

ISAIAH –Lesson 23

Learn: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth. Psalm 96:11-13

Read: Isaiah 17:1-14; 18:1-7

1. Who is the message of Isaiah chapter 17 written to?
What country does the city represent? v 3
2. Who does the message come from? v 6
3. What is the prophecy of 17:1-3?
4. How bad will the destruction be? 17:4-6

NOTE: The phrase “in that day” can simply be a historical reference point, or it may have prophetic implications for the future days of the Messiah. – David Hocking

5. What is the good thing that will come out of all the destruction? 17:7,8
6. What does the phrase “the Holy One of Israel” refer to?
Isaiah 41:14; 43:14
Isaiah 47:4
Isaiah 43:3
Isaiah 43:15
Isaiah 45:11
Isaiah 48:17
Isaiah 54:5
7. What must be eliminated? v 8

Verse 8 speaks of pagan symbols of life and fertility. “Groves” are Asherah poles, also called Asherim or sacred posts. The “images” are pagan structures for communing with pagan gods. In the TANAKH “incense stands” for the worship of Baal.

8. Why is Israel included in this judgment on Damascus? vv 9-11

9. Why should the words of Isaiah 17:9-11 be a warning to those of us who claim to be Christians?

NOTE: The phrase “forsaken bough, and an uppermost branch” – in the TANAKH reads “the Horesh and the Amir” and in the LXX reads “the Amorites and the Hivites.”

The “rock” is not only a symbol of changelessness, but a reminder of that which provided water for them!

The garden metaphor is a reference to pagan fertility cults that were seen as providing prosperity and physical strength and productivity.

- Dr. David Hocking

10. Isaiah 17:12-14 speaks of a multitude. Who are they?

What will they try to do?

What will the Lord do about it?

11. What does the Lord say about those that plunder Israel? v 14

12. How is the land beyond Ethiopia described? 18:1,2

NOTE: In 715 BC the Ethiopian ruler, Piankhi, captured Egypt and established the 25th Ethiopian dynasty. Wanting to be a world statesman, he sent his envoys (ambassadors) to other countries in order to build an anti-Assyrian coalition.

The phrase “beyond the rivers of Ethiopia” (Cush). The TANAKH says “Nubia”
The people are “scattered and peeled.” The NIV says “tall and smooth”- However, it more likely refers to that which is established and ready for war, “in battle trim-well-armed.” - David Hocking

13. What message does the Lord want the whole world to see and hear? 18:3

14. What does the Lord want all to recognize about himself? v 4

15. What does Revelation 14:14-20 help us realize about the judgment?

16. What will all this judgment bring to the vultures and wild animals? v 6
Also see Ezekiel 39:17-22; Revelation 19:17-21

17. When Messiah reigns, what will happen at Mount Zion? 18:7

18. How does Psalm 96:1-13 point us to the time when Messiah will rule the whole earth from his throne in Mount Zion?