

The Life and Times of Isaiah:

The Rise and Fall of Nations because the God of Israel is Lord of the Nations,  
Isaiah 13-39

Nations listed in Isaiah 13-39

Egypt

Jacob

Israel

Aram (Damascus)

Edom

Philistia

Moab

Arabia

Assyria

Babylon

Medio Persia

Tyre and Sidon

Malcolm Muggeridge "The End of Christendom" British Journalist speaking in the late 1970s had this observation

We look back on history and what do we see? Empires rising and empires falling, revolutions and counter-revolutions, wealth accumulating and wealth disbursed. Shakespeare speaks of "the rise and fall of great ones that ebb and flow with the moon."

In one lifetime I have seen my fellow countrymen ruling over a quarter of the world, the great majority of them convinced that "God who's made the mighty would make them mightier yet."

I've heard a crazed, cracked Austrian proclaim to the world the establishment of a German Reich that would last for a thousand years; an Italian clown announce that he would restart the calendar with his own assumption to power;

a murderous Georgian in the Kremlin acclaimed by the intellectual elite as wiser than Solomon and more enlightened than Asoka. All in one lifetime. All in one little lifetime. All gone. Gone with the wind.

England now simply part of an island off the coast of Europe and threatened with dismemberment and even bankruptcy. Hitler and Mussolini dead and remembered only in infamy. Stalin a forbidden name in the regime he dominated for three decades. All in one lifetime. All gone, gone like the wind!

Against the backdrop of fallen regimes and behind the debris of these civilizations stands the gigantic figure of Jesus Christ; Because of Whom, in Whom, and Through Whom, all history will find an answer for its very being.

### Concerning Isaiah 13-39

One central theme through Isaiah 13-39: the trustworthiness of God. The fate of the city of Jerusalem and Judah and all of Israel is in His hands; He is the sovereign actor on the state of history and they are not. Trusting in nations or kings is foolishness.

These chapters follow naturally upon the vision of Immanuel as ruler of the kingdoms. These are not merely announcements of doom upon the nations as they are an announcement of salvation for Israel if she will trust in her Lord.

#### Babylon:

1. Babylon will be used by God to bring judgment on Judah
2. God will judge Babylon through the Medes
3. Babylon will be completely abandoned in the future

Isaiah 13:1-2 The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw. Lift up a standard on the bare hill, raise your voice to them, wave the hand that they may enter the doors of the nobles.

Isaiah 13:3-4 I have commanded My consecrated ones, I have even called My mighty warriors, My proudly exulting ones, to execute My anger. A sound of tumult on the mountains, like that of many people! A sound of the uproar of kingdoms, of nations gathered together! The Lord of hosts is mustering the army for battle.

Isaiah 13:5 They are coming from a far country, from the farthest horizons, the Lord and His instruments of indignation, to destroy the whole land.

Isaiah 13:17-18 Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them, who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold. And their bows will mow down the young men, they will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb, or will their eye pity children.

Isaiah 13:19-20 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there.

#### Hanging gardens

#### Current situation