

QUOTATIONS

“The conclusion to the first oracle (14:24–27) indicates that the reason for the fall of Babylon and Assyria was not just to remove the pride of these powerful nations (13:19; 14:11–14), but they also demonstrate that (a) God was the sovereign power that rules over that nation; (b) God has a plan for every nation on earth; (c) God will crush those who oppose him; (d) God will bring salvation to his oppressed people; and (e) many people from these foreign nations will eventually come and worship the God of Judah.” (Smith 2007: 291).

“A third argument against trusting Babylon is that God’s people do not need the protection of Babylon to survive an Assyrian attack, for God himself will destroy Assyria (14:24–27). If the people of Judah would believe that this is the certain conclusion to God’s plan and that no one can change the plans that God has determined (14:27), the nation of Judah should be willing to trust God Almighty with its present problems. It has always been true that what people believe about God will determine their practical walk, just as their practical walk will reveal what they really believe about God. The extent of each person’s trust in God is evident in the decisions they make and the things they do” (Smith 2007: 295).

“Isaiah was sharing the good and the bad news about the future events that God had planned for the world so that his audience could choose to follow God and experience God’s grace” (Smith 2007: 321).

“No one can avoid the issue of trust; people either believe what God has said he will do, or in pride they make their own “better” plans. When arrogant people (especially those who profess to be believers) reject God’s plans and try to raise themselves up as the ruler of their lives, they are actually attempting to take God’s place and exalt themselves higher than God. Their fate is clear; the wrath of God, humiliation, and the maggots of the grave await them” (Smith 2007: 323).

“Most of the time people know what God would want them to do. The really difficult question is: Are they willing to follow God’s direction? There is no indication in the prophet’s thinking that there is a way to straddle the fence and partially trust God in order to hedge your bets; it is either man’s way or God’s way” (Smith 2007: 326).

SOURCE CITED

Gary V. Smith, *Isaiah 1–39*, New American Commentary, 2007.

ISAIAH 13-23: ORACLES AGAINST THE NATIONS

OUTLINE OF ISAIAH 1-35

- A. The Holy One of Israel announces his plans for Judah (1:1–12:6)
- B. **The Holy One of Israel announces his plans for the nations (13:1–23:18)**
 - 1. The Lord announces his plans for Babylon (13:1–14:23)
 - 2. The Lord announces his plans for Assyria (14:23–27)
 - 3. The Lord announces his plans for Philistia (14:28–32)
 - 4. The Lord announces his plans for Moab (15:1–16:14)
 - 5. The Lord announces his plans for Damascus (17:1–14)
 - 6. The Lord announces his plans for Cush (18:1–7)
 - 7. The Lord announces his plans for Egypt (19:1–20:6)
 - 8. The Lord announces his plans for Babylon (21:1–10)
 - 9. The Lord announces his plans for Dumah (21:11–12)
 - 10. The Lord announces his plans for Arabia (21:13–17)
 - 11. The Lord announces his plans for Jerusalem (22:1–25)
 - 12. The Lord announces his plans for Tyre (23:1–18)
- C. The Holy One of Israel will rule over the earth and redeem his people (24:1–27:13)
- D. The Holy One of Israel will replace faithless rulers with a righteous king (28:1–35:10)

MAJOR IDEAS

1. The Lord is sovereign over all nations, including those who will carry Israel and Judah into exile.
2. Out of judgment will emerge a remnant of Israel, and all the nations will submit to the Lord and his people in Jerusalem.
3. Judah must not trust in the other nations but in the Lord only.

KEY VERSES

Isaiah 13:19 (NIV) “Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians’ pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah.”

Isaiah 14:26-27 (NIV) “This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. 27 For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?”

Isaiah 17:12-14 (NIV) “Oh, the raging of many nations— they rage like the raging sea! Oh, the uproar of the peoples— they roar like the roaring of great waters! 13 Although the peoples roar like the roar of surging waters, when he rebukes them they flee far away, driven before the wind like chaff on the hills, like tumbleweed before a gale. 14 In the evening, sudden terror! Before the morning, they are gone! This is the portion of those who loot us, the lot of those who plunder us.”

Isaiah 23:9 (NIV) “The Lord Almighty planned it, to bring low the pride of all glory and to humble all who are renowned on the earth.”