

Isaiah

The Vision

The Revelation within Isaiah

Chapters 20-21

“What a big view of God Isaiah had. He did not just think of God as wrapped up in his little part of the world, he thought of God as the God of history, the God of nations, the God over the whole world. This is the picture of God in Isaiah.”
Come with Me Through Isaiah, David Pawson, p. 97

Chapter 20 NKJV

The Sign Against Egypt and Ethiopia [Cush]

1 In the year that Tartan [leading general of Assyria] came to Ashdod [a major Philistine city on the Mediterranean Sea west from Jerusalem], when Sargon the king of Assyria [king of Assyria, son of Shalmaneser, and father of Sennacherib; ruled from 721 - 702 BC; conqueror of Samaria] sent him, and he fought against Ashdod and took it, 2 *at the same time the Lord spoke by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, “Go, and remove the sackcloth from your body, and take your sandals off your feet.”* And he did so, walking naked and barefoot. 3 *Then the Lord said, “Just as My servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot **three years for a sign and a wonder** against Egypt and Ethiopia,* 4 *so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians as prisoners and the Ethiopians as captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.* 5 *Then they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation and Egypt their glory.* 6 *And the inhabitant of this territory will say in that day, ‘Surely such is our expectation, wherever we flee for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria; and how shall we escape?’ ”*

Prophets Walking Naked – Commentary from Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1059

“On the surface, Isaiah apparently removed all his clothing and walked in the nude for three years. However, scholars note that God told him to remove the sackcloth [A garment made of black goat’s hair and was often worn by a prophet in a time of mourning, grief, or when predicting judgment]. Thus, he was walking without his

special prophetic identification, and without this garment he was considered 'naked'. The word naked can mean that a person has laid aside his garment and began to prophesy (see I Sam. 19:24). Saul would have removed all his royal garments before lying on the ground. When David danced before the Lord, he was said to have 'uncovered himself' before the people (see 2 Sam. 6:20), but in reality, he stripped himself of his kingly garment and was clothed in a linen ephod (see 2 Sam. 6:14). Others interpret this passage literally, to mean that Isaiah was literally nude and the people were looking upon him shame and disgust; however, the illustrated message here would have been to the people that God was looking at them in shame and disgust for their sins.

- "The word sackcloth is found 42 times in the OT English translation. At times a false prophet would put on sackcloth in an attempt to deceive people into thinking they were a genuine prophet of Yahweh." See Zech. 13:4
- Micah 1:8
- None the less, Isaiah only did what the Lord told him to do. See John 5:19, 30

Chapter 21 NKJV

"Chapter 21 reminds the Israelites not to put their trust in Babylon, and in that passage, there occurs the phrase: "God set a watchman to report from the watchtower..." When Babylon falls, when he sees the refugees streaming out, finally the watchman replies 'Babylon has fallen' – words that are taken up in the book of Revelation: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!" (see Jer. 51:8; Rev.14:8; 18:2) Come with Me Through Isaiah, David Pawson, p.99.

The Fall of Babylon Proclaimed

1 The burden against the Wilderness of the Sea. [by the Persian Gulf]

As whirlwinds in the South pass through,

So it comes from the desert, from a terrible land.

2 A *distressing vision* is declared to me;

The treacherous dealer deals treacherously,

And the plunderer plunders. [NOTE TPT: It is as though God is commanding Babylon's enemies to betray and destroy her. This prophesy was given to Isaiah 200 years before it took place.]

Go up, O Elam! [Elam means 'hidden or concealed'. It is the modern-day coastal area of Iran.]

Besiege, O Media! ['Middle-land' in the north central region of Iran. NOTE TPT: Both regions made up a major portion of the Persian Empire, which destroyed Babylon in 539 BC].

All its sighing I have made to cease.

3 Therefore my loins are filled with pain;
Pangs have taken hold of me, like the pangs of a woman in labor.

I was distressed when I heard it;

I was dismayed when I saw it.

4 My heart wavered, fearfulness frightened me;
The night for which I longed He turned into fear for me.

5 Prepare the table,
Set a watchman in the tower,
Eat and drink. [See Daniel 5]
Arise, you princes,
Anoint the shield!

6 For thus has the Lord said to me:

“Go, set a watchman,
Let him declare what he sees.”

7 And he saw a chariot with a pair of horsemen,
A chariot of donkeys, and a chariot of camels,
And he listened earnestly with great care.

8 Then he cried, “A lion, my Lord!
I stand continually on the watchtower in the day-time;
I have sat at my post every night.

9 And look, here comes a chariot of men with a pair of horsemen!”
Then he answered and said,
“Babylon is fallen, is fallen!
And all the carved images of her gods
He has broken to the ground.”

10 Oh, my threshing and the grain of my floor!
***That which I have heard from the Lord of hosts,
The God of Israel, I have declared to you.***

“Isaiah experienced a ‘burden’ (vision revealed) in which he was apparently taken to Babylon and, while there, spoke to a watchman on the city wall who had observed several chariots on their way to destroy Babylon and announced the city had fallen. Prophetically, according to Daniel, the Medes and Persians (identified here with Elam and Media), overthrew the Babylonians in one night (See Dan. 5:30-31). All false religions, in some form or another, can be traced back to the religious ideas at the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.” Perry Stone, Prophetic Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1060.

Proclamation Against Edom [Edom = descendants of Esau; See: Gen. 32:3; Numbers 24:18]

11 The burden against Dumah. [The capital of Edom. It means silence]

He calls to me out of Seir [a mountain in Edom. Seir means ‘hairy goat, faun, satyr’ and is found 39 times in the OT],

“Watchman, what of the night?

Watchman, what of the night?”

12 The watchman said,

“The morning [a new day] comes, and also the night [judgment].

If you will inquire, inquire;

Return! Come back!”

“The name Dumah has four meanings in the Bible. It is translated as ‘silence’ in Psalm 94:17 and Psalm 115:17 and has the connotation of a place of death or silence of the grave. It is a town in the mountains of Judah between Hebron and Beersheba, now called ed-Daume (See Joshua 15:52). It is also an Ishmaelite tribe in Arabia, according to Arabic geographies (as Dumah was a son of Ishmael; see Gen. 25:14; I Chron. 1:30) And it is this unusual oracle that Isaiah pronounced against Dumah. These sons settled in Arabia, and Isaiah saw their destruction within one year.” Perry Stone, Prophetic Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1060.

Proclamation Against Arabia [the wandering Bedouin, the Arab traders with their camels, the travelling merchants.]

13 The burden against Arabia [land of Arabs and it means ‘sterility, darkened, intermixed, stranger, barren, or wild. Arabia is mentioned six times in the OT. Also see Gal. 1:17].

In the forest in Arabia you will lodge, [That is, they will be forced off the beaten path to hide from the invading Assyrians.]

O you traveling companies of Dedanites. [The Dedanites were merchants who shipped their goods to Tyre (Phoenicia).

14 O inhabitants of the land of Tema [Tema was a descendant of Abraham, I Chron. 1:28-30. Tema (modern day Tayma) is also a city in northern Saudi Arabia. It means 'sunny, good fortune, prosperity'.

Bring water to him who is thirsty;

With their bread they met him who fled.

15 For they fled from the swords, from the drawn sword,
From the bent bow, and from the distress of war.

16 For thus the Lord has said to me: “**Within a year**, according to the year of a hired man, all the glory of Kedar [a son of Ishmael, means 'dark skinned'. Kedar's descendants settled in the Arabian desert. Prob. North Arabia.] will fail; 17 and the remainder of the number of archers, the mighty men of the people of Kedar, will be diminished; for the Lord God of Israel has spoken it.”

“Arabia is the large landmass that was once known as the Arabian Peninsula and is identified today as Saudi Arabia. Today Saudi Arabia is the 'world headquarters' of Islam, as Islam's two holiest sites – Mecca and Medina – are located there. Saudi Arabia is also an oil capital of the world and provides numerous nations with precious 'black gold' (oil). In Isaiah's day, this region was a desert with areas of thick underbrush and rugged mountains. From Dedan, the son of Abraham, through Keturah came the Dedanim, a tribe in Arabia.” Perry Stone, Prophetic Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1060.

Chapter 20 TPT

A Prophecy concerning Egypt and Cush

20 In the year that the Assyrian king Sargon [sun prince] sent his supreme commander to attack Ashdod [stronghold, fortress or oppressor], he came and captured it. 2 At that time the Lord Yahweh said to Isaiah, the son of Amoz, “Take off your clothes and sandals.” Isaiah did as he was told and walked about naked and barefoot. 3 Then the Lord Yahweh said, “Just as my servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot for three years as a prophetic sign and a wonder as a warning of what is coming to Egypt and Cush, 4 so will the king of Assyria lead away the captives of Egypt and Cush, both young and old. They will be stripped and barefoot, with buttocks bared, to publicly humiliate Egypt. 5 And those who put their hope in

‘glorious Cush’ and ‘mighty Egypt,’ will be shattered and totally ashamed.” 6 When that day comes, those who live on the coastal region of Philistia will say, “Oh no! If this is what happened to those we hoped would come and rescue us from the Assyrian king, what chance do we have of escape?”

Chapter 21 TPT

A Prophecy concerning Babylon

21 Here is a prophecy concerning Babylon, the Desert by the Sea:

As whirlwinds rushing in from the southland,
an invader comes in from the desert, from a land to be feared.

2 A terrifying revelation has been given to me:

The betrayer betrays; the destroyer destroys.
Arise, you Elamites! Lay siege you Medes!
I will put an end
to all the grief she brought to the nations.

3 There’s a churning deep inside me,

like labor pains of a woman about to give birth.
I’m too anguished by what I hear
and too frightened by what I see.

4 My mind is reeling; I’m filled with panic.

I longed for twilight, but now I tremble through the night.

5 I see them prepare the table and spread their rugs,

then they eat and they drink.
Get up, you military officers! Anoint your shields for battle!

6 For this is what the Lord said to me:

“Go post a sentry and have him report what he sees.

7 When he sees them come with chariots

and advancing warriors riding on horses, donkeys, and camels,
let him be alert—extremely alert!”

8 Then the sentry cries out,

“I continually stand on this watchtower day after day

for you, O Lord.

I'm stationed at my post throughout the night.

9 Look! Someone's coming!

It's a man in a chariot with a team of horses.

He shouts out, 'Fallen, fallen, Babylon has fallen!

All the idols of their gods lie shattered on the ground!'"

10 My people, lying crushed on the threshing floor,

I declare to you what I have heard from the God of Israel,

Yahweh, the Commander of Angel Armies.

A Prophecy concerning Dumah (Edom)

11 Here is a prophecy about Dumah:

Someone keeps calling me from the land of Edom, saying,

"Watchman, how much longer is the night?

Watchman, how much longer is the night?"

12 The watchman answers,

"Morning comes, but a dark night endures.

If you want to ask again, then come back and ask."

A Prophecy Concerning Arabia

13 A prophecy concerning Arabia:

You caravans from Dedan,

you will camp among the thickets in the desert land of Arabia.

14 People of Tema, come and bring water to the thirsty

and bread for the fugitives.

15 For they have fled from the battle, from the drawn swords,

from the bent bows, and from the weight of warfare.

16 This is what the Sovereign God said to me:

"Within exactly one year,

all the splendor of Kedar will end.

17 And all the weapons left of Kedar's warriors will be few,
for the Lord Yahweh, the God of Israel, has spoken."

