

The Stars of Heaven and the Constellations Thereof

Isaiah 12:1 – 13:22

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~ If you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and have read this portion of Scripture from your Bible, then this report will be much more meaningful to your heart. If you have read our previous fourteen reports from our Spiritual Safari in Isaiah, then this report will probably make better sense in your understanding. We are following a series of prophecies that began in chapter seven, and which run through the end of chapter twelve. These combined prophetic messages all tell a story. These are prophecies given by Isaiah during the reign of the very evil and wicked King Ahaz in the southern kingdom of Judah. This series began with the judgment of God; and, in our last report, we saw the Millennial Kingdom come into prophetic view, revealing the manner in which the Lord Jesus will establish His Kingdom here on earth as He reigns Personally. As we learned, that happens *after* the Great Tribulation period....

XII

1 And IN THAT DAY thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

4 And IN THAT DAY shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

~ So, Isaiah hits a note so high here in chapter twelve that diamonds shatter as the saints of God are seen in the temple worshipping and singing in pure and utter praise to the True and Living God. These are redeemed

hearts rejoicing in salvation because He is our Creator! The curse has been removed from the earth *IN THAT DAY*, and the dominion Adam lost in the Garden of Eden has been restored. God's display of goodness is looked on here; and, my beloved, you and I have never seen anything like this on earth. The dark night of sin is over, and the light of salvation has come *IN THAT DAY!* Weeping endured for the night, but joy cometh in the morning. The times of trouble are over, and the storms of this life have passed. Remember, when the prophets say "*in that day*" they refer to a time that begins with the Great Tribulation period, and moves into the Millennial Kingdom age.

Salvation is not a thing; it is a Person — and His Name is Jehovah — Christ Jesus. Salvation is not a program, it's not a religion, and it isn't a liturgical system of rituals and methods. *IN THAT DAY* there will be abundance of joy and satisfaction in our hearts. God wants us to be happy; and, when we receive His holiness, and are changed to be like Jesus, we'll be happy! It seems our joy and happiness are limited until then. God wants His Son to cause us to rejoice and sing praises from the depths of our hearts. Frankly, we can never be a witness for the Lord until we have His joy *as a reality* in our lives. This chapter is an outburst of adoration by the redeemed soul who is giving unto God everything a poor creature possibly can. This is dedication. I hear so much about dedication today but, frankly, we don't even know what dedication means — yet. They'll know exactly what it means *IN THAT DAY!*

See, this chapter has no Wailing Wall, friends. *IN THAT DAY*, the curse of sin has been removed. Today, the nation Israel only has that dreadful and awful Wailing Wall. Israel had to rename the Wailing Wall to make themselves feel better about it. That is yet another very definite reason whereby we can know that there is *NO POSSIBLE WAY* that the nation Israel is back in that land today according to a fulfillment of Scriptural prophecy. Today, nature has a bloody claw and a deadly fang. Rats and roaches infest the filth of this world. Ants and spiders get in the house and make living quite uncomfortable sometimes. Well, in spite of the curse of the fall, can you thank God for His perfect salvation? Can you thank God for His creation, even though these not-so-nice things are part of it? Does the singing of birds and the smell of fresh flowers and herbs make you smile? ~

5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.

6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

XIII

1 The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.

~ So, the tone of Isaiah's message changes immediately in chapter thirteen. This begins a new set of prophecies that run through the end of chapter twenty-three; and in which certain burdens on nine surrounding nations are announced. Naturally, a burden is something that one bears. The word '*burden*' can be replaced with '*judgment*' and still be accurate. The Hebrew word is "*massa*" and means a heavy and weighty thing. It is heavy because the wrath of God is in it. So, this is the judgment of God upon the nations surrounding Israel. This is a most remarkable section of Scripture because it was purely prophetic when it was given; but has been mostly literally fulfilled today. This is almost a purely historical series of messages. Fulfilled prophecy is an irrefutable proof that we are studying the Word of God, friends.

The nine nations that we will consider in the next eleven chapters all had some contact and interaction with the nation Israel. Some were contiguous to Israel's borders, and others were nearby. Israel suffered at the hands of these nations, and will suffer again at their hands in the future. In fact, Israel is suffering at the hands of some of them today as I type this report and as you read it. In chapter ten, we saw Assyria as the oppressor – but, here, we see it is another set of nations entirely – headed up by Babylon. Interestingly, Babylon, at this particular time, when Isaiah declared his message, was an insignificant nation. It wasn't until *many* decades later that Babylon rose to world power.

Alright, these prophecies that Isaiah gave didn't make him a very popular person. Candidly, I don't think *ANY* of the prophets enjoyed delivering their

messages. Giving a message like Isaiah gave was not the way to make friends and influence people. If you want others to listen to you and like you – stay away from a proper, correct and complete teaching of prophecy! Teach prophecy incorrectly, and the world will love you – but no one will get saved – because that would be impossible. We’re not exactly studying the power of positive thinking in our Spiritual Safari, friends. This safari isn’t designed for boosting self-esteem. Any bearer of bad news isn’t seeking to win first place in a popularity contest. I’m sure most people laughed at Isaiah and wrote him off as a weirdo. Even so, in verses one through sixteen, we have the ancient history of Babylon that has been literally fulfilled today. Verses seventeen through the end are a rare picture of Babylon during the Great Tribulation period. Isaiah had the last laugh, to be sure.

Babylon became the first great world power; and Daniel also recognizes it as such. Daniel will later tell Nebuchadnezzar, concerning his vision, “.... *thou art the head of gold.*” Babylon is always symbolic of a united rebellion against God! A unified and organized rebellion against the Lord actually began at the Tower of Babel in Genesis; and continues until the seventeenth and eighteenth chapter of Revelation. Babylon is presented as consisting of a one-world government, one-world banking system, and one-world religion — all culminate and rule the earth during the Great Tribulation period. After that, another great judgment from God is the result. This is the first mention of it in Scripture. See, friends, it helps to actually know what prophecy is all about from beginning to end. If you do not understand these basics of prophecy, then you’ll simply *ALWAYS* get it totally and completely wrong; it cannot be otherwise....

2 Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles.

3 I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness.

4 The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle.

5 They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.

6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

14 And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land.

15 Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword.

16 Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.

17 Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it.

18 Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.

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 satyrs 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 ~

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