

Isaiah 14

Read Isaiah 14:1-2: The world became an upside-down place as mankind tried to figure things out on his own. God is not even a road sign on the map for most people. This is the problem with a pluralistic society. It is ok that everybody is entitled to their opinion. Unfortunately, sometimes those who have it wrong get to make the rules for the rest of us. Like moths in the dark; we are just all pursuing random paths until someone turns on the light. Simply approaching God can open your eyes and resolve ongoing dilemmas. In this chapter, we see a spectrum of men, kings, and even Satan having unintended impacts on each other...to their shame and to God's glory. We are all poster children proving that men should listen to God.

God intended to have his people (children of Israel) to be guides to the world and reflect his light to a lost world. God clearly wanted the children of Israel to be his worldwide ambassadors of salvation. That is what they will be in the millennium. That is not the way it played out. Instead, the Jews have become the whipping post and scape goat for so many nations over the millennia. Even today, some people consider the Palestinian people living in Gaza to be the rightful inhabitants of Israel. There are more lies than truth floating around out there. That is not God's plan.

One thing that is God's plan is to observe **The Israel-Effect** on nations. Like *alligator bait*, some people and nations are drawn out from cover into open antisemitism and terrorism. Even those destructive forces serve a purpose., Essentially, Israel is a thermometer to see how much people love God. Sometimes you hear Christians talk about turning our back on Israel. They are either ignorant of scripture, or just immature believers.

⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. (1 Samuel 8)

Today, the ***Israel decoy*** is drawing heavy fire from Iran and Hezbollah and the Houthis, as well as many other nations. Their envy and hatred will draw them all out. Antisemitism is only going to get worse. Part of being holy is to see this craziness a mile away.

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. ² For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.
(Zechariah 14)

God is trolling for man-eaters currently, but he is not finished with Israel. Even Jesus allowed himself to be used as a decoy who appeared to be weak to expose every sinister and fraudulent leader. All of the data was recorded to their judgement. In the end, the world will gravitate towards Israel. A day is coming when God's plan for man will be followed; and it will be an awesome experience. Things will be so wonderful in Israel, that foreigners will literally do anything to be a part of it. Today, people will try anything to live in the USA. That is nothing compared to the quest to live in Israel someday.

God is a good father, who corrects our trajectory during our entire lifespan. Comparatively, our earthly fathers probably have little effect on us once we move away from home.

Read Isaiah 14:3-8: We just read the previous chapter about how God will artfully transition his headstrong people into a worshipful family. Unfortunately, the transition to a contrite heart for all men usually requires losing everything else and starting all over.

“The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; With the point of a diamond it is engraved On the tablet of their heart, And on the horns of your altars, ² While their children remember Their altars and their wooden images By the green trees on the high hills. ³ O My mountain in the field, I will give as plunder your wealth, all your treasures, And your high places of sin within all your borders. ⁴ And you, even yourself, Shall let go of your heritage which I gave you; And I will cause you to serve your enemies In the land which you do not know; For you have kindled a fire in My anger which shall burn forever.” (Jeremiah 17)

The Babylonian invasion created a total loss and humiliation for Judah. It also broke them of idolatry. Similarly, the Great Tribulation will have the same effect upon the whole world. In the case of Babylon, it was stripping down to return and

re-occupy as non-idolaters. In the case of the Great Tribulation, it will be to be stripped of all modern comforts, technology and return to a simple life centered on God. God's path for our spiritual development is not linear at all. We are fickle and weak. Like sheep, we are impossible to herd. We have to follow the shepherd. God changes our living settings to get us to the maximum end state.

We talked about how God's tools of correction (Babylon, Assyria, etc..) created the harsh realities that forced God's people to alter their quests for godless living. Their drives were interrupted with brute force. The party was over. God had to turn off the lights.

Only a 1/10th of the Jews returned to their homeland from Babylon and Persia. That is what is referred to as *a remnant*. These people who returned were broken of their idolatry. They started their lives over again. Like the returning remnant from Babylon, the Jews will again be reduced in numbers during the Great Tribulation.

These verses reflect on how God has somehow gotten them to a place of being appreciative and worshipful again. They literally had to be pounded into oblivion to bring that about. Many people would mistakenly respond with hatred and bitterness towards God. A few people can smell the coffee and see that they were always to blame.

Forcing your agenda will bring about shame. Yielding to God's plan produces unexpected dividends. Babylon and all of the worldwide bullies will one day actually depend on Israel. Recall how God humbled Nebuchadnezzar for 7 years and Daniel ran the kingdom in his absence.

²⁰ *"The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which could be seen by all the earth,* ²¹ *whose leaves were lovely and its fruit abundant, in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home—* ²² *it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth.* ²³ *"And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till*

seven [e]times pass over him'; ²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: ²⁵ They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven [l]times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. (Daniel 4)

When we humble ourselves and focus on God our bullies and tyrants will also melt away. God wants us to have the abundant life of peace and joy.



There are effects on nature that are linked to our fellowship with God. When we turn our backs on God, it is like somebody unplugging the power at a theme park. Everything gets dark. God has interrupted men's fun and games at some inconvenient, yet poignant times.

Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. ² While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the

command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his ^[a]father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. ³ Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. ⁴ They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. ⁵ In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. ⁶ Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.... ¹⁷ Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation. ¹⁸ O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your ^[k]father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. ¹⁹ And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down. ²⁰ But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. ²¹ Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he ^[u]knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses. ²² "But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. ²³ And you have ^[m]lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of ^[u]His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified. ²⁴ Then the ^[a]fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written.

²⁵ "And this is the inscription that was written:

^[d]MENE, MENE, ^[a]TEKEL, ^[r]UPHARSIN.

²⁶ This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; ²⁷ TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; ²⁸ PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. ”(Daniel 5)

When we focus on God, nature begins to heal. In the millennium, even the trees will function at a much higher level; and even experience human-like reactions to God’s goodness.



Israel was once a heavily forested and beautiful place. It was thick with cedars and other large trees. As Israel left God, so did their trees and animals. God brought in crews to de-forest this once-beautiful land. It became a wasteland.

²⁸ I will make the land a desolate waste, and her proud strength will come to an end, and the mountains of Israel will become desolate so that no one will cross

them. ²⁹ Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I have made the land a desolate waste because of all the detestable things they have done.’ (Ezekiel 33)



The siege of Jerusalem by Babylon was largely accomplished by cutting down many cedar trees in the surrounding areas to build siegeworks. Similarly, the Romans also felled many trees for its sieges. The Ottoman Empire had a land tax based on the number of trees on a person's land. They were all cut down to build the railroad.



Mark Twain (Samule Clemments) toured Israel in 1867 and made the following observation:

“A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse... we never saw a human being on the whole route... hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country.”

Read Isaiah 14:9-21: Life circumstances are supposed to humble us and get us to look up.

In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” ((John 16:33)

Death and hell are greater equalizers. The greatest kings will have zero status as their corpses are consumed in hell forever. During the millennium Satan will be locked up in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. Just like all of the other evil kings. He serves his purpose in God’s plan, and then he is set aside, until he is needed again.

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. (Revelation 20)

Lucifer began as a cherub angel until he became too self-absorbed. He began to twist things to his own benefit. Now, he goes back and forth from the earth. He tempts men and then accuses them before God.

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. ⁷ The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.” (Job 1)

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. (Revelation 12:10)

It is interesting that God points out how Satan lures men and demons and then essentially kills all of his own. It is a death trap to magnify himself. The deceivers are being deceived. Satan draws demons and men with visions of personal glory. Somehow, he was smart enough to have used other fallen angels who are currently in hell. The Bible says here that the names of most evildoers are not memorialized. They will be forgotten forever.

This is all a segway to the fall of Lucifer. Like the earth's tyrants, he has a life cycle and a death in their appointed times. Like all evildoers, he is a pawn in God's plan. He thinks that he is one move ahead of God; but God allows him to think so, until his work is done. Lucifer, like all demons is under extreme control by God. They all have periodic accounting to gather for, before God.

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." ⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" (Job 1)

Lucifer plays a zero-sum game. He does not see himself as a winner unless you are a loser. He gives nothing good. He brings no lasting happiness. He misrepresents everything.

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8)

God uses Satan because it is a strange act for him to discipline his children...but it has to be done. Who else, but the best-looking, most convincing trafficker trying to claw his way to the top? Like a scum magnate, he draws flies and evil spirits and confused men.

Even so, this is one way that God separates the yes-men from true followers. You need a solid and attractive image or something of considerable desire.

Satan will be kicked out of hell after the 1,000-year millennium. He will not have learned his lesson, and he invokes a worldwide invasion against Jesus and his fortress. After he is defeated, he and the antichrist will go directly to the eternal Lake of Fire. Like the verse says, he will be cast out of his grave like an abominable branch.

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where^[b] the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20)

These verses tell us that Satan will fail to achieve his desire for rulership and glory. He will essentially kill his own people and destroy his own domain. Like people in hell, he too will have total clarity on what damage he caused. I suppose that everybody would go to heaven if there were no alternatives or options. That would make it a whole different vibe. As the crazies storm the gates of God's people, they are just calling attention to themselves for final marking and judgement.

Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, “Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand.” ² And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer’s inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar. ³ Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer’s inkhorn at his side; ⁴ and the LORD said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.” ⁵ To the others He said in my hearing, “Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. ⁶ Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.” So they began with the elders who

were before the temple. ⁷ Then He said to them, “Defile the temple, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!” And they went out and killed in the city. (Ezekiel 9)

Read Isaiah 14:22-27: God has just walked us through a series of his tough love actions. Verse 26 calls it **the plan for the whole world**. He used his words to lead us; but eventually resorts to something more effective. The school of hard knocks. He has clarified that those cruel offenders who chase us onwards will be ripped apart, once their dirty deed is complete.

deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Corinthians 5)

God wants nothing to do with perpetuating our pain in any way. He just allows unpleasantness long enough to fully prep us.

¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Hebrews 2:10)

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

God describes himself as a farmer breaking up hard ground, and clearing thorns.

³ For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: “Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns. ⁴ Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, And take away the foreskins of your hearts, You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings.” (Jeremiah 4)

Read Isaiah 14:28-32: Some of Isaiah's visions coincide with the death of various kings. There is much written at the time that King Uzziah, King Hezekiah and King Ahaz died. They must have been times of uncertainty. The people were putting their hopes in extraneous things, instead of God. They were focused on Babylonian oppression more than the spiritual culture in their land. God is telling them that though the oppressor has been taken down, that their problems

(counterintuitively) have only begun. A follow-on famine and more international interference would become worse.