

ISAIAH'S
PAIN
AT
MOAB'S
DESTRUCTION

no treader treads out wine in the presses;
I have put an end to the shouting.
Therefore my inner parts moan like a lyre for
Moab,
and my inmost self for Kir-hareseth.

12 And when Moab presents himself, when he wears himself on the high place, when he comes to his sanctuaries to pray, he will not prevail.

13 This is the word that the LORD spoke concerning Moab in the past. 14 But now the LORD has spoken, saying, "In three years, like the years of a hired worker, the glory of Moab will be brought into contempt, in spite of all his great multitude, and those who remain will be very few and feeble."

An Oracle Concerning Damascus

17 An oracle concerning Damascus.

Behold, Damascus will cease to be a city and will become a heap of ruins.

2 The cities of Aroer are deserted; they will be for flocks, which will lie down, and none will make them afraid.

3 The fortress will disappear from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus; and the remnant of Syria will be like the glory of the children of Israel, declares the LORD of hosts.

11-12 Israel show God's compassion and his own inner turmoil at the suffering of Moab. Isaiah grieves for their suffering. What he sees coming is so terrible he dreads to see it even in a vision.

inner parts Hebrews saw this, and not the heart, as the seat of emotions. Here at the center of the person was the heart of their being. Here we see God takes no joy in punishment of the wicked. His hope is they repent and call on Him for help.

12 1 Peter 3:12 God hears the prayers of the righteous but the wicked's request He rejects. This applies to Moab. No matter how long or profound the prayers they cannot be answered because of their wickedness and arrogant pride.

13 Moab has been warned before and did not listen. This judgment could have been avoided, but that time has passed.

14 Israel set a deadline showing God's intentions to act in 3 years. Her greatness will be removed & people reduced to a few.

1 Isaiah returns to Damascus (SYRIA) which was 137 mentioned in Isa. 7:1-3 and was conquered by Assyria in 732 B.C. Israel had seen Damascus as their hope & protection against Syria as they turned away from trusting God.

2 Aroer cannot be identified. It was totally destroyed.

3 All earthly hope of help is removed and Assyria will be able to walk over Judah. They turned from God and when judgment approach they still refused to turn back to Him. Trusting in military alliances they could see over faith in the invisible God.

4 And in that day the glory of Jacob will be brought low,
and the fat of his flesh will grow lean.

5 And it shall be as when the reaper gathers standing grain
and his arm harvests the ears,
and as when one gleanes the ears of grain in the Valley of Rephaim.

6 Gleanings will be left in it,
as when an olive tree is beaten—
two or three berries
in the top of the highest bough,
four or five
on the branches of a fruit tree,
declares the LORD God of Israel.

⁷In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel. ⁸He will not look to the altars, the work of his hands, and he will not look on what his own fingers have made, either the Asherim or the altars of incense.

⁹In that day their strong cities will be like the deserted places of the wooded heights and the hilltops, which they deserted because of the children of Israel, and there will be desolation.

10 For you have forgotten the God of your salvation
and have not remembered the Rock of your refuge;
therefore, though you plant pleasant plants
and sow the vine-branch of a stranger,

4) JACOB REPRESENTS THE 10 N. TRIBES AND THEIR COMING DOWNFALL. SHOWING THE NATION AS A PERSON ELLOWS FOR THE ALLOQERY OF GROWING LEAN, AND LOSING STRENGTH.

5-6) SHOWING THE NATION AS A FIELD OR A VINEYARD AFTER IT HAS BEEN HARVESTED. LITTLE REMAINS BUT WHAT THE POOR CAN FIND ON THE GROUND. MOST OF THE PEOPLE WOULD DIE OR BE TAKEN CAPTIVE LEAVING A REMNANT OF THE NATION.

7) IN THAT DAY: WHEN THERE IS NO HOPE THEY WILL FINALLY CALL ON GOD.

8) THEY WILL TURN FROM SELF-MADE GODS HOPING THE REAL GOD WILL HEAR AND DELIVER THEM.

9) THE DESTRUCTION WILL BE COMPLETE AND THE REASON WILL BE BECAUSE GOD'S PEOPLE DESERTED HIM FOR FALSE GODS. THE IMAGE OF A STRONG OR FORTIFIED CITY BEING DESTROYED IS A PICTURE OF A TOTAL DEFEAT.

10) THE REASON THIS WILL HAPPEN IS LAID BARE. THEIR REJECTION OF GOD WHO THEY WOULD NEED IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.

10b-11) NO MATTER WHAT THEY PLANT, EVEN A MIRACLE CROP THAT GROWS IN ONE DAY IT DOES NOT MATTER THEY WILL NEVER GET TO HARVEST THE CROP. GOD WILL NOT BLESS THEM, HIS JUDGMENT IS SET AND THERE IS NO HOPE.

11 though you make them grow on the day that you
plant them,
and make them blossom in the morning that
you sow,
yet the harvest will flee away
in a day of grief and incurable pain.

12 Ah, the thunder of many peoples;
they thunder like the thundering of the sea!
Ah, the roar of nations;
they roar like the roaring of mighty waters!

13 The nations roar like the roaring of many waters,
but he will rebuke them, and they will flee far away,
chased like chaff on the mountains before the wind
and whirling dust before the storm.

14 At evening time, behold, terror!
Before morning, they are no more!
This is the portion of those who loot us,
and the lot of those who plunder us.

An Oracle Concerning Cush - ETHIOPIA, SWAN, EGYPT

18 Ah, land of whirring wings
that is beyond the rivers of Cush,
2 which sends ambassadors by the sea,
in vessels of papyrus on the waters!
Go, you swift messengers,
to a nation tall and smooth,
to a people feared near and far,
a nation mighty and conquering,
whose land the rivers divide.

(1) They may think there is hope in the next harvest, but it is false hope. Even as they once hoped in false gods there is no deliverance and there will be no harvest.

(2) THE SOUND OF THE NATIONS BOASTFUL PRIDE IS LOW AND COMPARED TO THE SOUND OF RUSHING WATER.

(3) No matter how powerful or proud a nation thinks they are, no matter how loud the sound of their boasting, they will be silenced and rebuked by God. In the end they will flee like grain chaff blown by the wind. They will not control anything and will be moved anywhere God chooses.

(4) A promise to God's people that there appears there is no hope only incoming darkness. Night being fear and deepened dread. Not being able to see illustrates this lack of hope. Yet, even before they can see light or have any hope God has already delivered His people. God promises deliverance.

(1-2) ISAIAH HAD PREVIOUSLY WARNED JUDAH'S KING AGAINST FORMING ALLIANCES WITH EARTHLY KINGS SUCH AS ASSYRIA. ISAIAH IS WARNING THE KING AND THE NATION AGAINST AN ALLIANCE WITH CUSH. GOD WILL NOT SPARE CUSH, THE EXACT NATION IS NOT CLEAR BUT IS IN THE AREA OF THE NILE RIVER OR A GREAT DISTANCE AWAY.

(1) THE RIVER IS KNOWN FOR ITS PRODUCTION OF INSECTS WHICH INCENTIVELY ATTACK MAN AND ANIMALS.

(2) THE SEA IS MOST LIKELY THE MEDITERRANEAN OR THE RED SEA, OR COULD REFER TO COMING DOWN THE NILE TO THE SEA. THIS NATION SENDS ITS AMBASSADORS TO WARN OF COMING WAR AND TO OFFER AN ALLIANCE AGAINST ASSYRIA.