

Isaiah 13

We often make mention of how the Bible says that God is really the only one who we have to fear. He does not want us to be afraid of him, unless we are ignoring him. In those situations, God will systematically destroy our idols and our pride. He creates our awakening-circumstances and startles us with unwelcomed participants that intersect with our lives.

He makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away. (Job 12:23)

We have reading chapters in Isaiah about how God was pressing his people to engage with him. The Jews were living in moral failure, without God in their lives. We all need periodic *shock treatments* to get us back onto the *yellow brick road*. Repeatedly, throughout scriptures, God sends in *a catalyst* to draw us back to God. God has all kinds of tools to bring about prayer. In this case, it is the invading army from Babylon. It can be a disease or something demonic. We all need circumstances to push us into a godlier lifestyle. It is best to draw nearer to God voluntarily, instead of through intimidation.

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;
I will advise you with My eye upon you. ⁹ Do not be like the horse or like the mule,
which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them
in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you. (Psalm 32)*

Read Isaiah 13:1-5: In this circumstance, God is raising up the most-powerful kingdom the world has ever seen. God creates and commissions the Babylonians to march out of their land to make some hard corrections. God does not need to use believers to be his forces of change. For centuries, the Jews refused to listen to God's warnings. They even refused in the face of famines and plagues. Sometimes direction and *time-outs* don't work. Sometimes a wayward person needs something more painful to change their priorities. We can be like drug addicts who just cannot bring themselves to stop.

The point is that God is the only one who we have to deal with. Our issues are not with Iranians or with China. Our issues are not with drug lords or socialists or anarchists funded by George Soros and others. When we turn our backs on God the communists show up as national leaders. When we consider God to be less

relevant, we see civil wars across our land. When you take the bible out of our school system you end up with a generation of disloyal anarchists. Those who reject God will have to deal with him in a lot more impersonal basis. They become caught up into this world's unstoppable powers.

Once God creates a tool, he uses it, and then he disposes of it. In this case, Babylon is a creation of God. It was the greatest world power. Nebuchadnezzar was called The Head of Gold by Daniel; because he had absolute and uncontested authority. God named Babylon as The Hammer to the Nations. Once this national humiliation has been accomplished, God sends in the Medo Persians to decommission the Babylonian Empire.



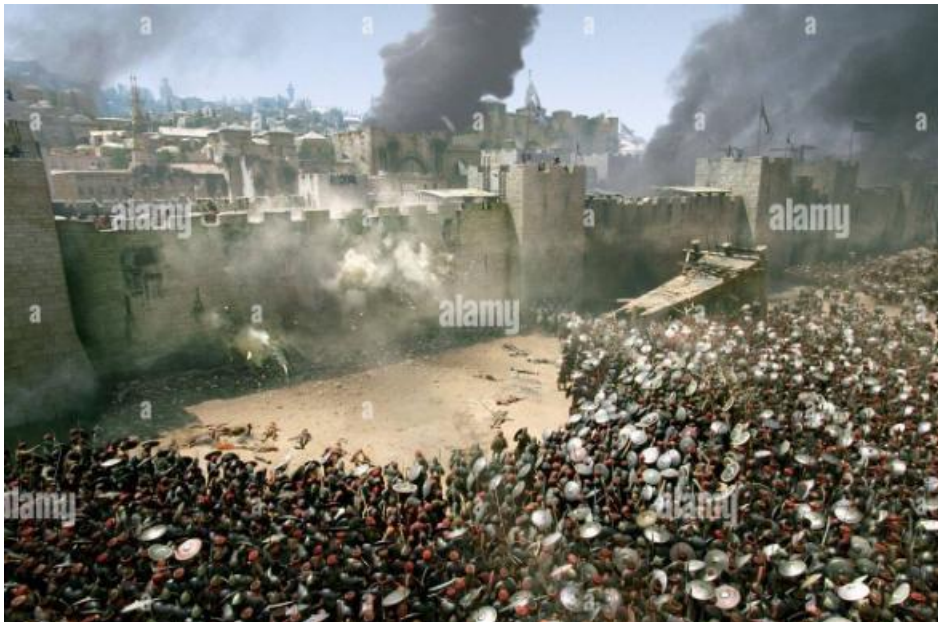
God is signaling to rise the flag in Babylon. The time has come to empower them. This previously less relevant empire now has been given the power and privilege to exert their will over other nations. God is giving them the *green light*. You can track the rise and fall of many nations to their interaction with Israel.





There is no nation, good or evil who is not a pawn in God's hands. The Babylonian Kingdom existed from 2,100 BC to 538 BC. To us, 1,600 years is an eternity. To God, it is a comma in an epitaph. In this case, Babylon was spun up and ruled the world from 626 BC-539 BC. It ruled from Iraq to Turkey, Spain and Greece. It ruled from Egypt to Armenia.

Read Isaiah 13:6-16: Now we come to the prophesied fearful event. The Babylonians march on Jerusalem!



It is beyond a scary thing to have an unstoppable army surrounding your city. It is a time when hearts fail and people completely lose their composure. The temptation is to think of this as a counter-crusade opportunity to fight back. To the contrary, it is an opportunity to surrender and relocate in Babylon as God has been

telling them. The tenants have repeatedly and egregiously violated the CCRs. They are finally being evicted by the landlord.

This dark time is used as a lesser comparison to a time of judgement coming over the entire world. The Babylonian invasion is a small example of what the coming worldwide tribulation will be like. One thing that will distinguish the Great Tribulation from the Babylonian Invasion are signs in the universe. The stars and moon and sun will lose their light.

For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and moon have become dark, And the stars have lost their brightness. ¹⁶ The Lord roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth quake. (Joel 3)



This will be the scariest time that the world has ever seen. Even so, it serves as a transition back to the most peaceful time ever seen. Our false pacifiers are being removed.

We are not living our best life. Our false hopes have unknowingly become the root of our greatest plagues. In order to transition to the future millennial state we need to break all of our underground utilities, wreck all buildings and computer networks and wipe out all of our technology. We are idolizing technology; so it has become like any other manmade thing of hope and dependence. The millennial state will be like life in the 1700s. It will be self-sufficient agriculture.

The Great Tribulation is necessary to break down worldwide pride and complicity with the Spirit of antichrist. The witnesses and prophecies will not be enough for the crazed masses bent on unhealthy desires. We can see today how people become drunk with misguided causes, ignorance, and hatred. Harsh circumstances are the only way for the powerful and prideful to reconsider their plans and to cry

out to God for mercy. For many people, God is already *off of the table*. There are easy ways to change your course; and there are hard ways. Hard events are needed for hard-hearted people. It is better to be broken than to be crushed.

*Jesus *said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘A stone which the builders rejected, This has become the chief cornerstone; This came about from the Lord, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? ⁴³ Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruit. ⁴⁴ And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and on whomever it falls, it will crush him.” (Matthew 21)*

For the violent, God uses more-violet tools. He knows how to get our attention.

In the case of Babylon, God was ultimately changing his people so that they can return and be able to reoccupy Jerusalem. They cannot remain as is. In the case of end times, the violence will be broken. As a result, there will be an unprecedented number of souls will turn to God.

*⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; ¹⁰ and they *cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, “Amen, blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.” ¹³ Then one of the elders responded, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 7)*

A person may read this passage and think “oh my!”. We really do not have the full effect as distant witnesses. If you have *skin in the game*; and you are being hunted like a gazelle, you will pray once again! There are nations where believers are

being killed for their faith. The less persecuted nations tend to produce a softer believer.

Read Isaiah 13:17-22: God builds nations to tear down nations. If a tool does not recognize the hand of its creator, it will only be yet another tool to be discarded upon completion of its duties. Babylon is *a disposable hammer*. Babylon evicted Israel of the Jews to cleanse the land of sin. Job completed. That was only supposed to be a 70 year eviction. After 70 years, the Jews were allowed to go back home. Now God grabs another tool. It was the Medo Persian empire who broke the Babylonian grip on the Jews and allowed them to return home.

⁸ *“Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Because you have not heard My words, ⁹ behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ says the LORD, ‘and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. ¹⁰ Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹ And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon for seventy years. (Jeremiah 25)*

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God even announced in advance, who would be born to lead the Medo Persians over Babylon to displace it hundreds of years in advance. He called Cyrus by name, long before he was born. Cyrus would send any hopeful Jews back home to rebuild Jerusalem.

Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." (Isaiah 44:28)

²² Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, ²³ Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up! (2 Chronicles 36)

It's supernatural that the most-powerful city in the world would never be inhabited again. Cyrus will crush Babylon. God compares his full take down of Babylon to how he wiped out Sodom and Gomorrah.

