

014



# The Father Knows Best

School of the Bible Class

## Isaiah

Isaiah 13-23  
Gentile Nations Judged  
014

July 3, 2022

Donald L Goertzen Presenter  
Indian Hills Community Church

# Babylon the Evil City and Empire



- Last week we started the judgment of the Gentiles section of Isaiah (13-23).
- Babylon the first mentioned. It was built by Nimrod, Noah's great-grand son.
- It became a place known for the first attempt to overthrow Noah's God given plan to fill the world with a diverse people.
- The city was built using a common (Ham's) language (Lingua Franca) that unified the people to accomplish this task. God caused them to "forget" that (LF) language— bringing an end to the project.

# Babylon the Evil City and Empire

- If we think that Nimrod was singularly so brazen so as to accomplish such a coup d'état, we must be reminded that the European Union has built a building in Brussels that resembles the art piece we see— The Tower of Babel, oil on panel, by Pieter Brueghel, 1563





# Babylon the Evil City and Empire

- Global unity is not a new idea.
- We venture that these ideals came alive again in the French Revolution.
- In concrete forms we have had the League of Nations, the United Nations the European Union all are preparing the way for the battle of Armageddon.



# Babylon the Evil City and Empire

- So the character of Babylon establishes the idea of an “alternative” to what God is doing.
- While the physical city has laid forsaken for centuries, Saddam Hussien attempted (1986) to rebuild it—he was the new “Nebuchadnezzar.”

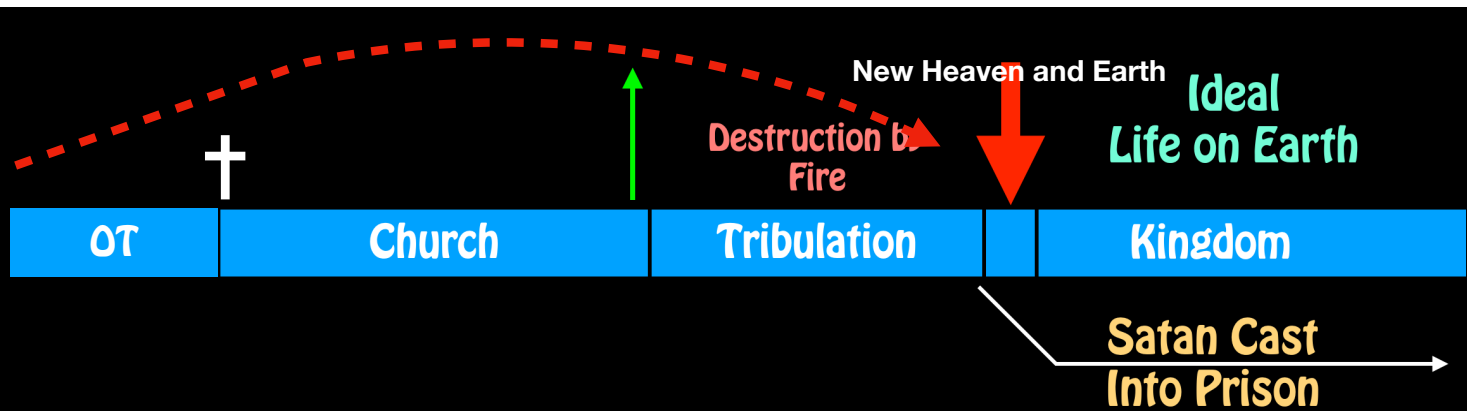


# Babylon the Evil City and Empire

- But Saddam's ambitions were ill founded. It remains a ruin.
- However, the 8<sup>th</sup> ruler on the "Roman Empire" list (Rev. 17:11), is the Anti-christ. He rebuilds Babylon.
- Q. In the classic understanding, the Anti-christ comes from a European nation, (limited to Italy) or something like it—but why would he build in the Orient away from his power center etc.?
- A good reason to consider him an Assyrian versus Roman as given in Micah 5:5. The Assyrian is building it in his front yard.

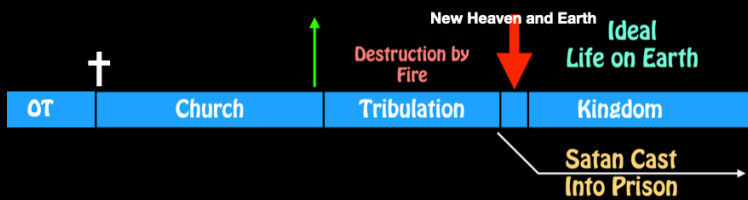
# Babylon the Evil City and Empire

- Revelation 17:1, 5 The Doom of Babylon
- 1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,
- 5 and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”
- (Figurative or a literal rebuilding?)



- The destruction of the literal rebuilt Babylon is at the end of the Tribulation (7<sup>th</sup> Bowl Judgment).
- It is easy for Isaiah's prophecy to roll into a description of the Tribulation in verse 6.





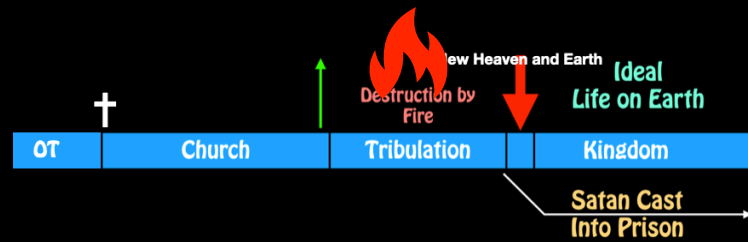
# The Tribulation

- We have briefly encountered the events of the Tribulation already in Isaiah. See 18 uses of “in that Day” Isaiah 1-12.
- Here in Isaiah 13:5ff we have the first detailed account of the Tribulation.
- However, to consider the Tribulation as a prophesied literal event is subject to criticism by many Christians—as those who hold to—
  - **Historic Premillennialism, Amillennialism, Postmillennialism.**
- **Why is what is so obvious and compelling—ridiculed?**
- **The best face: Perhaps what is predicted is so unbelievable that it is better to reject the literal sense than live in the reality of an imminent earthly judgment.**
- This may factor into postponing the NHE to the end of the 1000 years. It provides a **delayed judgment** thus a comfort.

## Doubters or Scoffers?

- 2 Peter 3: “Know this first of all, that in the days mockers will come with their mocking, saying after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’ For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” <sup>5</sup> For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,

**Catastrophe is part of God's Plan**



# Tribulation the Great Example

## The Emotional Impact

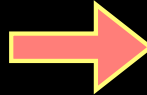
# Tribulation the Great Example

- Isaiah 13: 6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.
- 7 Therefore all hands will **fall limp**, And every man's heart will melt.
- 8 They will be terrified, Pains and anguish will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame.



# Tribulation the Great Example

- **Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it. (General Effect)**
- **10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.**



## 6<sup>th</sup> SEAL

Revelation 6:12–14

<sup>12</sup> I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made of hair*, and the whole moon became like blood; <sup>13</sup> and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. <sup>14</sup> The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.



# Tribulation the Great Example

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1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet  
Revelation 8:12  
The fourth angel sounded, and a **third** of the sun and a **third** of the moon and a **third** of the stars were struck, so that a **third** of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a **third** of it, and the night in the same way.

# Tribulation the Great Example

- 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises And the moon will not shed its light.
- Possible smoke obscures. But then  $\frac{1}{3}$  indicates something else. Earth tilts, falling stars?

1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet  
Revelation 8:12

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# Tribulation the Great Example

- Isaiah 13:11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless. 12 I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold And mankind than the gold of Ophir.

Isaiah 13:9

Repeat: Behold, the day of the Lord is coming,  
Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation;  
**And He will exterminate its sinners from it.**

# Tribulation the Great Example

- Isaiah 13:13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,  
**And the earth will be shaken from its place** At the fury of the Lord of hosts In the day of His burning anger.
- More in Isaiah 24—

Isaiah 24:

19 The **earth is broken asunder**, The earth is split through, The earth is shaken violently. 20 The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard And it totters like a **shack**, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again.

# Tribulation the Great Example

- **Isaiah 13:14 And it [Question here] will be that like a hunted gazelle,**
- **Or like sheep with none to gather them, They will each turn to his own people, And each one flee to his own land.**

What may be suggested here is that in the Tribulation as the Lord intervenes the tide of the war is turning against those who attacked Jerusalem. Here they go home, return to their own land (15) but will not be successful before they are hunted down and thrust through.



# Tribulation the Great Example

- Isaiah 13:15 Anyone who is found will be thrust through, And anyone who is captured will fall by the sword. 16 Their little ones also will be dashed to pieces Before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished.
- (Persian/Medes on Babylon?)

Here they go home, return to their own land (15) but will not be successful before they are hunted down and thrust through. And He will exterminate its sinners from it.

# Persian Judgment on Babylon

Egypt

Assyria

Babylon

Medes/Persia

Empires of the Earth

# Babylon Nearby Judgment

- Isaiah 13:17 Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them, Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold. 18 And their bows will mow down the young men, They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb, Nor will their eye pity children. (Beginning in 539)
- 19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Egypt

Assyria

Babylon

Medes/Persia

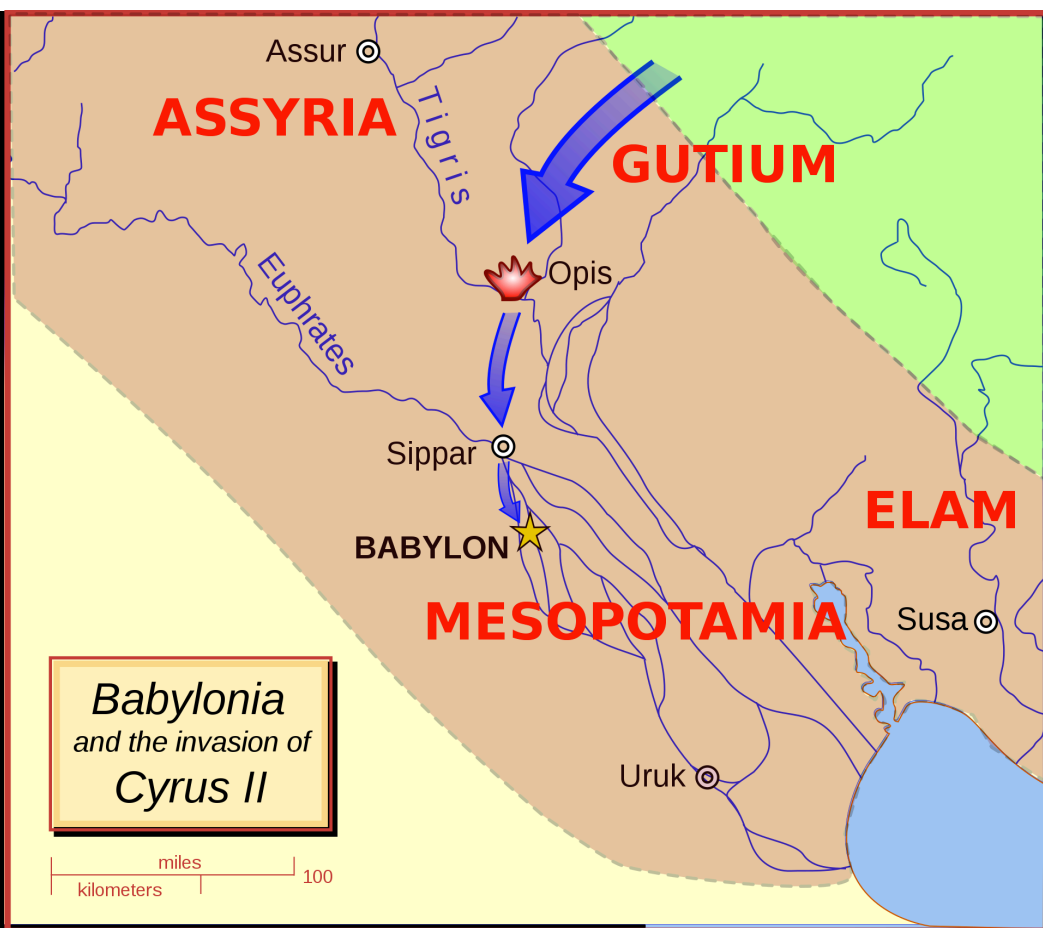


## Medes Fierce Persians Conciliatory

- The Kurds are the people of the Medes.
- Today Kurdistan is an autonomous political force in four countries.
- They are fierce warriors.





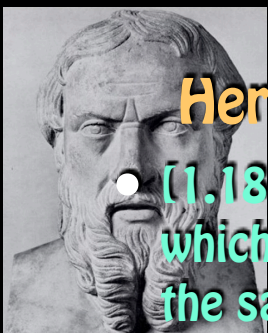


# Cyrus



# Babylon Nearby Judgment

- Isaiah 13:20 {destruction was slow but complete. “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. 21 But desert creatures will lie down there, And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there. 22 Hyenas will howl in their fortified towers And jackals in their luxurious palaces. Her fateful time also will soon come And her days will not be prolonged.



## DRYING OF THE EUPHRATES

### Herodotus (484-425 bc) on Cyrus' capture of Babylon

[1.189] “When Cyrus reached this stream, which could only be passed in boats, one of the sacred white horses accompanying his march, full of spirit and high mettle, walked into the water, and tried to cross by himself; but the current seized him, swept him along with it, and drowned him in its depths. Cyrus, enraged at the insolence of the river, threatened so to break its strength that in future even women should cross it easily without wetting their knees.

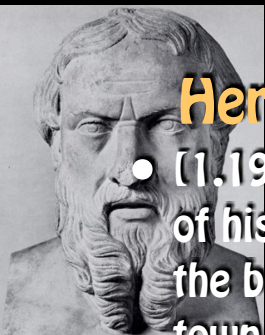


## DRYING OF THE EUPHRATES

### Herodotus (484-425 bc) on Cyrus' capture of Babylon

Accordingly he put off for a time his attack on Babylon, and, dividing his army into two parts, he marked out by ropes one hundred and eighty trenches on each side of the Gyndes, leading off from it in all directions, and setting his army to dig, some on one side of the river, some on the other, he accomplished his threat by the aid of so great a number of hands, but not without losing thereby the whole summer season.





## DRYING OF THE EUPHRATES

### Herodotus (484-425 bc) on Cyrus' capture of Babylon

- [1.191] Cyrus was now reduced to great perplexity, .... He placed a portion of his army at the point where the river enters the city, and another body at the back of the place where it issues forth, with orders to march into the town by the bed of the stream, as soon as the water became shallow enough: he then himself drew off with the unwarlike portion of his host, and made for the place where Nitocrisnote dug the basin for the river, where he did exactly what she had done formerly: **he turned the Euphrates by a canal into the basin, which was then a marsh, on which the river sank to such an extent that the natural bed of the stream became fordable.**
- Hereupon the Persians who had been left for the purpose at Babylon by the, river-side, entered the stream, which had now sunk so as to reach about midway up a man's thigh, and thus got into the town.





The fall of Babylon;  
Cyrus the Great defeating the Chaldean army. Mezzotint by J. Martin, 1831,

# Babylon Slow Death

- Cyrus (at Belshazzar's feast) did not destroy Babylon to conquer it.
- He just blocked the river that runs through it and the army walked in while they were feasting in the palace.



# **Kingdom Promises**

**Leap Forward to Encourage**



# Messianic Age the Kingdom

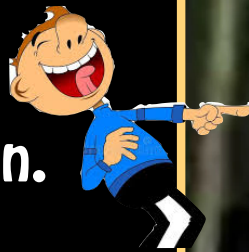
- Isaiah 14:1” When the Lord will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel, and settle them in their own land, then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob. 2 The peoples will take them along and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them as an inheritance in the land of the Lord as male servants and female servants; and they will take their captors captive and will rule over their oppressors. (Deut. 28-30).

# Messianic Age the Kingdom

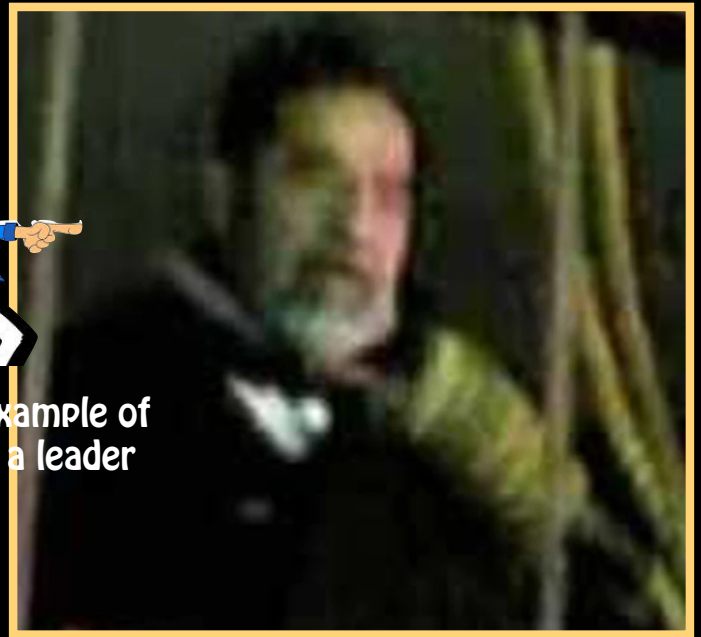
- 3 And it will be in the day when the Lord gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved, 4 that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say,
- “How the oppressor has ceased, And how fury has ceased!

# Messianic Age the Kingdom

- Isaiah 14:5-23 Read the taunt against Babylon and her diabolical ruler Satan.
- Read this in the Kingdom when the zoo is open to visit your former enemy.



Only an Example of  
Taunting a leader



**Isaiah 14:4–6**

**4** that you will take up  
this taunt against the  
king of Babylon, and  
say,

“How the oppressor  
has ceased,  
And how fury has  
ceased!

**5** “The Lord has  
broken the staff of  
the wicked,

**The scepter of rulers**

**6** Which used to strike  
the peoples in fury  
with unceasing  
strokes,

Which subdued the  
nations in anger  
with unrestrained  
persecution.

7 “The whole earth is at rest  
and is quiet;  
They break forth into shouts  
of joy.

8 “Even the cypress trees  
rejoice over you, and the  
cedars of Lebanon, saying,  
‘Since you were laid low, no  
tree cutter comes up  
against us.’

9 “Sheol from beneath is  
excited over you to meet  
you when you come;

It arouses for you the spirits  
of the dead, all the leaders  
of the earth;

It raises all the kings of the  
nations from their thrones.

10 “They will all respond and  
say to you,

‘Even you have been made  
weak as we,

You have become like us.

12 “How you have  
fallen from heaven,  
O star of the morning,  
son of the dawn!  
You have been cut  
down to the earth,  
You who have  
weakened the  
nations!

13 “But you said in  
your heart,  
‘I will ascend to  
heaven;

I will raise my throne  
above the stars of  
God,  
And I will sit on the  
mount of assembly  
In the recesses of the  
north.

14 ‘I will ascend above  
the heights of the  
clouds;  
I will make myself like  
the Most High.’

15 “Nevertheless you will be  
thrust down to Sheol,  
To the recesses of the pit.  
16 “Those who see you will  
gaze at you,  
They will ponder over you,  
saying,  
‘Is this the man who made  
the earth tremble,  
Who shook kingdoms,  
17 Who made the world like a  
wilderness  
And overthrew its cities,

Who did not allow his  
prisoners to go home?’  
18 “All the kings of the  
nations lie in glory,  
Each in his own tomb.  
19 “But you have been cast  
out of your tomb  
Like a rejected branch,  
Clothed with the slain who  
are pierced with a sword,  
Who go down to the stones  
of the pit  
Like a trampled corpse.

20 “You will not be united with them  
in burial,  
Because you have ruined your  
country,  
You have slain your people.  
May the offspring of evildoers not  
be mentioned forever.

21 “Prepare for his sons a place of  
slaughter  
Because of the iniquity of their  
fathers.  
They must not arise and take  
possession of the earth

And fill the face of the world with  
cities.”

22 “I will rise up against them,”  
declares the Lord of hosts, “and  
will cut off from Babylon name and  
survivors, offspring and  
posterity,” declares the Lord.

23 “I will also make it a possession  
for the hedgehog and swamps of  
water, and I will sweep it with the  
broom of destruction,” declares  
the Lord of hosts.



**Isaiah 14:24–27 (NASB95)**

**Judgment on Assyria**

**24** The Lord of hosts has sworn saying, “Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand,  
**25** to break Assyria in My land, and I will trample him on My mountains. Then his yoke will be removed from them and his burden removed from their shoulder.

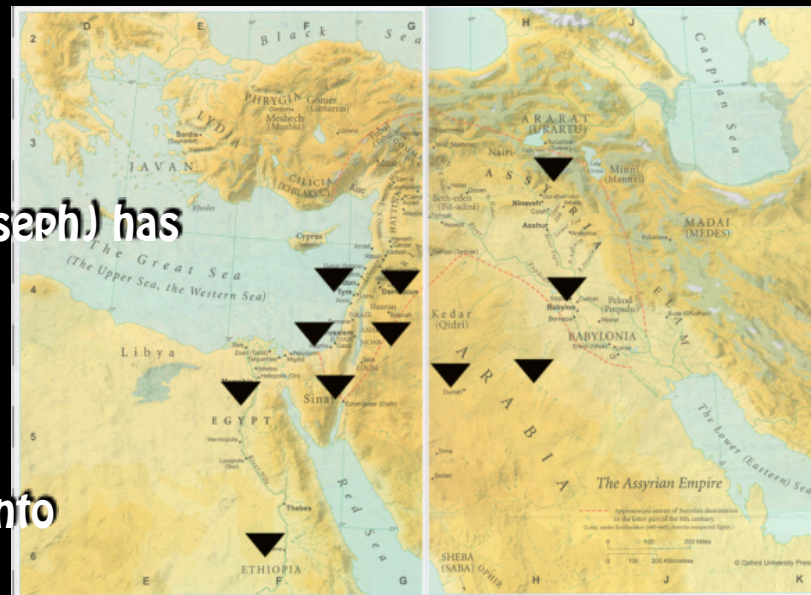
**26** “This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations.

**27** “For the Lord of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”

**Thus far—**

# Other Nations listed-to Isaiah 24

- Moab-Isaiah 15-16 (Sodom area)
- Syria-Isaiah 17 (Damascus area)
- Ethiopia 18 (Cush of Africa)
- Egypt 19 (Egypt of Moses and Joseph) has blessings
- Babylon 21:1-10 (again)
- Edom 21:11-12
- Arabia 21:13-17
- Jerusalem 22:1-22 (Judah taken into captivity)
- Tyre 23



840 - 841	(Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ch 21	840 - 841	(Son of Ahab)	Evil / Evil	Elisha 1 Ki 19 2 Ki 2-9 2 Ki 13	2 Ki 13
841	Ahaziah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 8-9 2 Ch 22	841 - 814	Jehu (Captain)	Good / Evil		2 Ki 9-10
841 - 835	Athaliah (mother)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 11 2 Ch 22-23					
835 - 796	Joash (son of Ahaziah)	Good / Evil	Joel	2 Ki 11-12 2 Ch 23-24	814 - 798	Jehoahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 13
796 - 767	Amaziah (son)	Good / Evil		2 Ki 14 2 Ch 25	798 - 782	Jehoash (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 13-14
767 - 740	Uzziah aka Azariah (Son)	Good/Evil	Isaiah Micah	2 Ki 15 2 Ch 26	782 - 753	Jeroboam II (Son)	Evil / Evil	Amos Hosea  Jonah (2 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1:1)	2 Ki 14
					753 - 752	Zechariah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
					752	Shallum	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
					752 - 742	Menahem	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
					742 - 740	Pekahiah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
748 - 732	Jotham (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 15 2 Ch 27	752 - 740 (rival) 733 - 722 (sole)	Pekah (Captain)	Evil / Evil	Micah	2 Ki 15
732 - 716	Ahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 16 2 Ch 28 Is 7					
716 - 687	Hezekiah (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 18-20 2 Ch 29-32 Is 36-39	732 - 722	Hoshea	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 17
Israel into Assyrian captivity - 722 BC									
687 - 642	Manasseh (Son)	Evil / Good		2 Ki 21 2 Ch 33				Nahum	
642 - 640	Amon (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 21 2 Ch 33					
640 - 608	Josiah	Good/Good		2 Ki 22-23					