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Oracle Concerning Babylon

Isaiah 13:1-14:27 (pt. 2)

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Babylon's Significance

➤ Bible's Story:

- city of Babylon ("Babel") and its tower (Gen. 11) is the climax of humanity's rebellion – a societal self-exaltation to a divine status
- the archetypal manifestation of Babylon is Egypt – the Lord delivers His people by destroying Pharaoh and his army

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Babylon's Significance

➤ Bible's Story:

- Isaiah promises a new Exodus – the restoration of God's people through the judgment of "Babylon"

Babylon symbolically represents the arrogant pomp and power of the world-system in rebellion against God

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Parable of the Fallen King

¹ 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.

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Parable of the Fallen King

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 parable against the king of Babylon, and say... (Isaiah 4:1-4)

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Parable of the Fallen King

1. The Occasion (14:1-4)

- the new Exodus – when God again has saving compassion on His people and delivers them
- a complete reversal – their oppressors will be glad servants with God's people

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Parable of the Fallen King

2. The Content (14:4-21)

- a) the whole earth rejoices and rests at the news of the tyrant's death; liberation extends to all creation (cf. Rom. 8:19-22)
- b) the king is mortal and death is the great equalizer; it is the end of pride, pleasure, self-importance and self-indulgence

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Parable of the Fallen King

2. The Content (14:4-21)

- c) the king reached for the apex of heaven (to be god) and came to the lowest places of the pit
- d) the king is portrayed in ultimate disgrace – as an unburied corpse with no tomb and no lineage; evil is cut off permanently!

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Parable of the Fallen King

3. The (Near) Application (14:22-25)

- all that is said in principle about the "world king" will have an interim fulfillment in the Lord's overthrow of historical Babylon
- the very near destruction of Assyria will exemplify and validate the Lord's word and universal plan

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Parable of the Fallen King

4. The Principle (14:26-27)

- this validated act of God is an example of the way His hand governs all nations and executes a final, universal judgment
- the final fulfillment will be the complete destruction of "Babylon the Great" (Revelation 17:1-18:24)

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