness (28-33)
- The Ransomed of Yhwh Will Return (34-35)
- The Assyrian Assault on Jerusalem (36-39)

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

Yhwh is the God of the Nations

- The Book of Isaiah as a “blooming flower”



The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

Yhwh is the God of the Nations

- Babylon finds a prominent place (13-14, 23.13)
- “Oracles” in Isaiah 13-23
 - 13.1 == Babylon
 - 14.28 == When Ahaz died (Philistia)
 - 15.1 == Moab
 - 17.1 == Damascus
 - 19.1 == Egypt
 - 21.1, 11, 13 == Desert of the Sea, Duma, Arabia
 - 22.1 == Valley of Vision
 - 23.1 == Tyre

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

Yhwh is the God of the Nations

- Key Verse == 14.24-27 (ESV)

The LORD of Hosts has sworn: As I have planned, so it will be; as I have purposed it, so it will happen. ²⁵ I will break Assyria in My land; I will tread him down on My mountain. Then his yoke will be taken from them, and his burden will be removed from their shoulders. ²⁶ This is the plan prepared for the whole earth, and this is the hand stretched out against all the nations. ²⁷ The LORD of Hosts Himself has planned it; therefore, who can stand in its way? It is His hand that is outstretched, so who can turn it back?

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

Yhwh is the God of the Nations

- Another clue in the outline = 17.12-14

Ah! The roar of many peoples-- they roar like the roaring of the seas. The raging of the nations-- they rage like the raging of mighty waters. ¹³ The nations rage like the raging of many waters. He rebukes them, and they flee far away, driven before the wind like chaff on the hills and like dead thistles before a gale. ¹⁴ In the evening-- sudden terror! Before morning-- it is gone! This is the fate of those who plunder us and the lot of those who ravage us.

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

Yhwh is the God of the Nations

- The Broad Outline of History in Isaiah
 - Assyria would ravage God's vineyard
 - Assyria would be judged through Babylon
 - Babylon would destroy prideful nations
 - Babylon would itself be judged by the Medes
 - Ahaz would be replaced by Immanuel
 - The new king and a new Israel would arise

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

Yhwh is the God of the Nations

- Judgment is not the final verdict, even for the nations
 - 18.7-9
 - 16.5
 - 19.19-25
- The goal is to establish final peace between man and Yhwh, not between Israel and the nations
- This is not about the salvation of Israel, but about the sovereignty of Yhwh over all nations

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

A Tale of Two Cities (24-27)

- Interweaving structure
 - The land is laid waste (24.1-13)
 - Response (24.14-16)
 - Earth and heaven in tumult (24.17-23)
 - Isaiah's Response (25.1-5)
 - A new world order, the defeat of Moab (25.6-12)
 - Judah's Response (26.1-19)
 - Israel is protected and restored (26.20-27.13)

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

A King Will Come in Righteousness (28-33)

- Chapters 13-23 left us with a question, “Will the people live by trust in the promise of God regarding the King and Zion, or will they align themselves with foreign nations?”
- Though 13-27 made Babylon the new prominent player, 28-39 will return to the subject of Assyria for clues about Babylon

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

A King Will Come in Righteousness (28-33)

- “Woe” (related to chapter 5)
 - 28 --- Drunken leadership
 - 29 --- For the city of David
 - 30 --- For the obstinate nation
 - 31 --- For those who rely on Egypt
 - 33 --- For the “would be destroyer”
- “See”
 - 32 --- coming blessing upon Jerusalem

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

The Ransomed of Yhwh Will Return (34-35)

- Chapters 34-39 are the bridge to 40-66
- Note changes from chapter 1 and at the end of chapter 33
 - The king is reigning in beauty
 - Zion is a strong and plentiful city
 - Yhwh is strong for the people and provides life
 - The weak are made strong and the sick are well

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

The Ransomed of Yhwh Will Return (34-35)

- 34-35 summarize things and push the plot forward
- 34 is about judgment of nations
- 35 is about the salvation of the nations
 - The way (35.8; cf. 11.16; 19.23)
 - The fleeing of sorrow and sighing (35.10; cf. 25.8)

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

The Assyrian Assault (36-39)

- Hezekiah is a different kind of king
 - A return to the Fuller's Field (36.2; 7.3)
 - A return of the incoming enemy (36.1; 7.1-2)
 - In 7 it is Ephraim and Syria, in 36 it is Assyria
 - A sign is given (38.7; 7.12)
 - In 7 it is rejected, in 38 it is received
 - The zeal of the Lord (37.32; 9.7)
 - Assyria reaches to the neck (37.36-37; 8.8)
- Hezekiah does not fulfill all the language from Isaiah 7, 8, 9, and 11 == he is a shadow of the one to come

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010

The Book of Isaiah | Winter 2010