

Title: “*The Apologetics of the Babylonia Fallen Twice*”

Sub-Title: “*Religious and Economic Fall*”

Key Verse of the Book of Isaiah: 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Key Verse for Biblical Apologetics: I Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

Key Verse for Old Testament Biblical Apologetics: Acts 28:23 “And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.”

Key Verse of Isaiah chapter twenty-one: 21:9 “And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, *Babylon is fallen, is fallen;* and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.”

Introduction: Our passage today in Isaiah chapter twenty-one brings three thoughts to mind as we seek to know the mind of Christ and His heart for humanity and this World. First everyone should understand the significance of all prophecies that are given to us in Scripture. As we recall the authoritativeness of the supremacy of Scripture we must logically accept the trustworthiness and consequences of ignoring prophecy which is given for our highest good.

Secondly this chapter of Isaiah continues to stand as a reminder of the character of mankind. It is important for people to understand man's basic character and character flaws. A lesson that was learned in my first pastorate is not to listen to what people say but rather what people do.

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It is sometimes said of those that go to church every Sunday and sing hymns is that they in reality are singing lies. Not that the hymns are lies but rather that their lives do not always match up with the inspired aspirations of the hymn writers.

Third, because the character of man has been consistent down through the millennia, one of the consistent character flaws of mankind is the human heart is inclined to idolatry. In the key verse of Isaiah chapter twenty-one mentioned the fall of Babylonia that fell twice. Babylonian and the Tower of Babel are real people and a real place. Both are representative of idolatry in the heart of mankind. The importance of reading this in the biblical historic context and being warned of the impending judgment in the future are of great value to reader of the book of Isaiah.

Dr. Strouse characterized Isaiah Twenty-One this way, “Other enemies of Judah will receive judgment, namely Babylon (vv. 1-10), Edom (vv. 11-12), and Arabia (vv. 13-17). Babylon, “the desert of the sea,”⁴⁷ would fall to the Media-Persians in 539 (v. 2). Nevertheless, Babylon represents Babylonianism, the system of human rebellion manifested in the religious harlot and economic mammon of Rev. 17 and 18, respectively. The city of Babylon will be rebuilt and then destroyed during the Tribulation, as both aspects of Babylonianism will also be destroyed, predicted in the double expression “is fallen, is fallen” (Rev. 14:8; 18:2).”

Text: Isaiah 21:1-17 “The burden of the desert of the sea. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; so it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land.

Vs. 2 A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease.

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Vs. 3 Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: I was bowed down at the hearing of it; I was dismayed at the seeing of it.

Vs. 4 My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me.

Vs. 5 Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink: arise, ye princes, and anoint the shield.

Vs. 6 For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth.

Vs. 7 And he saw a chariot with a couple of horsemen, a chariot of asses, and a chariot of camels; and he hearkened diligently with much heed:

Vs. 8 And he cried, A lion: My lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights:

Vs. 9 And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, *Babylon is fallen, is fallen*; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.

Vs. 10 O my threshing, and the corn of my floor: that which I have heard of the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have I declared unto you.

Vs. 11 The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?

Vs. 12 The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come.

Vs. 13 The burden upon Arabia. In the forest in Arabia shall ye lodge, O ye travelling companies of Dedanim.

Vs. 14 The inhabitants of the land of Tema brought water to him that was thirsty, they prevented with their bread him that fled.

Vs. 15 For they fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, and from the bent bow, and from the grievousness of war.

Vs. 16 For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Within a year, according to the years of an hireling, and all the glory of Kedar shall fail:

Vs. 17 And the residue of the number of archers, the mighty men of the children of Kedar, shall be diminished: for the LORD God of Israel hath spoken it.”

Analysis of this passage: This prophecy from the prophet Isaiah given in 714 BC is both a comfort and a warning. The comfort is that per usual the LORD came to the divine aid of Israel and Judah. The warning though is to the Lord's future rain during the Tribulation period, in which the Lord will judge those who are against His people, as the Lord rains with an iron fist.

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- An interesting way that the Lord put His reference of Babylon, “the desert of the sea.” The idea it seems that the great city Babylon was to become uninhabitable, much like a desert or a sea.
- The avenger of Judah, the Lord brought about the fall of Babylon in 539 BC. Though Babylon had the resources of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, and access to the Persian Gulf, Babylon became a fallen nation.
- Now Kedar was the second grandson of Abraham, which was the offspring from Ishmael. This people group would be who we would call today Muslims.
- Some geochemical details of this passage. The Media-Persians would be modern day N.W. Iran. Babylon would be located fifty-nine miles S.W. of modern day Bagdad. Babylon is also the ancient city of Mesopotamia, and the “cradle of civilization.”

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- Names have meanings, and Babylon means, “gate of the gods,” and the name was derived from the Greek language.
- As Strouse’s identified Babylonianism as human rebellion and it was and is, it was further identified as both religious and economic. Though the religious harlot is usually reserved for reference to Catholicism, the Muslims have tried to conquer and do away with the Catholics since AD 1,095.
- Our passage today records the fall of Babylon in 539 BC and in the Tribulation period. This gives a clue into the insidious nature of idolatry that it keeps raising its ugly head in the rebellious hearts of the enemies of our Lord.

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- Notice the reference of a woman in labor in verse three. This illustrative language is telling the readers of Isaiah that the Lord's return and judgment will come upon the World quickly and that we should be ready all the time.
- Notice also in verses five and six the references to the watchtower and the watchman. Verse eight the watchman are watching day and night relative to the anticipated fall of Babylon.
- In verses seven and nine the horseman. Their job was to take the message from the watchman and deliver the message by way of camel and ass the fall of Babylon.
- In verse seventeen we see a promise from the LORD that suppress the Muslims in the fall of Babylon than and in the Tabulation period.

Applications:

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