

### **A Doom of the nations. Isaiah 13-23.**

- ❖ God condemned the nations that were [or would be] in contact with His people:
  - *Babylon* (Is. 13:1-14:23; 21:1-17); *Assyria* (Is. 14:24-27); *Philistia* (Is. 14:28-32); *Moab* (Is. 15:1-6:14); *Syria* (Is. 17:1-14); *Ethiopia* (Is. 18:1-7); *Egypt* (Is. 19:1-20:6); *Jerusalem* (Is. 22:1-25); *Tyre* (Is. 23:1-18).
- ❖ Some of them got a hopeful message that punishment would be alleviated (Is. 19:16-25). Others would suffer all the consequences of their acts.

### **B The fate of Babylon is foretold. Isaiah 13.**

- ❖ Isaiah explained the future fall of Babylon by comparing it to the Second Coming (v. 9-11), like Jesus did when He foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and mixed it with events of the Second Coming.
- ❖ God was in control of those events, but He let the men involved do their own will (v. 15-18).
- ❖ Babylon became one of the capital cities of the Medo-Persian Empire. When Alexander the Great entered Babylon, it already was in a deteriorated state. It gradually sank into the oblivion and abandonment (v. 20).

### **C The Star that wanted to become God. Isaiah 14:12-14.**

- ❖ The king of Babylon is described as proud and self-sufficient. Many Babylonian kings were like this (see Daniel 2:5; 3:7; 4:30; 5:2).
- ❖ However, this section of Isaiah is quite poetic and allegorical. It is showing the actual root of the problem, the true king of Babylon: Lucifer, "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan." (Revelation 12:9)
- ❖ Lucifer wanted to be "like the Most High," (v. 14) and stated: "I am a god." (Ezekiel 28:2). His attitude contrasts God's because God "humbled Himself" (Philippians 2:8).

### **D The end of Babylon. Isaiah 14:15-23.**

- ❖ The fate of this "king" of Babylon is foretold in Isaiah 14:18-20: Destruction and everlasting oblivion. The fate of those who humbly serve God will be very different.
- ❖ Nevertheless, Babylon has not disappeared yet. It is still working through proud and ruthless powers that oppress God's people (see Revelation 17).
- ❖ Babylon means "confusion," but it could also mean "Gate of gods" in Chaldean language. It is the wide gate that leads to destruction, an attempt to achieve salvation on one's own merit.
- ❖ The Bible encourages us to choose the "Gate of Heaven", Bethel. Those who follow Jesus and accept Him as their personal Savior by faith will enter this gate.

### **E Final triumph. Isaiah 24-27.**

- ❖ God will put an end to this world, and He will tell some people: "Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise." And He will tell the rest of the people: "They are dead, they will not live; they are deceased, they will not rise." (Isaiah 26:19, 14)
- ❖ The day God will come to set His people free, the redeemed will express their triumphal joy: "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us." Then "He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces." (Isaiah 25:8-9)
- ❖ Before God ends "His unusual act" and renews the Earth, it will remain ravaged for some time (Isaiah 24; Revelation 20; Isaiah 28:21).