

The Life and Times of Isaiah:

Judgment: The Three Burdens, Babylon, Edom, Arabia; Isaiah 21

This chapter emphasizes God's sovereignty over the nations. His prophetic word is true. He judges sin and brings some nations to an end. Other nations He judges but does not completely remove them.

The Coming Storm from Media

Isaiah 21:1-2 The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea. As windstorms in the Negev sweep on, it comes from the wilderness, from a terrifying land. A harsh vision has been shown to me; The treacherous one still deals treacherously, and the destroyer still destroys. Go up, Elam, lay siege, Media; I have made an end of all the groaning she has caused.

Isaiah 21:3-5 For this reason my loins are full of anguish; Pains have seized me like the pains of a woman in labor. I am so bewildered I cannot hear, so terrified I cannot see. My mind reels, horror overwhelms me; The twilight I longed for has been turned for me into trembling. They set the table, they spread out the cloth, they eat, they drink; "Rise up, captains, oil the shields,"

Isaiah 21:6-7 For thus the Lord says to me, "Go, station the lookout, let him report what he sees. When he sees riders, horsemen in pairs, a train of donkeys, a train of camels, let him pay close attention, very close attention."

The Burden and Ultimate Fall of Babylon

Isaiah 21:8-9 Then the lookout called, "O Lord, I stand continually by day on the watchtower, and I am stationed every night at my guard post. Now behold, here comes a troop of riders, horsemen in pairs." And one said, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; And all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground."

Revelation 14:8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

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Isaiah 21:10 O my threshed people, and my afflicted of the threshing floor! What I have heard from the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, I make known to you.

The Burden of Edom with both Hope and Warning

Isaiah 21:11-12 The oracle concerning Edom. One keeps calling to me from Seir, "Watchman, how far gone is the night? Watchman, how far gone is the night?" The watchman says, "Morning comes but also night. If you would inquire, inquire; Come back again."

#### The Burden of Arabia and the Loss of Splendor

Isaiah 21:13-15 The oracle about Arabia. In the thickets of Arabia you must spend the night, O caravans of Dedanites. Bring water for the thirsty, O inhabitants of the land of Tema, Meet the fugitive with bread. For they have fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, and from the bent bow and from the press of battle.

Isaiah 21:16-17 For thus the Lord said to me, "In a year, as a hired man would count it, all the splendor of Kedar will terminate; and the remainder of the number of bowmen, the mighty men of the sons of Kedar, will be few; for the Lord God of Israel has spoken."