

PROPHECIES CONCERNING SEVERAL GENTILE NATIONS (Isa. 13-23) – Part 3

Ch. 20 – EGYPT TO FALL TO ASSYRIA

God holds all world power accountable for national righteousness.

I. No Help From Egypt

- A. This section is another warning to Judah about seeking assistance from Egypt.
- B. The judgment foretold in ch. 19 was about to begin.
 - 1. In 711 BC, Sargon (king of Assyria) sent his commander in chief (see NKJV fn) against Ashdod, a Philistine city located near the Mediterranean Sea, and the city was taken.
 - 2. Ashdod had been under Assyrian control, but it rebelled and looked to Egypt and Ethiopia for assistance. Other cities and territories were invited to join the rebellion, including Judah. That's why Isaiah's warning to the Hebrews is given here.

Ch. 21 – THE FALL OF BABYLON, EDOM, AND ARABIA

I. The Fall of Babylon (21:1-10)

- A. Isaiah's Anguish (21:1-4)
- B. Babylon Attacked (21:5-10)
 - 1. John uses Isa. 21:9 in Rev. 14:8; 18:2 as he describes the overthrow of the apostate force that subjugated a good portion of the early Christian movement.

II. The Oracle Concerning Edom (21:11-12)

- A. Edom's future is detailed in a more graphic fashion in Obadiah.

III. The Fall of Arabia (21:13-16)

- A. Certain Arab tribes are used as illustrations:
 - 1. The Dedanites were a trading tribe of southern Arabia, descendants of Keturah, Abraham's second wife (Gen. 25:3).
 - 2. Tema was a tribe of the Ishmaelites (Gen. 25:15) in northwest Arabia.
 - 3. Kedar, in northern Arabia, is perhaps used in a generic sense for several Arabian groups. In the Assyrian records, "Kedarites" seems to be used generically for "Arabs."

DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

- 1. Why is it important to study these sections of Scripture?
- 2. What can we learn from the judgments on the nations? What themes arise?
- 3. What can we learn from Isaiah's reactions?