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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Isaiah 14.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Isaiah 14.

Topics.

- God will have compassion on Jacob and Israel and set them in their land.
- Israel will take captive those who were their captors and rule over them.
- Israel will taunt the king of Babylon saying, "The oppressor has ceased."
- The whole earth is singing and at rest no woodcutter comes up against us.
- How are you fallen from heaven O' day star (Lucifer in the KJV)
- I will ascend to heaven; above the stars I will make myself like the Most High.
- Is this the man who made earth tremble, who made the world like a desert?
- Prepare slaughter lest they possess the earth and fill the world with cities.
- The LORD will judge Babylon, Assyria and Philistia.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: Isaiah is the exciting story of the Old Testament and the New Testament compacted into one book. It covers the wonder and splendour of Bible prophecy and echoes of the Lord Jesus Christ resound throughout Isaiah's visions and his messages. It teaches history as it affects God's people and constantly points to a future age when righteousness, justice, joy and peace will be established on earth. Isaiah prophesied about 740–700 B.C. He lived during the decline of Israel in the shadow of the powerful Assyrian Empire. He spoke the word of God to a people who were "deaf and blind" (Isaiah 6:10) who refused to listen to his warnings of looming disaster.

Isaiah warned the people of Judah's that their sin would bring God's judgment (i.e., seventy-years captivity) and declared that God is sovereign and would use Cyrus the Persian to return the people from exile. He spoke also of a servant and man of sorrows who would be wounded for our transgressions faithfully accomplishing God's purposes of salvation (Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12). The final chapters give a beautiful description of a new creation in which Christ will rule as King, judging the wicked and establishing God's Kingdom on earth. Following are four points that will help the reader understand the book of Isaiah as they travel through it: -

1. The history of Israel and Judah. At this time in the story Assyria has taken the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria into captivity and marched up to Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) to destroy it, but failed. Later in the story Babylon attacks Jerusalem and conquers the city and takes the people of Judah into captivity. After this victory Babylon conquers Assyria which resulted in Israel and Judah being brought under the submission of Babylonian rule and the tribes being brought together during the seventy year Babylonian captivity.
2. Many of Isaiah's visions are written as though they have already taken place, but a majority of these visions are predicting future events that are about to happen during Isaiah's generation while others will come to pass in a future age. Though these visions are of future events Isaiah speaks them in the present tense, because he spoke them as they came to his mind and as he saw the events unfolding before him. They are often spoken in this manner because of the certainty of it and because God had ordained them and revealed them to his prophets who spoke them to His people so they must come to pass, because God cannot lie.(Titus 1:2).

3. Though Isaiah is primarily speaking to Judah (the two tribes at Jerusalem) much of what he says applies to Israel (the ten tribes in Samaria) because both Judah and Israel are in the same corrupt spiritual condition.
4. All the promises to Israel are now in Christ. God's promises to Israel now include the Jews and the Gentiles. This is because under the New Covenant God is building an entirely new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles of which Christ is the head. In this new nation that God is creating in the Lord Jesus Christ Jews have no advantage over Gentiles since all are one in Christ Jesus.

The apostle Paul wrote: Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (i.e., one nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Eph. 2:1-22). The practical application of what this means, is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel through Isaiah also apply to Gentiles who by faith belong to Christ.

God will have Compassion on Jacob and Israel and Set them in their Land.

Isaiah 14:1 ----- ¹For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land, and sojourners will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob.

Judah and Israel are about to be taken into captivity for seventy years to Babylon. The prophecy contained in this chapter is to comfort Judah and Israel while they are in this captivity. God is telling them He will not leave them in captivity to Babylon forever, but will bring them back to their own land. The LORD is saying to them not to fear Babylon or think that the LORD their God has forsaken them, because a day will come when God will turn to them again and establish them in their own land.

Israel's history: God sent prophet after prophet to warn Judah and Israel of impending doom if they did not change their wicked ways, but they set their hearts diamond hard against the word of God's prophets (Zech. 7:12). The LORD through the faithful prophets told them to surrender themselves to the King of Babylon and God would nurture them while in Babylonian captivity and deliver them.

But they continued to rebel against the word of the LORD and turned to other gods and entered into gross sin so the LORD used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon (who He called His servant (Jer. 25:9) to bring the curses of the covenant upon them. The curses of the covenant are found in (Deut. 28:15-68) and the blessing of the covenant in (Deut. 28:1-14)

The fierce armies of Babylon invaded the land of Judah, laid their farm land waste, attacked Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) and pillaged the temple. Zedekiah was blinded and carried to Babylon, and the great bulk of the population was taken in chains there with him (around 587 B.C.). Later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) captive. They went into captivity to the Empire of Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods. They were under Babylonian rule for the next seventy years.

Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist. But the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

Now here is the good news: while in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar, Israel and Judah went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His anointed shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) and took by His right hand (Isaiah 45:1) to conquer the Empire of Babylon gave written permission for Israel to return to Jerusalem.

Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again)

Multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations returned to Jerusalem and the land of Israel with triumphant joy and rejoicing. When the temple of God was completed their faith was once again established and a golden time of prosperity and peace followed.

Sadly Israel as a nation never recognised their Messiah the Christ when he came, but even this was in the LORD'S sovereign will. The prophet Zechariah tells us when, the Lord returns in glory: -

- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10-14).

Israel will take Captive those who were their Captors and Rule over Them.

Isaiah 14:2 ----- ²And the peoples will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them in the LORD'S land as male and female slaves. They will take captive those who were their captors, and rule over those who oppressed them.

The statement, "They will take captive those who were their captors," means that Israel will take Babylon who oppressed and held them captive for seventy years captive. It means that there will be a future day that God will exalt Israel above the mighty Empire of Babylon. In this vision Isaiah sees a day when God will bring Israel to their beloved city Jerusalem and they will be the head of Babylon and not the tail.

Israel will taunt the King of Babylon saying, "The oppressor has ceased."

Isaiah 14:3-6 ----- ³When the LORD has given you rest from your pain and turmoil and the hard service with which you were made to serve, ⁴you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon: "How the oppressor has ceased, the insolent fury ceased! ⁵The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of rulers, ⁶that struck the peoples in wrath with unceasing blows, that ruled the nations in anger with unrelenting persecution.

Isaiah comforts Israel telling them that after the LORD has delivered them from the oppression of Babylon and given them rest in their own land the roles would be reversed instead of Babylon looking down upon the people of Israel as being the lessor and their servants Israel would be looking down upon Babylon.

The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked: the staff of the wicked refers to the King of Babylon. In the previous chapter Isaiah prophesied saying that even though Babylon is the glory of kingdoms, the splendour and pomp of the Chaldeans, it will become like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them. (Isaiah 13:19). Biblical history shows that God used Cyrus the king of Persia as His anointed shepherd to bring the Empire of Babylon to ruin. For further information concerning Cyrus, see the notes under the title: "The LORD will Judge and Destroy Babylon," following (v22-24) (below).

NOTE: the king of Babylon is spoken of being a king that rules the nations in anger and with oppression and unrelenting persecution. No matter how mighty such a king maybe or how vast their empire may stretch they are storing up wrath for themselves on the Day of Judgment.

The whole Earth is Singing and at Rest no Woodcutter comes up Against Us.

Isaiah 14:7-8 ----- ⁷The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing. ⁸The cypresses rejoice at you (the king of Babylon) (v4), the cedars of Lebanon, saying, 'Since you were laid low, no woodcutter comes up against us.'

The local fulfilment of this is the destruction of the Empire of Babylon by Cyrus king of Persia, the expression, "The whole earth is at rest and quiet," refers firstly to the whole land of Israel being at rest which it was after Israel had returned to their land and rebuilt the temple of God after their seventy year captivity in Babylon. However this prophecy is not limited to this era of Babylon, but embraces the Babylon spoken of in the following verses of Revelation: -

- A second angel followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality." (Rev. 14:8).
- On her (a woman full of abominations sitting on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns) forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Rev. 17:5).
- An angel called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast." (Rev. 18:2).
- The kings of the earth will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come." (Rev. 18:10).
- A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more." (Rev. 18:21).

The cypresses and cedars of Lebanon: (v8) refers to the following two periods of time: -

1. The united nation of Israel, they are pictured as rejoicing and singing, because there is no woodcutter to come up against them. Woodcutters cut down forests leaving its mighty and tall trees lying dead on the surface of ground so the meaning is that there is no nation coming up to Israel to make war against them.
2. The faithful who have been gathered to Christ in the Messianic age when the wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food and there is no one to hurt or destroy on God's Holy mountain for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea," (Isaiah 11:6-9) (Isaiah 65:25).

The Grave is ready to receive the King of Babylon.

Isaiah 14:9-11 ----- ⁹Sheol (the grave) (interpreted hell in the KJV) beneath is stirred up to meet you (the king of Babylon) (v4) when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations. ¹⁰All of them will answer and say to you: 'You too have become as weak as we! You have become like us!' ¹¹Your pomp is brought down to Sheol (the grave) (hell in the KJV), the sound of your harps; maggots are laid as a bed beneath you, and worms are your covers.

Here the prideful and powerful king of Babylon is pictured as descending to the grave with all the kings of the earth who have died before him rising from their thrones up to meet him saying, You the mighty and proud king of Babylon have become weak as we have. This group of verses is not to be literally interpreted it is the language of personification which the Bible often uses. In the following verses we see that wisdom is personified as a sister and as a woman with maidens.

- Wisdom, "You are my sister," and understanding my intimate friend (Prov. 7:4).

- She (wisdom) has sent forth her maidens (Prov. 9:3).

The following verses personify Jerusalem as a mother who has given birth to her first child and too many sons and as a woman who is full of sickness, rebellion and violence.

- I heard a cry as of a woman (Jerusalem) in labour, anguish as of one giving birth to her first child (Jer. 4:31).
- There is none to guide her (Jerusalem) among all the sons she has borne (Isa. 51:18-19).
- Jerusalem sickness and wounds are ever before me (Jer. 6:7).

These are only a very few examples of personification in the Scriptures, for further examples, see the title: Personification in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU). Isaiah beautifully uses the language of personification in these verses to highlight the futility of pride and the foolishness of denying God. The grave is personified as a place full of kings who are dwelling in it and who stand up from their thrones when they see the king of Babylon arrive.

The moral of what is being taught is that no matter how mighty a king maybe or how vast their empire is it is all vanity if they deny God since their end is to be surrounded in maggots and worms with no hope of escape.

A word of encouragement: if you are a Christian who loves the Lord and endeavours to live a life that brings honour to God and a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith, but despite this your life is suffering some kind of sickness, crisis, grief or hardship, while those who do not even give God a thought and live as they please are healthy and prospering never feel that God has removed His favour and love from you. Consider their end, the King of Babylon was called the glory of the earth's kingdoms, he had riches, wealth, fame, adoration and enormous power, but his eternal end was worms and maggots.

How are you fallen from Heaven O' Day Star (Lucifer in the KJV)

Isaiah 14:12 ----- ¹²How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! (O Lucifer son of the morning in KJV) How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

Lucifer: comes from the Hebrew word (*heylel*) (*halal*) it carries the idea of brightness, (i.e., of the morning-star), it means to be clear, and give light, to shine, to make a show, to boast, to be loud and insistently demanding attention, to loudly rave and celebrate. It also carries the idea of boasting in self and being foolish. The meaning of the word Lucifer (or star) as used in the context of this chapter can be summed up in the following two words, "Extreme Pride."

NOTE.

The original Hebrew word Lucifer does not have a capital "L" nor is it a literal name of some fallen evil spiritual entity called Satan (as some believe) in fact there is not even a hint of it referring to any type of creature. It is a Hebrew word used because its meaning not only beautifully suits the extreme pride of the king of Babylon, but also perfectly highlights it.

For further information, see the title: -

- Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

I will ascend to Heaven; above the Stars I will make Myself like the Most High.

Isaiah 14:13-15 ----- ¹³You said in your (the king of Babylon) (v4) heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' ¹⁵But you are brought down to Sheol (grave) (interpreted hell in KJV), to the far reaches of the pit.

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight upon the enormous arrogance and extreme pride of the heart of the king of Babylon. There is no pride greater than to think one could be as God it is self-exaltation to the max.

You are brought down to Sheol (grave) (hell in KJV) (v15) because the Hebrew word Sheol which simply means the grave has been interpreted to the English word hell much of the secular world and multitudes who embrace traditional Christian teaching believe that there is a literal place of eternal torment called hell.

This age old traditional doctrine is not only a gross misunderstanding of Scripture, but is also a gross misrepresentation of God's character, since it portrays Him as an extremely sadistic God, especially when it is considered that even those in the secular world would not inflict such brutal and cruel torture on a human for their entire life let alone for all eternity.

Added to this John tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8) (1 John 4:16). This horrific doctrine of hell was most likely perpetuated in the early years of the church by religious leaders to scare the naïve into the church and has been adopted and perpetuated by their followers (without question) from generation to generation through tradition and religious institutions and organisations.

Eternal life or eternal death (i.e., utter and total extinction) is the only two choices the Bible teaches from Genesis to Revelation.

The far reaches of the pit: (v15) the pit in Scripture is pictured as an enormous hole in the ground with dead bodies buried within its walls. An easy way to understand this is to imagine today's armies going to war in a third world country and suffering extreme poverty. At the end of the battles thousands of soldiers are left killed on the surface of the earth. Obviously because of poverty it is impractical to dig separate and individual graves for each soldier so bulldozers are brought in and a massive pit is dug.

All the dead bodies are laid in the pit and covered over with earth. No doubt in the days of Babylon hundreds of slave would have been digging these pits. It may help to comprehend this idea of a pit being dug for the dead in Old Testament times, to know that in many battles that King David and others fought over 20,000 could be killed in one day.

The leaders of the armies, (especially Israel's) would have been aware that disease would spread quickly if these bodies weren't buried. Added to this it was considered a shameful thing to leave a corpse on the surface of the earth for the wild animals and birds of the air to eat.

For further information concerning the grave and hell see the titles: -

- Hell or the Grave (Final destination of Humans).
- The Lake of Fire.
- Both titles are in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Is this the Man who Made Earth Tremble, who Made the World like a Desert?

Isaiah 14:16-17 ----- ¹⁶Those (in the grave) who see you (the king of Babylon) (v4) will stare at you and ponder over you: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?'

Remember this is not to be taken literally; it is a vision to show the reader the futility of pride and self-glory and the beauty of humility and giving God glory. It is interesting to notice as one reads Psalms every man God considers great is a man who in his heart and to his friends and the world around him always credits God for his gifts, his talents and his achievements unlike the king of Babylon who constantly praises himself and boasts to everyone around him of his power, his great victories and makes great speeches crediting himself for achieving and attaining them all.

You are Cast Out from Your Grave, Like a Dead Body Trampled Underfoot.

Isaiah 14:18-19 ----- ¹⁸All the kings of the nation's lie in glory, each in his own tomb (i.e., grave); ¹⁹but you (the king of Babylon) (v4) are cast out, away from your grave, like a loathed branch, clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a dead body trampled underfoot.

In the language of personification the king of Babylon has gone down to the grave in the sense that he is dead, but it appears he has been killed in battle and his actual body is lying on the surface of the earth to be eaten by birds and the wild animals which of course was a total abomination and horror for someone of this era to die this way especially a royal king.

Even though these people denied God they respected a dead body that is why the Pharaohs of Egypt built what is considered today one of the wonders of the world, the Pyramids and kings of Babylon built magnificent tombs for their dead bodies to rest in.

Prepare Slaughter lest they Possess the Earth and fill the World with Cities.

Isaiah 14:20-21 ----- ²⁰You (the king of Babylon) (v4) will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land, you have slain your people. "May the offspring of evildoers nevermore be named! ²¹Prepare slaughter for his sons because of the guilt of their fathers, lest they rise and possess the earth, and fill the face of the world with cities."

How amazing is this the king of Babylon believed he was one of the greatest and wisest kings on earth so much so he boasted of it to all the world around him, but in actual fact he was one of the most foolish, because it was through him that utter destruction came to his land.

How true is this today, we get someone in power who denies the existence of God, but has the gift of oratory and speech making and proclaims message that appeal to what the masses want to hear and they believe he is a messiah that is going to solve the troubles of their nation while all the time it is heading for ruin. From an earthy perspective such man who denies God appears wise, but from God's perspective he would be considered a fool.

The character of a fool: the Bible says, the fool says in their heart there is no God and therefore do not seek after Him or they have turned from God and rebel against His will. They have no understanding or knowledge of what is important to God and are corrupt and full of wicked acts so God rejects them as they have rejected Him (Psalm 53). It is a wise thing for us all to live by the following principal of King David. His attitude (perhaps after the prophet Nathan had wisely rebuked him concerning Bathsheba) was that he considered it a kindness and an excellent thing for him if a righteous person rebuked and corrected him and he himself prayed that he would not refuse correction (Psalm 141:5).

In the book of Proverbs it is written: -

- The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. ¹⁶The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult. (Prov. 12:15-16).
- A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent. (Proverbs 15:5).
- A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool. (Proverbs. 17:10).
- A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. (Proverbs. 18:2).

The king of Babylon was so full of pride and self-exaltation he was blind to wisdom and no doubt the advice of any wise counselors that may have been around him. He instead invaded nations slaughtered the innocent to increase his global empire and power and indulged himself in an excessive luxurious lifestyle all the while

oppressing others to increase his own wealth and power. Today we live in a world where the system of Babylon rules, a certain few live in extreme wealth and excessive riches far more than anyone needs to live a happy and joyful life. They indulge themselves in excessive luxury and materialism while workers are oppressed to profit the greed of the rich (i.e., sweat shops and child labour etc.). Such a global system is all part of the Babylonian system.

Babylon and the financial world system: the Babylonians were money-lenders not only out of dedicated policy but with fervour, zest, and relish. One of their proverbs expresses this outlook very clearly in the following words, "The giving of a loan is like making love; the returning of a loan is like having a son born." They were a breed of happy, proud, heartless and ruthless moneylenders.

Their whole world of business moved in terms of credit financing, and their whole concept of social control and of imperialism rested on usury (interest). It is not surprising that Babylon the Great, the harlot, is the type in Revelation of our global money system and of a one-world order that seduces all nations.

The use of loans in biblical economy is not the basis of normal operation as with Babylon, but of abnormal circumstances. As such, and only as such, they have their place, but they operate in terms of absolute understanding as well as clear, definite and obvious restrictions. The two kinds of loans in the Bible that were recognized were:-

- Loans to the believer without usury, but with security.
- Loans to the unbeliever, with usury and security.

In both instances the security is something real, it is a tangible asset, in goods or in money that is transferred and involves only the two parties involved in the contract. Modern banking however, is radically different. Banks create money by an official authorization and by one party simply recording a loan and a deposit on their books. The consequence is, not the personal and limited action of a biblical loan, but inflation, the decreasing of the prior relationship of money value to total goods and services. As a result there is a decreasing of all money, and such loans mean an element of robbery in that they reduce the value of all other money previously in existence.

Modern central banking (i.e. the Federal Reserve System) is modern applications of the old Babylonian principles and is equally seductive in helping to bring about the lure of the Dream of Empire.

Federal Reserve System: prior to the introduction of central banking, the ability to create money by an official authorization was relatively limited, and it depended in large measure on the confidence of the individuals in the local bank. Today, the instrument of control has passed to the Federal Reserve System, its directors and stockholders, the Treasury Department, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and other agencies who are engaged in manipulating the money supply. Biblical law is hostile to a money system that is based on credit, because it creates an abnormal and oppressive lifestyle of debt for a country or individual who lives by it.

The Babylonian system of economics today is anti-biblical and as such will incur the wrath of God In the book of Revelation chapter eighteen we are told that a day is coming when the merchants of the earth that have grown rich from the power of Babylon's luxurious living will weep and mourn over Babylon since no one buys her gold, silver, jewels, pearls and fine linen anymore because, Babylon the Great is fallen (Revelation 18)

The LORD will Judge and Destroy Babylon.

Isaiah 14:22-24 ----- ²²"I will rise up against them," declares the LORD of hosts, "and will cut off from Babylon name and remnant, descendants and posterity," says the LORD. ²³"And I will make it a possession of the hedgehog, and pools of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction," declares the LORD of hosts. ²⁴The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.

God used Cyrus king of Media Persia to bring the Empire of Babylon to ruin and set the people of Israel free from the bondage and captivity of Babylon. The following verses of the prophet Isaiah show that God not only called Cyrus (the secular king of Persia) His anointed shepherd and called him by name, but also show that God said He would equip Cyrus and take him by the right hand and go before him. They picture God holding Cyrus by the right hand and opening all doors that no man can shut while Cyrus the king of Persia subdues all nations.

- Thus says the LORD to *his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped*, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed. (Isaiah 45:1).
- I (*the LORD*) will go before you (*Cyrus king of Persia*) and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, *who call you (Cyrus) by your name*. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, *I call you by your name, I name you*, though you do not know me. (Isaiah 45:2-3).
- I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; *I equip you (Cyrus) though you do not know me*, ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, there is none besides me; I am the LORD, there is no other. (Isaiah 45:5-6).
- Thus says the LORD: "The wealth of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush, and the Sabeans, *men of stature, shall come over to you (Cyrus)* and be yours; they shall follow you; they shall come over in chains and bow down to you. They will plead with you, saying: '*Surely God is in you*, and there is no other, no god besides him.' (Isaiah 45:14).

At this time Isaiah was speaking to Israel who was held captive in Babylon. God used Cyrus King of Persia as His anointed shepherd to set His people free. Cyrus after Conquering the mighty Empire of Babylon gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved city and rebuild the Temple of God.

But, Isaiah's prophetic message also transcends the era of Isaiah and Cyrus and echoes a future King who the LORD also calls His anointed shepherd, and his name is not Cyrus, but the Lord Jesus Christ, in who God at this present time is also building a Temple made up of Jews and Gentiles (also called a new nation or new creation in Christ). For further information concerning the spiritual temple God is building in Christ at this present time, see the title: "The Commonwealth of Israel" (at end of this Chapter).

The LORD will Judge and Destroy Assyria.

Isaiah 14:25-27 ----- ²⁵that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder." ²⁶This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. ²⁷For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?

God used Assyria to bring judgment upon the ten tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria and upon the two tribes of Judah dwelling on Mount Zion (Assyria could not take Jerusalem, but later Babylon did). Israel had rebelled against God, turned to worship other gods, and was grossly corrupt. God sent them prophet after prophet to warn them of impending doom, but they set their hearts diamond hard against the word of the LORD. This resulted in God hiding his face from them (meaning removing his favour and protection) and through a series of campaigns Assyria invaded the land of Judah and Israel and laid it waste and took the people captive.

God is now saying that He will bring judgment upon Assyria because of the cruelty they inflicted upon His people. God used the armies of Babylon to bring this judgment upon Assyria. Babylon conquered Assyria then much later God used the armies of Media Persia to bring His judgment upon Babylon. This shines a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that God uses nations of the world to bring about His judgments and His plans and purposes according to His sovereign will.

It is certain it was in the prideful will of the kings of Assyria and of Babylon to conquer the nations surrounding them to expand their own empires and power and increase their riches, but their self-will was acting within the sovereign will of God.

This is a mystery of God that our mortal, finite and limited minds cannot fully comprehend or understand.

This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth: (v26) this statement firstly applies to the nations surrounding Judah and Israel such as Assyria, Babylon, the Philistines and nations in league with them, but by extension the same principal of judgment that came upon God's people because of their wickedness and upon the secular nations because of their denial of God and the cruelty they inflicted upon the people of God will on the appointed Day of Judgment come upon the whole earth.

An Oracle Concerning Philista

The Serpent's Root will come an Adder, its Fruit will be a Fiery Serpent.

Isaiah 14:28-32 ----- ²⁸In the year that King Ahaz died came this oracle (burden in the KJV): ²⁹Rejoice not, O Philistia, all of you, that the rod that struck you is broken, for from the serpent's root will come forth an adder, and its fruit will be a flying fiery serpent. ³⁰And the firstborn of the poor will graze, and the needy lie down in safety; but I will kill your root with famine, and your remnant it will slay. ³¹Wail, O gate; cry out, O city; melt in fear, O Philistia, all of you! For smoke comes out of the north, and there is no straggler in his ranks. ³²What will one answer the messengers of the nation? "The LORD has founded Zion, and in her the afflicted of his people find refuge."

Oracle: (burden in the KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (*massa'*) in this context it carries the idea of a prophecy of burden and an utterance of doom.

The rod that struck you is broken: (v28) refers to the death of Ahaz king of Judah.

From the serpent's root: (v29) refers the king that will take the throne of Ahaz.

Its fruit will be a flying fiery serpent: (v29) means that the king who takes Ahaz's throne will be far more powerful than Ahaz was.

The firstborn of the poor will lie down in safety: (v30) refers to the faithful of Israel.

I will kill your root with famine: (v30) refers to the LORD bringing a famine upon the people of Philistia.

Smoke comes out of the north: (v31) refers to a great army coming from the north to destroy Philistia.

Ahaz: was the twelfth king of Judah in the divided monarchy he ascended the throne at age twenty and reigned from 735 to 715 BC.

Philista: is, the Philistines (today it is modern day Palestine) they had the following five cities: -

1. Ashod.
2. Gaza.
3. Ashkelon.
4. Gath.
5. Ekron.

The Philistines worshiped the Semitic gods Dagon Astarte and Baalzebub they were a major contender against Israel for possession of Palestine. Philista is told not to rejoice over the death of King Ahaz (the king of Judah), because from Ahaz root will come a king who will be even stronger and a mighty army will come from the north and destroy Philista, but all those who belong to the LORD will be safe in Zion (Jerusalem).

Melt in fear, O Philistia: (v31) many of the following chapters are very similar to God's word to Philistia, they speak of God's judgment on the nations that did not help Israel and Judah and of those who mocked and went against the LORD'S people and rejoiced at their destruction.

The primary focus and local fulfilment of this prophecy was the destruction of Babylon and Israel and Judah returning to their beloved city Jerusalem, but it also echoes the ultimate destruction of the entire world's Babylonian system when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of Lords to establish Gods Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

For further information concerning this Kingdom, see the title:-

- Future Kingdom of God in the New Testament

In, Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Commonwealth of Israel.

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ. This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew). This means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said: -

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles).

In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world. The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

End.