

INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

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CHAPTER FORTY-SEVEN

THEME:

The decline and fall of Babylon.

REMARKS:

This is the third occasion in this book (chapters 13, 14, 21) in which we have considered the prediction of the doom of Babylon. This is indeed remarkable in view of the fact that Babylon at this time was a very small and insignificant kingdom. It was almost a century before it would become a world power. It had been in existence since the days of the Tower of Babel and had influenced the world religiously. Apparently Babylon is to be rebuilt and will become a global power in the end times.

There is a spiritual meaning for us of the present who have nothing to do with Babylon of the past or of the future.

The Babylon of the past lies under the rubble and ruins of judgment. Its glory is diminished by the accumulated dust of the centuries. We can see this Babylonian tendency today in the political realm as represented in the United Nations.

We see the commercial combine coming to pass in the breaking down of economic barriers among the nations of Europe. We see the religious combine in both Romanism and the World Council of Churches.

There surely is a message for us in the ruins of ancient Babylon and mystery Babylon (See Revelation 18).

The captivity of Judah and the fall of Babylon are clearly set before us here.

OUTLINE:

1. **The DECLINE of Babylon.** Verses 1-5
2. **The DELIVERANCE of Israel into the Hands of Babylon.** Verses 6*9
3. **The DETAILS for the Destruction of Babylon.** Verses 10-11
4. **The DILEMMA of Babylon.** Verses 12-15

COMMENT:

Verse 1—**Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate.**

“Down, Down” is the command of God to Babylon; the same as a dog is called to obedience.

Babylon is called a virgin because she had not yet been captured by an enemy. Before she arrived at the lofty height to which she attained, her decline is declared in clear terms.

Verse 2—**Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers.**

This verse describes the indescribable humiliation to which she was to be subjected.

Verse 3—**Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.**

Why should God take such awful vengeance upon this city? He is not vindictive but He vindicates His holiness and righteousness.

Verse 4—**As for our redeemer, the Lord of hosts is his name, the! Holy One of Israel.**

Israel in captivity must look to the Lord for deliverance, he has not forsaken them.

Verse 5—**Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter off the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms.**

“**The lady of kingdoms**” is the pet name of Babylon which speaks of all her comforts, compromise and confusion, her fall is inevitable! —God has spoken.

Verse 6—**I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke.**

God delivered His people into the hand of Babylon because they had sinned against Him, He was judging His own people. This is the message of the little prophecy of Habakkuk.

Verse 7—**And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.**

God’s judgment of His people deceived Babylon. They thought that it was by their might and power that they had taken God’s people.

Verse 8—**Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:**

Babylon was arrogant and careless, not believing that a frightful fall was coming.

Verse 9—**But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.**

The suddenness of the fall of Babylon is recorded in the book of Daniel (chapter 5).

Verse 10—**For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.**

Babylon was actually trusting her own wickedness, wisdom and weapons.

Verse 11—**Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.**

Again the swiftness of the destruction of Babylon is forecast.

Verse 12—**Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.**

God satirically urges Babylon to turn to the witchcraft, in which she trusted, for a way out.

Verse 13—**Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee.**

Confusion characterizes Babylon at this time. The city lives up to its name—Babylon means confusion.

Verse 14—**Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.**

Judgment is determined. It will not be deferred.

Verse 15—**Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee.**

The great economic strength which lay in her commerce could not survive. It dwindled and died.

The Saviour had to destroy Babylon.

~ end of chapter 47 ~

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