

Here in this section Isaiah will bring **3 series of oracles** concerning **God's purpose** in **Israel** and her **surrounding nations**. This will **intensify** from **oracle to oracle**, eventually **encompassing** the **entire world** and **world history**. The third and climactic oracle from God, (**chapters 24-27**), shows Him **ruling the nations** in **judgment** and **salvation**. Chapters 24-27 **foresee** the **whole world** in **crisis** at the **end of history**, but it is also **mingled** with **wonderful oracles** of **salvation** and **promises** of **rich eternal blessings** for His **redeemed people** from **all nations**. Isaiah's **judgment** and **salvation** in this section, chapters **13-27**, begin in his day with the **surrounding nations** and **expand** to **all humanity** in the **glorious Day of the Lord** when God **finally banishes sin** and **death** from **His world forever**.

First series of oracles: Isaiah's day and time (13:1–20:6)

In this section Isaiah prophesies concerning no less than 6 surrounding nations around Judah. Thus God is seen ruling in meticulous Providence even over the nations of the world. One great feature in Isaiah is a clear and unashamed revelation of God as not only the Creator and rightful owner and proprietor of all the world and nations, but also their ruling king. God not only holds Israel and Judah accountable, but holds all nations accountable for their deeds. As the carol writer says, "He makes the nations prove the glory of His righteousness!"

Babylon (13:1–14:27)

The **first oracle** opens as the **Day of the Lord** looms over the **world**. Although the **near fulfilment** of this prophecy is of **Babylon** in **Isaiah's day**, it opens with a prophecy of the **Day of the Lord** that is **worldwide** in its **scope**.

Isaiah 13:9-13 - 9 Behold, **the day of the Lord is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.** 10 **For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.** 11 **Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud** And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless. 12 **I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold And mankind than the gold of Ophir.** 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the Lord of hosts In the day of His burning anger. NASU

More **fierce** and **scary language** is hard to find. We know from the **New Testament** that in the **last days** of the **Eschaton**, **Mystery Babylon** is seen as the **harlot** that **deceives the whole world** in both a religious and economic scheme of deception (Revelation chs 13-18), led by the **Beast** (Antichrist) and the **False Prophet**. Here also is a **prophecy** of the **“signs in the heavens”** that **Jesus referred** to just **prior** to His **Second Coming** in Matthew 24:29-31, which is also referred to in Revelation **6:12** and **8:12**, at the **& 7 Seals** and **7 Trumpet** Judgments. Also here is the famous prophecy about **Babylon being destroyed** and **never rebuilt**, which until this day it has yet to be done.

Isaiah 13:19-20 - 19 And **Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation;**
Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there. NASU

Babylon was destroyed by **Cyrus the Persian** in **539BC**, which eventually resulted in the **Jewish Exiles** returning to **Judea** and **Jerusalem**, for which **Cyrus** was **responsible**, mentioned later in Isaiah (also see Jer 50:29, 51:37). This destruction of Babylon becomes a **type** (typical prophecy) of the fall of the **great harlot** and world-wide Babylon in Revelation.

Revelation 14:8 - 8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, **"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."** NASU

Chapter 14 promises a restoration to the land for Israel (and Judah), and they are seen as ruling over those who persecuted them and held them captive.

Isaiah 14:1-2 - **14 When the Lord will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel, and settle them in their own land,** then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob. **2 The peoples will take them along and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them as an inheritance in the land of the Lord as male servants and female servants;** and they will take their captors captive and will rule over their oppressors. NASU

At this time, Isaiah reveals it will again be **world-wide** in its **scope**, in a time of the **far distant future** when **Israel** is in the land (14:1-3), the nations are at rest (14:7), and **Satan** is **ruined** (14:12-15).

Isaiah 14:3-7 - 3 And it will be **in the day when the Lord gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved, 4 that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon,** and say,

"How the oppressor has ceased, And how fury has ceased! 5 "The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked, The scepter of rulers 6 Which used to strike the peoples in fury with unceasing strokes, Which subdued the nations in anger with unrestrained persecution. 7 "The whole earth is at rest and is quiet; They break forth into shouts of joy. NASU

Here in the text **Satan** is likened unto the **King of Babylon** who is used as *type* of that **ancient serpent**. The language sounds very much like the **Millennial period** as **Israel** is **restored** to their **land** and at **rest**, the **whole world** is at **rest** (under the rule of the Prince of Peace), and **Satan** has been "12 cut down to the earth... and 15 thrust down to Sheol," two of these things happen in Revelation (12:13, 20:1-3) just **prior** to the **Millennial Reign**.

Isaiah 14:12-15 - 12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. NASU

Although controversy exists concerning these words, yet it is commonly held that the **King of Babylon** is a *type* of **Satan**. The ESV Study Bible notes: "[Isa. 14:12–15](#) fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! Using rich poetic imagery, the king of Babylon is addressed with sarcastic irony. From the great heights of his pride, arrogance, and rebellion against God, his downfall brings him to the depths of Sheol.... Some have seen here a poetic allusion in which the fallen king of Babylon is likened to a fallen Satan. At the minimum, the extravagant pretensions of the king of Babylon are graphically and poetically portrayed, from the heights of God-defying arrogance ("I will make myself like the Most High") to the depths of destruction in the far reaches of the pit. (See also note on [Ezek. 28:11–19](#).)" **end quote.**

Isaiah 14:24-20:6 contains **oracles of judgment** against the nations of Assyria (14:24-27), Philistia ([14:28–32](#)), Moab ([15:1–16:14](#)), The Syria-Israel alliance ([17:1–18:7](#)), and Egypt ([19:1–20:6](#)). Yet even as the **language** addresses the surrounding nations in Isaiah's day, it **swings back** and **forth** from **local scope** to **world-wide scope** in its **nature**.

Isaiah 14:24-27 - 24 The Lord of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand, **25 to break Assyria in My land, and I will trample him on My mountains.** Then his yoke will be removed from them and his burden removed from their shoulder. **26 "This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. 27 "For the Lord of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?"** NASU

So even as God has sent a **purifying judgment** upon His **own people** leading to their **exile** in **Babylon**, yet He is seen **restoring** and **redeeming** a **remnant** in the **latter days**, when He will also bring **judgment** upon the **whole world** of **nations**, bringing **purifying judgment** and **salvation** to them as well. God will use the **wicked** to **purify** the **righteous**, and in the end He will **redeem** the **remnant** of **faithful worshipper** among **Israel** as well as among the **repentant faithful** in the **world**. This message will **intensify** throughout the book.

Isaiah 21:1-23:18 – This **Second Series** of **5 Oracles** contains **oracles** of **judgment** against the nations of **Babylon** ([21:1–10](#)), **Edom** ([21:11–12](#)), **Arabia** ([21:13–17](#)), **Jerusalem** ([22:1–25](#)), **Tyre** ([23:1–18](#)). The fall of **Babylon** is repeated with that familiar refrain, **"Fallen Fallen is Babylon."**

Isaiah 21:9 - 9 "Now behold, here comes a troop of riders, horsemen in pairs." And one said, **"Fallen, fallen is Babylon; And all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground."** NASU

The people of **Jerusalem** are **rebuked** for their **self-reliance** seeking to **defend themselves** against **stronger enemies** while **ignoring God** who holds the **nations** in His **hand**, and gives His **own people** **promises** of **deliverance** for **faithfulness**. Here is that **test of faith** for **Judah**, in what will God's people trust for salvation? In human strategies of self-rescue, or in prophetic promises of divine grace? Sadly, they **fail** the **test**.

Isaiah 22:9-11 - 9 And you saw that the breaches In the wall of the city of David were many; And **you collected the waters of the lower pool. 10 Then you counted the houses of Jerusalem And tore down houses to fortify the wall.** 11 And you made a reservoir between the two walls For the waters of the old pool. **But you did not depend on Him who made it, Nor did you take into consideration Him who planned it long ago.** NASU

Again, God is seen sending **purifying judgment** upon his **own people** and holding them **accountable** for the **evil** which they **perpetrate**. And this He also does with

the **surrounding nations**, again making the **nations prove the glory** of his **righteousness**. Isaiah again shows **God ruling over the nations** of his day and holding them **accountable for sin and evil**, even while he uses them to **purify His own people**. Contained here is **another fulfilled prophecy** of **Isaiah**. He prophesied of the **destruction** of the **great city of Tyre** approximately **100 years** before it **happened** at the **Babylonian siege** 586-573BC.

Isaiah 23:1 - Wail, O ships of Tarshish, For Tyre is destroyed, without house or harbor; It is reported to them from the land of Cyprus..... **8 Who has planned this against Tyre**, the bestower of crowns, Whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the honored of the earth? **9 The Lord of hosts has planned it, to defile the pride of all beauty, To despise all the honored of the earth.** NASU

Isaiah will often times will **labor to show** that **God has planned** and **decreed** the **rise and fall of nations** in these prophecies, **revealing that Divine signature** of telling the **future long** before it **happens**.

Isaiah 48:3 - 3 "I declared the former things long ago And they went forth from My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. NASU

Isaiah 24:1-27:13 is the **third series of 5 Oracles** contains **judgment** against the **whole world**. Not only has there been **salvation through judgment** for **God's people Israel**, but there will be **salvation through judgment** for the **whole world**. Chapters 24-27 **foresee the whole world in crisis** at the **end of history**, but it is also **mingled with wonderful oracles of salvation** and **promises of rich eternal blessings** for His **redeemed people** from **all nations**. Isaiah's **judgment** and **salvation** in this section, chapters **13-27**, began in his day with the **surrounding nations** and have now **expanded to all humanity** in the **glorious Day of the Lord** when God **finally banishes sin and death** from **His world forever**. These chapters are often called "**apocalyptic**," since they depict the **final conflict** and **God's victory in vivid images**. Here the **Lord, ruling from Mount Zion, violently dismantles** this **present evil age** and replaces it with the **joy of worldwide worship**.

Isaiah 24:3-6 - 3 The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the Lord has spoken this word. 4 The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. **5 The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.** 6

Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left. NASU

The **oracles of judgment** are **mingled** also with **oracles of salvation** and shouts of the **joy** from the **redeemed** of the **Lord** who **rejoice** over **God's righteous judgments** upon the earth!

Isaiah 24:14-16 - 14 They raise their voices, they shout for joy; **They cry out from the west concerning the majesty of the Lord.** 15 **Therefore glorify the Lord in the east, The name of the Lord, the God of Israel, In the coastlands of the sea.** 16 From the ends of the earth we hear songs, "**Glory to the Righteous One,**" But I say, "Woe to me! Woe to me! Alas for me! The treacherous deal treacherously, And the treacherous deal very treacherously." NASU

This chapter has shown the **global scope** of these **judgments** from **God** at the end of **history**. Indeed, this **language** at the **end** of **chapter 24** sounds remarkably like the **Second Coming** as recorded in **Zechariah 14:1-6** and **Revelation 19-20**.

Isaiah 24:21-23 - 21 So it will happen in that day, **That the Lord will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth.** 22 **They will be gathered together** Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished. 23 **Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.** NASU

Jesus' **Olivet Discourse** (Matt 24, Mark 13, Luke 21) also speaks of these "**signs in the heavens**" that accompany His **Second Coming** and **redemption** of His **people**.

Luke 21:25-28 - 25 "**And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves,** 26 **men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.** 27 "**And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** 28 "**But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**" NASB

Chapters 25 and **26** contain **prophecy** of the **most amazing salvation** to come to **all peoples**. Here is the **Gospel** in the pages of the Old Testament as **Isaiah** promises both **Jew** and **Gentiles salvation** from **death**, and rejoicing in the

presence of **God** who has **saved His redeemed remnant** from **all the peoples** of the earth!

Isaiah 25:6-9 - 6 The Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine. **7 And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth;** For the Lord has spoken. **9 And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."** NASU

Even as Isaiah has spoken of **world-wide judgment**, he has also **promised salvation** to a remnant from **all peoples** of the earth! The **scope of Isaiah's grand promises of God's salvation** are **beyond** anything spoken in the **Old Testament** until we have arrived here in the **prophets**. Golden **nuggets** for the **faithful** lie here in the pages of **Isaiah**, as he **calls the humble to faithfulness** and **warns of God's judgment** upon the **proud and lofty**.

Isaiah 26:2-5 - 2 "Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter, The one that remains faithful. 3 "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You. 4 "Trust in the Lord forever, For in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock. 5 "For He has brought low those who dwell on high, the unassailable city; He lays it low, He lays it low to the ground, He casts it to the dust. NASU

Isaiah's gospel even includes a **promise of resurrection** from the **dead** for **God's people**.

Isaiah 26:19-20 - 19 Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits. 20 Come, my people, enter into your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs its course. NASU

Chapter 27 includes a **promise of the destruction of Satan**, as well as **promises of a regathering** from **exile** and **restoration of Israel**. Here are some very sweet words indeed!

Isaiah 27:1 - 27 In that day the Lord will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan the twisted serpent; And **He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.** NASU

You remember the **vineyard** from **chapter 5**, which was **Judah** and **Israel**, that had **greatly displeased** the **Lord** and produced only **worthless grapes**. Even though God had **visited** them with **purifying judgment**, here He has **restored** His **vineyard** in the **last days**.

Isaiah 27:2-6 - 2 In that day, "A vineyard of wine, sing of it! **3 "I, the Lord, am its keeper; I water it every moment. So that no one will damage it, I guard it night and day.** 4 "I have no wrath. Should someone give Me briars and thorns in battle, Then I would step on them, I would burn them completely. **5 "Or let him rely on My protection, Let him make peace with Me, Let him make peace with Me."** 6 In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, And they will fill the whole world with fruit. NASU

The **day will come** when **Jacob**, a term speaking of **both houses** of **Israel** and **Judah**, will be **forgiven**. This of course is **Paul's message** in **Romans 11:23-29**, that God will have a **remnant** of **believing Israelites** who will be **forgiven** in the **Messiah's day**, when **God removes** the **blindness** from the **eyes**.

Isaiah 27:9 - **9 Therefore through this Jacob's iniquity will be forgiven; And this will be the full price of the pardoning of his sin:** When he makes all the altar stones like pulverized chalk stones; When Asherim and incense altars will not stand. NASU

Here **Isaiah** pronounced this happening when all **Jacob's false gods** have been **crushed** to pieces **v-9**. Although **Isaiah** is the first to **announce it** with **such clarity**, yet it is a **frequent refrain** in both the **Major** and **Minor Prophets** as in **Hosea**.

Hosea 3:4-5 - 4 For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, **without sacrifice or sacred pillar, and without ephod or household idols.** 5 Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the **Lord their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the Lord and to His goodness in the last days.** NASB

The **day will come** when **God will regather** a **remnant** from **both Israel** and **Judah** who will there be **forgiven** and **restored to God** and **"worship the Lord in the holy mountain at Jerusalem!"**

Isaiah 27:12-13 - 12 In that day the Lord will start His threshing from the flowing stream of the Euphrates to the brook of Egypt, and **you will be gathered up one by one, O sons of Israel.** 13 It will come about also in that day that a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were scattered in the land of Egypt will come and worship the Lord in the holy mountain at Jerusalem. NASU

Chapters 28-39 – A Call to the Faithful - Repent and Rest

Chapters 28-33 returns the focus to the **rise and fall of Jerusalem**, with oracles of judgment and **calls to repentance** to both **Israel**(Ephraim) and **Judah**. Here Isaiah accuses **Jerusalem's leaders** of returning to **Egypt** for **military protection** against the **Assyrian** Invasion. Here again is their **test of faith**, will they **trust the Lord** or put their trust in the **false hopes** of the **world** and **their idols**. Isaiah says that only **trust** in their **God** and **repentance** can **save them**. This happens during the reign of Hezekiah. Strong words of rebuke are given to **Jerusalem's leaders**, who have **turned to Egypt** for **help**. This Isaiah calls a **covenant of death**, for God declares it **will not stand** but will **end** in their **demise**. In the midst of this **rebuke** is a **Messianic Prophecy** quoted in the New Testament by Peter, concerning the **salvation** of those who have been **chosen of God** and **believed** upon His **precious cornerstone**, even Jesus the Lord. This **repentant faith** and **trust/rest** in **God** is the only sure **"foundation"** in the **midst** of **invasion** by these **strong enemies**.

Isaiah 28:14-18 - Therefore, hear the word of the Lord, **O scoffers, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, 15 Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death**, And with Sheol we have made a pact. The overwhelming scourge will not reach us when it passes by, For we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception." **16 Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.** 17 "I will make justice the measuring line And righteousness the level; Then hail will sweep away the refuge of lies And the waters will overflow the secret place. 18 **"Your covenant with death will be canceled, And your pact with Sheol will not stand; When the overwhelming scourge passes through, Then you become its trampling place.** NASU

This **overwhelming scourge** of course is that of the **later Babylonian Invasion**, when **Jerusalem** will be **sacked** and **Judah** taken into **Exile**. As Isaiah continues his **rebuke** of **Judah**, he pronounces the judgment of blindness to God's saving work.

Isaiah 29:9-10 - 9 Be delayed and wait, **Blind yourselves and be blind**; They become drunk, but not with wine, They stagger, but not with strong drink. **10 For the Lord has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep, He has shut your eyes, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, the seers.** NASU

His **familiar words** are quoted by **Jesus** who is rebuking the **Jewish leaders** of His day for their **hardness of heart** in **rejecting Him** as Messiah.

Isaiah 29:13-14 - 13 Then the Lord said, **"Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me,** And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote, 14 Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men will perish, And the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed."

When **Israel** finally **rejected** their **Messiah** in His **First Coming**, God sent upon them the **great judgment** of **blindness** to His **saving work** (Romans 11:6-10). This **Isaiah** says about God's judgment, **"14 I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men will perish, And the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed."** The **blindness** of **Israel** is of course a **great mystery**, yet as God has **promised** in the New Testament, so has **Isaiah** said here that there will be a **believing remnant** of Israelites in the future.

Isaiah 29:22-24 - 22 Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall not now be ashamed, nor shall his face now turn pale; **23 But when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, They will sanctify My name; Indeed, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob And will stand in awe of the God of Israel. 24 "Those who err in mind will know the truth, And those who criticize will accept instruction.** NASU

Isaiah **rebukes** them for the **pact** with **Egypt** calling them **"rebellious children."**

Isaiah 30:1-3 - 1 "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the Lord, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, **And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin; 2 Who proceed down to Egypt Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!** 3 "Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation. NASU

So often **God's people go astray** and want their **ears tickled**. They don't want to be called to **repentance**, but would rather be **satisfied** with **lies** and don't want to be **confronted** with the **holiness of God**, or **called to humility** before Him.

Isaiah 30:9-11 - 9 For this is a rebellious people, false sons, Sons who refuse to listen To the instruction of the Lord; 10 Who say to the seers, "You must not see visions"; And to the prophets, **"You must not prophesy to us what is right, Speak to us pleasant words, Prophecy illusions.** 11 "Get out of the

way, turn aside from the path, **Let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.**" NASU

But only in **true repentance** and **rest in God** can someone truly have **His peace** and **His protection** from strong enemies.

Isaiah 30:15 - 15 For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, **"In repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength."** But you were not willing, NASU

Chapters 31-33 swing back and forth from **oracles of judgment** upon **Judah** to **promises of salvation** to **God's remnant** whom He will **save**. From oracles of judgment upon the **city** and the **land**, to **promises of beauty** and **glory** upon the **land** and the **city**.

Isaiah 33:20-22 - **20 Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an undisturbed habitation,** A tent which will not be folded; Its stakes will never be pulled up, Nor any of its cords be torn apart. **21 But there the majestic One, the Lord, will be for us A place of rivers and wide canals** On which no boat with oars will go, And on which no mighty ship will pass. **22 For the Lord is our judge, The Lord is our lawgiver, The Lord is our king; He will save us** NASU

Chapters 34-35 are announcing **two final outcomes** for the **nations** of the **earth**. These chapters describe **God's final judgment** of the **world** in **chapter 34** and **vindication** and **everlasting happiness** of **His people** in **chapter 35**. Again Isaiah speaks with **world-wide scope** in his **judgment oracle** upon the **nations**.

Isaiah 34:1-4 - 4 Draw near, **O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it.** **2 For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter.** 3 So their slain will be thrown out, And their corpses will give off their stench, And the mountains will be drenched with their blood. **4 And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away** As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree. NASU

See here the **armies** of the **nations** will be swallowed up by the **fierce wrath** of **God** at that time when he sends the **signs** in the heavens, **"4 all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away."** These judgments are seen as a desolate wasteland whose perpetual burning and thirst will never be quenched. But this judgment is

followed by a promise of joy and salvation to the **ransomed** of the **Lord**. These are set on the **backdrop** of a **fruitful land** that has been **healed** of its **curse** and blossoming with **joy** and **gladness**.

Isaiah 35:1-2 - 1 The wilderness and the desert will be glad, And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus 2 It will blossom profusely And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The majesty of Carmel and Sharon. **They will see the glory of the Lord, The majesty of our God.** NASU

These will be **richly rewarded** by seeing the **glory** and **majesty** of **God**. Those whom **God** has **redeemed** and **ransomed** will come to **Zion** with **joyful shouting**. It will be a **place** and **time** of **abundant prosperity** and **everlasting joy**, never again to experience sorrow.

Isaiah 35:8-10 - 8 A highway will be there, a roadway, And it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, But it will be for him who walks that way, And fools will not wander on it. 9 No lion will be there, Nor will any vicious beast go up on it; These will not be found there. But **the redeemed will walk there, 10 And the ransomed of the Lord will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.** NASU

Even though **God's people** have been **purified** through **judgment**, **salvation** has come through that **judgment** for the **remnant** of **His people** who **trust Him** with **repentant faith**. Their **final glory** will be **everlasting** in a bright world with **no end!**

Chapters 36-39 tell the story of the **rise** of **Hezekiah King** of **Judah** and his **remarkable trust** in **God**. They serve as an **illustration** that **trust in God** is **rewarded** by **God**. Just as **Isaiah predicted** the Assyrian armies, come and try to attack the city, and so **Hezekiah humbles** himself **before God** and he prays for **divine deliverance**. The city is **miraculously saved** overnight, by a powerful **angel** of the **Lord**. But **Hezekiah's faith** is immediately **followed** by his **folly** in hosting a **delegation** from **Babylon** and showing them the **treasuries** of the **Temple**. This will **ultimately lead** to the **Babylonian Invasion** and **Jerusalem's fall**, including the **Exile** of **Judah's captives** in Babylon for **70 years**. Isaiah 36-39 is paralleled by 2 Kings 18:13-20:19. The **story** is **recounted** here in Isaiah.

Isaiah 36:1-6 - 36 Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them. 2 And the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to

Jerusalem to King Hezekiah with a large army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway of the fuller's field.... 4 Then Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria, "What is this confidence that you have? 5 "I say, 'Your counsel and strength for the war are only empty words.' **Now on whom do you rely, that you have rebelled against me?**" NASU

Here of course is the **great test of faith again**, "In whom do you now trust?" These **boastful words** of the **Assyrian** will be his **downfall**.

Isaiah 37:1-4 - 37 And **when King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth and entered the house of the Lord.** 2 Then he sent Eliakim who was over the household with Shebna the scribe and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. 3 They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, 'This day is a day of distress, rebuke and rejection; for children have come to birth, and there is no strength to deliver. 4 'Perhaps the Lord your God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the Lord your God has heard. **Therefore, offer a prayer for the remnant that is left.**'"

Isaiah hears of his distress and **speaks** the **Word** of the **Lord**.

Isaiah 37:5-7 - 5 So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. **6 Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the Lord, "Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.** 7 "Behold, I will put a spirit in him so that he will hear a rumor and return to his own land. And I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.'" NASU

The **Assyrian captain** brings a **letter** of **warning** and **reproach** from the Assyrian King designed to **bring fear** upon **Hezekiah** with much **boasting**.

Isaiah 37:14-20 - 14 Then **Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and he went up to the house of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. 15 Hezekiah prayed to the Lord** saying, 16 "O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, **You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 17 "Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, O Lord, and see; and listen to all the words of Sennacherib, who sent them to reproach the living God.** 18 "Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have devastated all the countries and their lands, 19 and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but the work of men's hands, wood and

stone. So they have destroyed them. **20 "Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, Lord, are God."** NASU

Hezekiah's humility and trust in the Lord are a faithful answer to this great test of faith. Rather than trust in self-reliance, or human rescue, Hezekiah looks for Divine Grace, and turns to the Lord alone for help. This of course is rewarded by God.

Isaiah 37:21-26 - 21 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent word to Hezekiah, saying, **"Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria, 22 this is the word that the Lord has spoken against him: "**She has despised you and mocked you, The virgin daughter of Zion; She has shaken her head behind you, The daughter of Jerusalem! 23 "Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? **And against whom have you raised your voice And haughtily lifted up your eyes? Against the Holy One of Israel!** 24 "Through your servants you have reproached the Lord, And you have said, 'With my many chariots I came up to the heights of the mountains, To the remotest parts of Lebanon; And I cut down its tall cedars and its choice cypresses. And I will go to its highest peak, its thickest forest. 25 'I dug wells and drank waters, And with the sole of my feet I dried up All the rivers of Egypt.' **26 "Have you not heard? Long ago I did it, From ancient times I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass, That you should turn fortified cities into ruinous heaps.** NASU

The Lord rebukes the boasting of Sennacherib and in Isaiah's style reveals that God is the One who has planned and decreed whatever success Sennacherib has had. Moreover, God has not only decreed what happens "from ancient times," but "brought it to pass." Here we learn that God not only decrees human history, but in His meticulous Providence is the primary cause of bringing it to pass.

Isaiah then speaks a Word of deliverance.

Isaiah 37:33-35 - **33 "Therefore, thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, 'He will not come to this city or shoot an arrow there; and he will not come before it with a shield, or throw up a siege ramp against it. 34 'By the way that he came, by the same he will return, and he will not come to this city,' declares the Lord. 35 'For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"** NASU

Then we read of the powerful overthrow of the Assyrian army by the angel of the Lord.

Isaiah 37:36-38 - 36 Then the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early in the morning, behold, all of these were dead. 37 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh. 38 It came about as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, **that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons killed him with the sword**; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son became king in his place. NASU

The **obvious lesson** here is that **trust in God is vindicated by God**. When God's people **seek the face of God** in **trial** and **trouble**, and **align themselves** with his **cause**, trusting in **his power alone**, they find him **faithful** to keep **His Word**. God shows **Himself mighty** on their **behalf**. Another remarkable story of Hezekiah's life is also shared.

Isaiah 38:1-8 - 38 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'" 2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, 3 and said, **"Remember now, O Lord, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in Your sight."** And Hezekiah wept bitterly. 4 Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, 5 **"Go and say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of your father David, 'I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.** 6 **"I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city."** 7 **"This shall be the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing that He has spoken: 8 "Behold, I will cause the shadow on the stairway, which has gone down with the sun on the stairway of Ahaz, to go back ten steps."** So the sun's shadow went back ten steps on the stairway on which it had gone down. NASU

Again Hezekiah **humbles himself** and **prays to God** and **God hears him**. One **lesson** here is that **prayer** can often **change** the **outcome** of **events**, if the **Lord** is **willing**. And here the **Lord** even added a **sign** to **confirm** his **Word**. This **supernatural event** shows God's power even over the rising and setting of the sun. Hezekiah offers a Psalm of praise to God in return.

Chapter 39 records yet another story from Hezekiah's life. This time he hosts a delegation from Babylon and shows them all of his wealth. This is not good and will lead to the exile of Judah and the Babylonian invasion.

Isaiah 39:1-8 - 1 At that time Merodach-baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that he had been sick and had recovered. **2 Hezekiah was pleased, and showed them all his treasure house, the silver and the gold and the spices and the precious oil and his whole armory and all that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his house nor in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.** 3 Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where have they come to you?" And Hezekiah said, "They have come to me from a far country, from Babylon." 4 He said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasuries that I have not shown them." **5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord of hosts, 6 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the Lord. 7 'And some of your sons who will issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away, and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"** 8 Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "For there will be peace and truth in my days." NASU

As a **result** of Hezekiah's **foolishness**, the day will come when **Babylon** will take his **treasures** by **force**, and in the **process** will **conquer Judah** and take its **people** into **captivity** and **exile**. Here Isaiah has **foretold** the **exile** of **Judah**, and this provides a **context** for **chapters 40-66** which portray Jerusalem in captivity in Babylon, and has the **exiles** of **Judah** as its **audience**. The *ESV Study Bible* provides some insight on the statement of Hezekiah in verse 8. *"There will be peace and security in my days. Irresponsibly, Hezekiah thinks only of himself (and he was one of the good kings of Judah!). Hezekiah is disappointing as a man and father; but even more so as the steward of David's dynasty. He is not allowed to act solely for himself: for his sons to serve as eunuchs (v. 7) threatens their ability to continue the family line."* **End quote.**

This ends the **first major section** of the **book of Isaiah, chapters 1-39.**