

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 231 – The Burden Of Babylon (Isaiah 14:1-23)

1. While Israel was headed toward Babylonian captivity, what did God promise them?

They would come back to their own land and have rest from bondage: *“(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” (Isaiah 14:1-3).*

- God punished disobedience, but not a complete cutting off of His people (**Psalms 136:10-24, Nehemiah 1:8-9, Isaiah 40:1-2, Isaiah 54:7-8, Jeremiah 21:7, and Jeremiah 50:17-20**).
- God had always been merciful to His people (**Ezra 3:11, Nehemiah 9:32, and Psalms 86:15**), with a qualifier (**Deuteronomy 4:29-31**).
- God promised to bring them home (**Jeremiah 24:6-7**).
- Strangers joined (**Zechariah 2:10-12**) and become servants (**Isaiah 60:14 and Jeremiah 30:16**).
- Rest and ease was coming after Babylon (**Jeremiah 30:10 and Jeremiah 46:27-28**).

2. In the Proverb taken up against the king of Babylon, was the Lord going to softly punish him?

No: *“(4) That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! (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” (Isaiah 14:4-6).*

- God made Babylon a Proverb just like He did the unprofitable of Israel who came out of Babylon (**Jeremiah 24:1-9**).
- The oppressor, the “Golden City” ceased (**Isaiah 13:19**).
- The Lord broke the staff (**Psalms 125:1-3; cf. Isaiah 43:14**).
- None can stop God (**Isaiah 46:10-11**) from turning the tables here (**Psalms 7:11-16**).

3. Was there going to be relief on earth when Babylon fell?

Yes: *“(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” (Isaiah 14:7-8).*

- God’s righteous judgment brings joy to the right people (**Psalms 96:11-13, Psalms 126:1-3, and Proverbs 11:10**).
- True in this case (**Jeremiah 51:48-49**).
- The imagery of the trees rejoicing shows it is comforting for all the earth when the wicked are not ruling (**Ezekiel 31:16**).

4. Was there a special welcome awaiting the Babylonian ruler in Hell [sheol/torment]?

Yes: *“(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” (Isaiah 14:9-11).*

- Hell [sheol] is presented as being below (**Proverbs 15:24**).
- A welcome party of superstar disobedient people is presented (**Ezekiel 32:21-32**).
- There is communication in sheol/hades (**Luke 16:19-31**).
- They had pomp (**Daniel 5:1-4**), but it was not to last (**Daniel 5:25-30**).

5. Who is Lucifer (answer carefully, using the context rather than common thought)?

The king of Babylon, based on the context: *“(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! (13) For thou hast said in thine heart, 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. (15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. (16) They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; (17) That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? (18) All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. (19) But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet. (20) Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned. (21) Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities. (22) For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD. (23) I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts” (Isaiah 14:12-23).*

- “Thou”, in this context, is the king of Babylon (**Isaiah 14:4**).

- Don't read into the fact that the reference is there to the king of Babylon wanting God's throne and thinking that makes this about Satan (cf. **Ezekiel 28:2** and **II Thessalonians 2:3-4**).
- There would be shock over the fall of Babylon (**Jeremiah 50:23**) for their might was something to fear (**Jeremiah 49:30**).
- They had a long reign, but God ended it (**Jeremiah 25:11-12**).
- There is generally an honorable burial for kings (**II Chronicles 24:16**). To die without a burial was seen as a dishonor to some degree (**I Kings 21:24**, **Ecclesiastes 6:3**, **Jeremiah 8:1-2**, and **Jeremiah 22:19**).
- Even the seed of the king was to be destroyed, including children (**Psalms 137:8-9**) so that there is no next generation (cf. **Psalms 109:13**).
- Desolation was to come (**Jeremiah 51:42-43**).