

ISAIAH- Lesson 20

Learn: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. II Timothy 3:15, 16

Read: Isaiah 13:1-22

This section of Isaiah (chapters 13-23) concerns foreign nations who at some time had persecuted Judah. God is sovereign and those that come against his people will suffer the consequences.

The focus of chapter 13 is Babylon. The word "Babylon" is mentioned 286 times in the Bible, of which 12 are in the NT. Historically Babylon is both a nation and a city. As well as a worldview and philosophy.

As a city it was known as one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World." It was known for its "Hanging Gardens" and massive walls.

The Greek historian, Herodotus (484-425 BC), who visited Babylon in 467 BC said that its splendor surpassed any city in the known world.

The city contained 1, 179 temples and its normal population was 100,000, but it could handle at least 250,000 people. I was divided in half by the Euphrates River.

Babylon was the capital of the 18th century BC king- Hammurabi. Always a center of culture and religion, it was mostly destroyed in 689 BC by Sennacherib, king of Assyria.

Babylon joined with the Medes to conquer and overthrow Assyria in 612 BC. It was Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 BC) who brought Babylon to its glory. It was called "The Palace of Heaven and Earth, the seat of Kingship."

The city was conquered by the Persians in 539 BC. When Alexander the Great arrived there he told of many marvels, including "Ishtar Gate" which was 70 feet high with an arched opening 15 feet wide.
Dr. David Hocking

1. What does Jeremiah 50:35-38, especially note verse 38, tell us about Babylon?

2. What was Peter's connection to Babylon? I Peter 5:13

3. Some will say that "Babylon" in I Peter 5:13 is symbolic or code for Rome. What reason would you give to say that such a thing is not likely? (Knowing that there was a very large established enclave of Jews in Babylon(Iraq) at that time, and even up until the first half of the 1900's.)

4. Why might people want to believe that when Peter wrote Babylon, he was actually speaking of Rome?

Note: The Roman Catholic church calls Peter, "the first Pope." It would be necessary for Peter to have been in Rome for them to promote this teaching, and there is no proof for it. Also remember, that Paul

spoke often of the church in Rome and being a contemporary of Peter did not try to hide the fact that there were of the believers in the city of Rome.

5. How is the term “Babylon” used in Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2-5, 10, 21?

6. There is punishment coming against Babylon. Who is it coming from? vv 3,6

7. How will the punishment come to Babylon? v 5, Jeremiah 50:9-10, 41

Why? v 5

v 6, Zephaniah 1:14-17

8. How will the Babylonian’s react to the invasion? vv 7-8

9. What purpose does God have in doing this? vv 9-11

10. In verses 9-13 we seem to see more than just Babylon at this particular time period. What do we learn from the following passages and how do they tie in to our passage in Isaiah?

Joel 2:10-11, 31; 3:15

Amos 8:9

Matthew 24:29

Mark 13:24

Acts 2:20

11. Why do the events mentioned in the above passages, including our Isaiah passage not fit an invasion by another nation, and so point us to God’s end of time judgments?

12. Why is it so important to carefully consider and understand exactly the different times and applications?

**13. How do we avoid error in our understanding of complex passages?
II Timothy 2:14-17**

Ephesians 1:13

Romans 6:13

14. What perils will people face in these troublesome times? vv 12-16

15. Who will God use to bring judgment on Babylon? vv 17-18

What will they be like?

NOTE: Babylon and Media divided the Assyrian empire with Media taking the land east and north of Tigris River.

Interestingly, Nebuchadnezzar II and Cyaxares' granddaughter married to seal the pact between these nations. After a five year war with Lydia, Cyaxares signed a peace in 584 BC and sealed it with a marriage.

His son, Astyages married the daughter of the Lydian king. The end of the Median kingdom came with the rise of Cyrus II, founder of the Persian Empire. Cyrus' mother was Astyages' daughter.

Cyrus rebelled against the Medes in 550 BC and the kingdom of the Medes was assimilated into the Persian Empire.

They continued to hold a place of honor and the Empire was frequently referred to as the "Kingdom of the Medes and the Persians." (Daniel 8:20) - Dr. David Hocking

17. What do we learn of the Medes in Acts 2:9?

18. What was predicted to happen to Babylon in the future? vv 19-22

19. Was Babylon completely destroyed when the Medes came against it? Daniel 5:31; 6:1-3