



1

Concerning the Nations (Is. 13-27)

➤ Message:

- Yahweh is the Lord of all nations – He alone is the sovereign actor of history ruling and guiding it to His predetermined end; all are accountable to Him
- To God's people – do not fear or trust in any nation for deliverance; trust Yahweh alone

2

Isaiah 21:1-17

- Oracle concerning the Wilderness of the Sea
- Oracle concerning Dumah (Silence)
- Oracle concerning the Arabians (Evening)

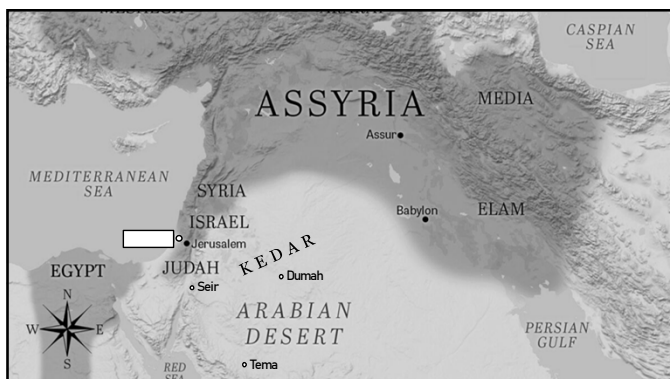
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Isaiah 21:1-17

➤ Historical Context:

- Babylon and her desert allies are revolting against Assyria; Judah is tempted to trust in Babylon
- According to God's word, Babylon and her allies will be defeated by Assyria – don't trust in Babylon!

4



5

Fallen is Babylon!

➤ Message: *wait on the Lord's sure, infallible word*

6

Fallen is Babylon!

1. The Wilderness of the Sea (Babylon)

- the fall of Babylon, the embodiment of the world-system opposed to God, will be shocking and horrifying in its complete devastation (cf. Rev. 18)

7

¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. ² And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of immorality* with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." ⁴ I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; (Revelation 18:1-5)

8

Fallen is Babylon!

2. Dumah (Silence)

- the darkness of the present days is protracted, things go on as they have always done, yet the morning will come – keep looking!

9

Fallen is Babylon!

3. Arabians (Evening)

- the near fulfillment of the destruction of Arabia's "glory" (one year) points the reliability of God's word through Isaiah regarding the distant future

10

¹ Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. ² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

11

⁸ But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

12