

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.

3 All you inhabitants of the world,
you who dwell on the earth,
when a signal is raised on the mountains,
look!

When a trumpet is blown, hear!

4 For thus the LORD said to me:

"I will quietly look from my dwelling
like clear heat in sunshine,
like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."

5 For before the harvest, when the blossom is
over,

and the flower becomes a ripening grape,
he cuts off the shoots with pruning hooks,
and the spreading branches he lops off and
clears away.

6 They shall all of them be left
to the birds of prey of the mountains
and to the beasts of the earth.

And the birds of prey will summer on them,
and all the beasts of the earth will winter on
them.

7 At that time tribute will be brought to the LORD of hosts

from a people tall and smooth,
from a people feared near and far,
a nation mighty and conquering,
whose land the rivers divide,

to Mount Zion, the place of the name of the LORD of hosts.

③ The nations are making plans, raising battle flags, and preparing for war.

④ God is silently watching, nothing blocks His view of what is happening and what is planned. God is waiting to intervene.

⑤ Before they can gather their supplies, before anything is ready to be harvested God will act. The enemy has planned and planted but God will act and put His plans into action. The plans of man are dependant on the approval of God.

⑥ Their defeat will be complete. There will be no one to bury the bodies as they become food for wild animals and birds. The animals will eat them and then hibernate living off the fat of their dead bodies.

⑦ The Ethiopians will send tribute & ambassadors to Jerusalem showing their gratitude for God defeating the Assyrians.