

## Above the Heights of the Clouds

Isaiah 13:19 – 14:14

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~ Our Spiritual Safari has reached almost totally fulfilled prophecy in this section of Old Testament Scripture. I trust the Holy Spirit is beginning to reveal the proper, correct, and complete meaning of prophecy to you dear readers; because a sound doctrinal prophetic dispensational presentation seems to have all but disappeared from the face of the earth as I type this report and as you read it. Frankly, all I seem to hear and see are sensational, emotional, fractured, and utterly unlearned personal philosophies of prophecy that are vain, empty, dead and meaningless. The average Christian today relegates prophecy to personal visions and dark dreams that they believe they have had; which makes each interpretation completely different, and evaporates a large swath of the Word of God into an incoherent enigma that destroys faith. The day is approaching when sound doctrine will no longer be taught — because there will be no one left, after the rapture, who will understand.

When total confusion ensues in one's understanding regarding eschatology, that person will experience an even more profound incomprehension of the New Testament; because it is all inextricably intertwined. As a doctor starting out to become a neurosurgeon, but has never been taught biology or chemistry, they're in over their heads — and certain to fail. Until we know where the cranium is, we'll not locate the Medulla or the Corpus Callosum. You just don't place a scalpel in the hands of a first-year med student and have them start cutting away at the brain! Well, trying to obtain revelation from the New Testament, without a solid background foundation of the Old Testament — and especially that of the prophets — will simply leave you lost in the dark; you can just write that down.

The seventeen remaining books of the Old Testament in our safari are prophetic. That accounts for almost half of the Old Testament. Evidently, God intended an emphasis be placed in this section of Scripture — and it begins with understanding Isaiah — who was the prince of prophets. Isaiah wrote in the darkness and dreariness Israel had come to under the rule and

reign of the evil and horrible King Ahaz; who caused his own son to become a human sacrifice. After the prophets each speak, and Malachi concludes his book, there comes a deafening silence of around four hundred years. Nothing is settled during that time. Sin is still a problem with no solution during that period of history; and until John the Baptist arrives on the scene to announce the Lamb that taketh away the sins of the world, it remains an extremely dark era on earth.

God began with Israel by setting a priest in a tabernacle to be His intermediary. That was God's avenue whereby the people could hear from the Lord. That priesthood, at the time in which we are studying, had failed miserably. Temple worship had become a tedious ritual that the children of Israel suffered through grudgingly. It meant nothing in their hearts or lives. Then, God raised up and began to use the kings; from Saul to David to Solomon to Asa to Jehoshaphat to Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah and Josiah – and those in between. Then, a decline began in the Davidic line, and God set the kings aside as His voice to the nation. That's when God raised up the prophets as His spokesmen. That continued over a long and lengthy time as He attempted to bring the children of Israel back to Himself.

Unfortunately, the prophets became divided between what was false and what was true. The false prophet led multitudes astray into the worship of Baalim. The true prophets spoke of the True and Living God, and were ridiculed, scorned, ignored, rejected, and murdered. There was a very practical method of determining which prophet was true and which was false; and we have already dealt with that many times in this safari – so we'll not be tedious in restating the method of determination. Today, God no longer uses religion or politics as a witness; because both have failed. Those today who truly speak for God are *ALWAYS - A-L-W-A-Y-S - ALWAYS* dismissed as being false; while the false are prosperous, listened to, worshipped, and praised. That's the way it is, my beloved readers. Only by prayer for discernment can we ever determine who is truly speaking for God and who isn't. If we don't pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment – and actually study the Bible – we'll never figure out who is speaking for God today; it simply cannot be otherwise.

For thousands of years the Jews – God’s chosen people – have suffered extreme persecution; both in their homeland and abroad. They seem to have no rest whatsoever from fears and sorrows. However, God says the oppression will end someday. *In that day*, they will have not only peace, safety, rest, and quietness, but, as Isaiah tells us, they will break forth in singing and praising the True and Living God – the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have not read our first fifteen reports from the Book of Isaiah, I can only suggest you go back and do so now. That’s about seven hours of reading for the average reader; but without it, you’ll likely not catch up from here — because all we have seen so far in Isaiah is but an introduction to the subsequent prophecies to come....

## **XIII**

***19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.***

***20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.***

***21 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and demons shall dance there.***

***22 And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.***

~ In our last report, we learned about the burden of Babylon. We saw that the burden of Babylon is also the judgment of Babylon. I stated there were nine nations under the rule of Babylon, but there are actually a few more. Either way, all of these nations had some interaction with the nation Israel – either in friendship, as an ally, or an enemy. Babylon is the head of gold, as Daniel will soon tell us when he interprets Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. We have already learned that the punishment and wrath of God was to be executed upon Babylon *IN THAT DAY* — in the Day of the Lord — but the

destruction of Babylon also came upon Babylon in the day of man; which is ancient history to us today. All we need to do is look at the ruins over there to recognize this has happened exactly as Isaiah said it would. That makes for some highly detailed Bible study; so, pay attention.

Babylon was the single greatest worldly kingdom that has ever governed as a world power. There has never been anything to compare to it – neither before nor after. The Greco-Macedonian and the Egyptian empires were great, to be sure; as were the Greek, Roman and Persian Empires – but not quite like Babylon. Some people think Great Britain and America were great at one time – and, to some extent, perhaps they were; but, again, not like Babylon was – not even close. Babylon was destroyed, and has never been rebuilt. Other great cities have been destroyed and rebuilt; such as Jerusalem, Athens, Frankfurt and Rome – all of which have arisen literally from the dust and ashes. Well, God said Babylon would never be inhabited again and, friends, it hasn't. There is no possible way you could even begin to rebuild Babylon; even if you had all the resources of the world.

Interestingly, there is a superstition that surrounds the ancient site of Babylon. Several of the men who performed the excavation thereof were never able to get the Arabs to stay in a camp inside the ruins. At the end of the day, they went outside the city perimeter and camped there. Here, in verse twenty, God said they would never even pitch their tents there. Well, they haven't, they didn't, and they won't. If that doesn't totally amaze you, then I have no idea what might — probably nothing. The lions make their home there, and all sorts of beasts live where the city was – but nothing else does.

Furthermore, today, we have a church of Satan here in Florida where I live. People take courses to become witches and warlocks in that church. Well, I suggest they do their doctorate work in the ruins of Babylon – where the demons have their dance hall – according to verse twenty-one. That would be a great place to hold hands with the devil personally. You don't have to tell me that demons are real, friends – I already know that – but you had better make sure *you* know what you are doing before you begin worshipping them; because they *ARE* real. Well, we're not going to give them time in this leg of our safari.

Paradoxically, there will be a future Babylon that *WILL* be rebuilt. However, it won't be the city on the site where it was. No, it will be a global entity; the center of a one-world government, one-world banking system, and one-world religion. Babylon represents confusion, hopelessness, despair, and an organized rebellion against God Almighty. That future Babylon will be the epicenter; where the world-ruling king, known as antichrist, will reign. And God says He will destroy that future Babylon again; and that prophetic announcement continues on now in the fourteenth chapter....

## **XIV**

***1 For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob.***

***2 And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors.***

***3 And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,***

***4 That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!***

~ So, Isaiah simply continues chapter thirteen, but there are a few things added in chapter fourteen. The Kingdom is established, and Israel is redeemed – all after the final destruction of the future Babylon, the destruction of the origin of evil, and its final judgment — and the removal of those things from the world — all has been revealed. We also have the burden of Palestine in this chapter. Great and weighty issues are at stake in this section of Scripture. God has said again and again and again that the nation Israel will be restored to that land. That's not happening today because, when it does happen according to a fulfillment of Scriptural

prophecy, Israel won't have any trouble with Egypt, or the Arab, or anyone else in the world.

The local situations of the nations surrounding Israel are the expression of Isaiah to the world-wide theme of eternal damnation. Isaiah is observing the problems of this life as we know it today through the telescope; as opposed to placing them under a microscope. The joyful note of the first few verses is only because of the final judgment of Babylon as God's Kingdom is established, and all fears and dangers are removed. No enemy of God remains, and Isaiah explains the reason for all of these things; as well as God's plan and purpose for this earth *IN THAT DAY*. You may be sure that it is the Gentiles that are going to return Israel to Palestine – but the Gentile only hinders Israel today. The Jews around the world are interested in returning, but they are totally and completely unsuccessful at doing so. Great Britain forbade the Jews from returning to that land even as recently as the end of World War Two. Israel only went in at that time because they had to go somewhere; but it has been a saga of suffering ever since....

***5 The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.***

***6 He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.***

***7 The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.***

***8 Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.***

***9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.***

***10 All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?***

***11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.***

~ The mixture of light and darkness is almost incomprehensible in this chapter. We're moving from the ecstasy of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ to the punishment of hell without even missing a beat. Satan and the problem of evil are revisited. There are several very strong contrasts here that are extremely difficult to decipher and divide. If you walk the streets of Jerusalem today, there is only fear, sorrow, and suffering. Soldiers are everywhere in the cities and along the highways. Suicide bombers run rampant. Those people live in abject fear, friends; make no mistake about that. If the nations round about made a peace treaty, it would only *HEIGHTEN* Israel's fears. So, this world must be judged; there's just too much injustice and evil to continue forever.

One thing that troubles me a great deal are the numbers of self-professing believers who say they believe the Bible from cover to cover, and they profess to believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of the Scriptures, and are *LOUD* in their proclamation, will cut and paste the entire Bible in a conversation with you, but, they'll turn right around in a passage like this, and say it doesn't mean what it says. Then, they proceed to just make up whatever they want it to mean. Of course, they're never quite clear what it means, but they're sure it doesn't mean what it says. More accurately, they're sure it doesn't mean what *YOU* teach it to mean. See, friends, there's more than one way to deny the truth and inspiration of Holy Writ. The moment you deny the literal, and try to spiritualize it, you have denied the inspiration of Scripture. You might want to make a note of all of that; because it is very, very important....

***12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!***

~ Verse twelve begins one of the most intensely interesting sections in the entire Bible. This is the origin of Satan and evil. Lucifer is the devil, and he is the highest-ranking creature God created. I find it amusing that so many people around this forum on which I teach rail against the devil, and think

they rebuke him, and all that nonsense. They call Satan a liar – and he is – but those same people don't know what the truth is; so, they have no earthly idea what the lie is. Well, we're seeing the fall of Satan from Heaven here that took place *LONG* before Adam appeared in the Garden of Eden. Jesus said, "*I beheld Satan fall as lightning from Heaven.*" That was, actually the first fall. He that committeth sin is of the devil. The devil sinneth from the beginning, and for this purpose the Son of God was made manifest: that He might destroy the works of the devil. In Revelation, we're told there is war in Heaven. Michael the Archangel fought against the dragon – which is Satan – and the dragon fought with his angels. Of course, the dragon was cast out from Heaven, and took a whole bunch of angels with him.

Well, the sin of this creature was *PRIDE*, friends – plain and simple. Satan had a free will in Heaven. Sin, in the final analysis – and not philosophically but theologically, is explained in verse thirteen. The devil sets his will against the will of God. We have five "*I wills*" of Lucifer; and this is sin in Utero! This is the evolution of evil! There is no evolution of mankind – but there sure is an evolution of sinful and evil thoughts and deeds, my friends. Evil originated by a creature who set his will against the will of God as a free moral agent. It's pure nonsense to talk about God's creatures having a free moral agency, but then saying that man has yet an area in which he can't move. Satan could move in *ANY* area of life; and this just happens to be man's original sin. All we like sheep have gone astray – and that straying begins here. We have turned everyone to his own way today.

Well, sin is sin simply because it is contrary to the will of God; and anything contrary to the will and character of God is sin. For some people, sin is going to church. Some people shouldn't go to church, because they displease God when they do – period. I know that's not nice – but Isaiah isn't being nice right here. Today, the little pious and proud pygmy known as man says to God, "*I'll do this my way.*" We all want liberty and freedom, and worldly riches; and we strive for those things in our own power. Well, God's will is going to prevail in the end. The prayer for the true and genuine child of God is for God's will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven – but Satan says in his heart....

***13 I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:  
I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the  
north:***

***14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most  
High ~***

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