**“Insights Into Isaiah”—Chapters 13-14**

**Chapters 13—the burden against Babylon**

This section of Isaiah, announces burdens on nine different nations that God is going to judge; it is often called, “The Book of Burdens.” Assyria, which takes over the 10 northern tribes is destroyed as a world power. Proverbs 3:12 says, “For whom the Lord loves he corrects; even as a father the son in whom he delights.” Therefore, because God loves us, God will chasten us…”every son that the Lord loves, He will chasten,’ the jealous love of God for us is to refine and purify and judge us. Isaiah’s style remains true….he always offers a local prophesy, and then that usually flows into a future one, “the day of the Lord.” **Isaiah 13** begins a section ending at[**Isaiah 23:18**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+23:18&t1=en_nas) where he prophesies against the nations. It is fitting for judgment to begin at the house of God, so the LORD has first spoken to Israel and Judah in chapters 1-12. But now, the LORD speaks against the other nations, beginning with Babylon***. Isaiah finished his prophetic career in 685 B.C., almost 100 years before Judah finally fell before the Babylonian Empire (586 B.C.).*** At the time of this prophecy, Babylon was a significant nation, but they were definitely behind the Assyrian Empire in status. Yet the LORD who knows the end of all things can speak of the judgment on the pride of Babylon hundreds of years before the judgment comes Sometimes these two distinct prophecies intertwine. **Chapter 13 deals with the Babylonian Empire. Revelation 17 is Ecclesiastical Babylon, and Revelation 18, commercial Babylon.**

Babylon is mentioned 287 times in the Scriptures, more than any other city except Jerusalem. Babylon was a literal city on the Euphrates river; right after the flood ([Genesis 11:1-10](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+11:1-10&t1=en_nas)), Babylon “Was the seat of the civilization that expressed organized hostility to God.” Babylon was later the capitol of the empire that cruelly conquered Judah. “Babylon, to the Jews, was the essence of all evil, the embodiment of cruelty, the foe of God’s people, and the lasting type of sin, carnality, lust and greed.” To those familiar with the Old Testament, the name *Babylon* is associated with organized idolatry, blasphemy and the persecution of God’s people. In the New Testament, the world’s system of the last days is characterized both religiously and commercially as Babylon (Revelation 17, 18). Therefore, Babylon is a “Suitable representation . . . of the idolatrous, pagan world-system in opposition to God.” Psalm 2 sees the same scene.

1. **Re-read Jeremiah 50-51 and Revelation 17-18. You will experience that these chapters are talking about the literal city of Babylon, the pride of the Chaldeans. On the other hand, especially in Revelation, something else surfaces. What is it?**
2. **What is “burden?” Verse 1.** . Burden: In the prophets, a burden is a “heavy” message of weighty importance, heavy in the sense that it produces sorrow or grief. **This is heavy.** This burden against Babylon will last until the end of Isaiah 14.
3. **The first five verses of Isaiah 13 seem to start with a local message. When does it switch to far-away prophecy?** Vs. 5—ends of the heavens, nations gather for Armageddon in Valley of Jezreel. “end of heaven”—the Lord Jesus with us,
4. **The “terror” and “Day of the Lord” in verses 8-9 remind us of the language in Rev.6:15-16. Give details.** the last 3 ½ day period of tribulation. Revelation 6—leaders of the world will flee to the mountains….wrath of the Lamb
5. **What is the “fall of Babylon?”** The fall of the Babylonian empire.
	1. **The Bible talks about the destruction of Babylon. What is the difference between the destruction and the fall?**

Intro…Assyria was a brutal empire—barbaric, who reigned for 700 years. They captured northern Israel, and that threat terrified Judah. Isaiah told them that Assyria would not conquer them. At the time Isaiah wrote, Babylon (722 B. C.) was not a big empire, and didn’t surface until Nebuchadnezzar conquered Carchemish in 602 B. C. Isaiah’s language went far beyond his present day. Ancient Babylon at its peak; Babylon was large, cut in half by the river Euphrates…had double walls, Herodias tells us that the walls were 350 feet high, 87 feet thick; they used to race chariots, six abreast, across the top of the wall. It had 250 towers, the tower of Baal….palace of Neb. had a courtyard 250 feet square, throne room of Neb. 165 feet X 145 wide. Genesis 10, first world dictator, probably a black man, founded Babel….Babylon…city of man….city of Satan. Genesis 14, Jerusalem starts, Melchizedek appears there. ***A tale of two cities—City of Babel/Babylon, man against the City of God, Jerusalem.*** Both start in Genesis and climax in Revelation…..scripture uses these two cities antithetical to each other. Babylon was a city/state of Assyria; Neb. becomes head with his father, who comes from the modern country of Kuwait….Neb. and his father come from Kuwait, Mohammed comes from the same place, also Sadam Hussein. Neb. is an excellent general, and conquers the Egyptians, the Battle of Carchemish, 605 B.C., and establishes Babylon as a world leader by defeating Pharaoh Neco in this battle…..He also defeats Assyria. Jeremiah and Ezekiel also told Judah that God was going to defeat them, too, just like the northern kingdom. The reason He judges them, among them, they did not keep the Sabbath of the land (490 years, God said you owe me 70. Neb. inherits his father’s throne when he dies; he puts Jehoiakim as a vassal king in Jerusalem and takes hostage the best and brightest to go back to Babylon to serve in his court….he takes Daniel at this time. Ezekiel was also taken captive to Neb. This is when Neb. has his famous dream, and calls for someone to tell his dream and interpretation. (Daniel 2). Daniel 2 gives an overview of Gentile history and chapter 7…….with Neb’s dream. Chapter 4 of Daniel, written by a Gentile king, Neb. The Persians took over Babylon without a fight because of the canals being lowered by the Persians, by captain Ugabaru, the captain and Cyrus the King, who was presented Isaiah 44-45. Daniel presents the scroll. Ezekiel 4, God says that there will 430 years of judgment on Israel, 70 years by Neb., Lev. 26, if you don’t obey me, I will punish you times 7…..Ezekiel and Jeremiah try to tell Judah that Neb. is a vassal of punishment. Jehoiakim replaced by Zedikiah, and he rebels the second time, and then Neb. destroys Jerusalem (the third siege of Jerusalem.) The Book of Daniel lays out the history of Babylon and Mede/Persian Empire.

* 1. **What is “Servitude of the nation**?”—70 years—starts with the first siege of Neb. "Now lie on your left side and place the sins of Israel on yourself. You are to bear their sins for the number of days you lie there on your side. You will bear Israel's sins for 390 days - one day for each year of their sin. After that, turn over and lie on your right side for 40 days - one day for each year of Judah's sin." **Ezekiel 4:4-6**. According to this passage, the people of Israel would not be free until this period of punishment passed. This time is known as the **"Servitude of the Nation," and the time allotted by God is 430 years.**
	2. **What is the “Desolations of Jerusalem**?”—70 years, predicted by Jeremiah—Ezekiel and Jeremiah said, “If you don’t obey me, I will multiply your punishment by 7 times) —360 years times 7 equals 2520 years. 430 – 70 …..2520 years times by 360 days is 907, 200 days…..divided by 365, Julian calendar, 2483 years, 9 mos., 21 days…..start counting…with the servitude of the nations…May 14, 1948 becomes Israel became a nation—Ezekiel predicts. From desolations of the nation—the retaking of Jerusalem-- June 7, 1967
1. **Why does Isaiah declare his lineage here?**
2. **In verse 2, is this God speaking? Why is He so angry? Who are the sanctified ones and mighty ones?**
	1. **What is about to happen here?**
3. **In verse 4, what is the “tumultuous noise of kingdoms of nations?”**
	1. **The first siege of Nebuchadnezzar starts “The Servitude of the Nations,” where the nation of Israel is enslaved to Babylon for 70 years. Describe.**
	2. “The LORD of hosts musters the army for battle**.” Discuss the “end times” and ‘local times’ implications of this.** This is an army of judgment against the Babylonian Empire, prophesied decades before they were even a superpower. This powerful army is described vividly, with sights and sounds of battle presented.
4. **In verse 5, is this battle from God? What are God’s weapons?**
	1. **In verse 6, what is “the day of the Lord?”** that’s Armageddon, the future,

This has not been fulfilled yet. This is at the end of times

* 1. **Could this describe Babylon’s fall to the Mede/Persians?**
		1. **Explain, “**They will be amazed at one another.” When Babylon fell suddenly by a clever, surprise attack by Cyrus, the citizens of the city were completely shocked (Daniel 5).
1. **Is Babylon being rebuilt? How will this “play out?”**
2. **What is the destruction of the Almighty?**
3. **What does the “woman in travail” mean? Compare Matthew 24:19, I Thess. 5:3.**
4. **Discuss verse 6’s “The Day of the Lord.”** A. The day of the LORD comes: Isaiah now speaks in the “prophetic tense,” having in mind both a *near* fulfillment (the day of judgment against the Babylonian Empire), and an *ultimate* fulfillment (the final day of judgment at the return of Jesus). The day of the LORD is an important phrase, used some 26 times in the Bible. It speaks of not a single day of judgment, but of the season of judgment when the LORD sets things right. It is as if today is man’s day, but the LORD’s day is coming
5. **What does “destroy the sinners out of it” in verse 9. Refer to Rev. 6-19**—wrath of the Lamb
6. **Parallel verses 10-13 to Revelation 6:13 and Revelation 12:4. Has this scene happened so far? No,** 6th seal of Revelation—4th trumpet—Stars, sun and moon darkened
	1. **Compare verse 10 with Joel 2:10, Revelation 6:12-14, Isaiah 34:4, and Matthew 24:29.** The stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened: Several prophetic passages describe the cosmic disturbances that will precede and surround the return of Jesus ([Joel 2:10](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Joel+2:10&t1=en_nas), [Revelation 6:12-14](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+6:12-14&t1=en_nas), [Isaiah 34:4](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+34:4&t1=en_nas)). In fact, Jesus was probably quoting or paraphrasing this passage from Isaiah in [Matthew 24:29](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Matthew+24:29&t1=en_nas) : *Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*
7. **When does the language change to “punish the whole world?” See verse 11. The world is punished, the wicked, not the church……the church is raptured.**
8. **Discuss “the haughtiness of the terrible.”** Trumpet judgments 1/3 of earth destroyed
9. **Is the very existence of man being threatened?**
10. **In verse 13, “shake the heaven” and “the earth moves” sounds like Rev. 6:12 and Rev. 16:17-19. See also Haggai 2:6 and Hebrews 12:25-28. Some of this reverts back to the local scene.** . Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place: [Haggai 2:6](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Haggai+2:6&t1=en_nas) and [Hebrews 12:25-28](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Hebrews+12:25-28&t1=en_nas) echo this same thought. Since God can shake the heavens and move the earth, and since God Himself is unshakable, it makes a lot more sense to trust in God than even the ground we stand on and the air we breathe…the earth used to be on a 360 day orbit. Earth now tipped at 23 1/3 degree now.
11. **In verse 14, modern translations say, “They’ll be like hunted gazelle and like sheep with no one to gather them; everyone will return to his own people and flee to his own land.” Discuss the ‘near term’ and ‘far off’ implications of this prophecy.** Of course, the local translation is that the Babylonians will flee the Medes and the Persians, but, the ‘far off’ prophecy seems to imply that some are ‘gathered to their own people,’ perhaps hinting at the **rapture.** —some sheep taken up, some left….rapture. This seems to be a “near reference”,
	1. **Compare verse 14 to Psalm 137:8-9, for the Babylonian invasion.**
12. **Why are the Medes mentioned in verse 17? This is still future….tribulation period….who are the Medes**? Western horn of Ilam, Persia, eastern Iraq…the Kurds….this is the local prophesy against the Kingdom of the Babylon. When Isaiah is prophesying, the Medes are nomadic tribes, not a nation yet. Daniel 7—Balshazzar’s party brings the end of Babylon to the Mede/Persians. At this time, the Medes were a small tribe when Isaiah prophesied this.
	1. **Notice the plural—Medes and Persians. Why does God use these nations?**
13. **In verse 18, what are “bows?”**—launchers and missiles
14. **In verse 19, what happens to Babylon?** This is a literal city; this is in Iraq, a literal city. Judgment on Babylon…..
15. **Describe Genesis 18-19, Sodom and Gomorrah. Discuss God’s parallel with those cities and verse 19.**
16. **In verse 20, why is Babylon never inhabited again?** Where is Arabia? Why are they mentioned here? It has never been totally desolate; it has always been partially inhabited
17. **Contemplate the meaning of the wild animals mentioned in verse 21, also 34:14.**
	1. **Compare the “he-goats” with demons or satyrs; see Isaiah Leviticus 17:7 and 2 Chronicles 11:15.**
	2. **Why ostriches? Owls, Isaiah 34:11? See Job 39:13 and Lamentations 4:3.** According to Job 39:13 and Lamentations 4:3, a rather careless, large bird who lays eggs on the ground, unprotected.
18. **Sum up God’s chastisements for Assyria, Babylon and ultimately Mede/Persia as described in Isaiah 13**. **What lesson is there for us today?** Calvin notes: “Whenever therefore we behold the destruction of cities, the calamities of nations, and the overturning of kingdoms, let us call those predictions to remembrance that we may be humbled under God’s chastisements, may learn to gather wisdom from the affliction of others, and may pray for an alleviation of our own grief.”

**Chapters 14—the fall of Babylon and Lucifer**

1. **In Verse 1, why are Jacob and Israel named together?** [Isaiah 14:1-2](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+14:1-2&t1=en_nas)—Judgment on Babylon means mercy on Israel. They are now united, no longer separate
	1. **Who are the strangers?** Gentiles, us.
2. **Where is Jacob’s own land? Review the blessing of Jacob/wrestling with the Lord in Genesis 32:22-31.**
3. **Who are the sojourners?**
4. **In verse 3, when is the “day of the Lord?”**
	1. **What is the proverb against the King of Babylon? Local and future?**
	2. **Who is the “House of Jacob?” What will they do?**
	3. **Explain God “giving rest.” Check Matthew 11:28. This** rest is the birthright of every believer in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* ([Matthew 11:28](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Matthew+11:28&t1=en_nas))
5. **In verse 4, why the reference to “gold?” See Daniel 5:30,** where Belshazzar was using the golden utensils stolen from the tabernacle at his last party before the Medes and Persians took over Babylon.
	1. **See as reference Revelation 18:16…**she lived extravagantly.
6. **Who are the captives and the oppressors?**
7. **When is “in that day?”**
8. **Discuss the poetic comfort in this section, up to verse 8. In Rev. 14, the angel announces, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen.”**
9. **In verse 8, why are even the trees rejoicing?** Even the trees rejoice over the fall of the king of Babylon. This is true of the king of literal Babylon, because the attacking kings cut down thousands of trees for both fuel and lumber, leaving Israel and Lebanon deforested. “Since the twelfth century B.C. the kings of Mesopotamia had imported lumber from Lebanon. Nebuchadnezzar used large supplies of such choice timers in his extensive building efforts in Babylon after 605 B.C.”
10. **Remind yourself of the purpose of the earth’s restoration. Review Romans 8:21.** The trees also rejoice at the fall of the king of spiritual Babylon, because *the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.* ([Romans 8:21](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Romans+8:21&t1=en_nas))
11. **In verse 9, the shift to the future happens. Discuss.**
	1. **Who are being “raised up?”**
	2. **Who are the people in Sheol?**
12. **Does Daniel 10 show the spiritual battle that surrounds us? Read Daniel 10:12-20. Are these demons? Fallen angels?**
13. **What is the discussion that is happening down in Sheol in verses 9-11? Is this referring to an earthly prince or the devil?**
	1. **Who is** **Gabriel and what is his purpose?**—Messianic
	2. **Who is Michael and what is his purpose**?—warrior, fighting on behalf of Israel
14. **Re-visit Jeremiah 50-51.**
	1. **Who speaks against Babylon?**
	2. **What nations are coming “Out of the north””verse 41—Soviet Union--future**
		1. **An assembly of great nations from the North Country will come—discuss.**
	3. **Is the destruction of Babylon, which is mentioned, literal?**
	4. **Who is the “redeemer” in Verse 34?**
	5. **Examine the wild beasts mentioned in Verse 39.**
	6. **Why are Sodom and Gomorrah mentioned?**
	7. **What is the “vengeance of the Lord” in verse 11?**
15. **Review Revelation 17-19. Compare with Isaiah 13-14.—mystery Babylon, a great harlot…..discuss**:
	1. **Babylon, the city, root of pagan Rome—the mother of all false religions**
	2. **Verse 3—woman on the beast**
	3. **Golden cup—just like Jeremiah**
	4. **Verse 5—name written on her head**
	5. **Why would John wonder who this woman is? There is an amazing link with mystery Babylon and all idol worshipers.**
	6. **Mystery Babylon—2 Thess. 2:4—is the whole religious system of the earth**
	7. **This is global, and not just local**
	8. **Zechariah 5:5-10—strange little vision which seems to reconcile the globalness of Revelation to the localness in Jeremiah’s and Isaiah’s localness…ephah was the largest dry, commercial measure—commercial and weight measure, sealed a woman in this jar, wicked…..could this be Rome, the harlot of Rev.17-18, and moved to Babylon….Zechariah is a Jewish priest, O. T., a stork is an “unclean bird,” these are two unclean, sinister picture.**
		1. **Why carried to Shinar?** Synonym of Babylon, on Euphrates river
16. **From Verses 9-12, Isaiah begins a description of Sheol. Discuss some of the images.**
17. **If the King of Babylon has died, has he gone to Hades? Who is he talking with in Sheol?** [***Isaiah 14:9-11***](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+14:9-11&t1=en_nas)***—Hell receives the fallen king of Babylon.*** Hell from beneath is excited about you: Hell itself is excited to meet the king of Babylon, because it can’t wait to be the place where the one who tortured so many is tortured himself. This was true both for the king of literal Babylon, and the king of spiritual Babylon.
18. **Does Verse 11 imply that Satan was musical**? **See Ezekiel 28:13.** And the sound of your stringed instruments: Before his fall, Satan was associated with music in heaven. [Ezekiel 28:13](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Ezekiel+28:13&t1=en_nas) says of Satan before his fall, *the workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created*. Apparently, the musical career of Satan did not end with his fall, because the sound of his stringed instruments is only brought down when he is imprisoned in hell.
19. **Verse 11 hints at the “non burial” of the king**. **How was that considered an abomination in this ancient culture? Speak to the habits of a king’s burial.** The corpse of the king of Babylon would be thrown out like a rejected branch (*neser*). What a contrast to the Branch from the stump of Jesse that would bear abundant fruit! ([Isaiah 11:1](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+11:1&t1=en_nas))”

***The Fall of Lucifer…Isaiah 14:12-15, Revelation 12, Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14***

1. **Read verses 12-17, and take note of the realities of the spiritual world manifested. Note the language shift.**
2. **Describe Satan’s fall from heaven, verse 12.** This is his 4th fall. **How does this link with Genesis 3? Serpent, Hebrew, “The shining one.”**
	1. **Review the four falls of Satan.** Fallen from heaven: In fact there are four falls of Satan, and this refers to his final, fourth fall.
		1. **Read** [**Ezekiel 28:14-16**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Ezekiel+28:14-16&t1=en_nas) **and Luke 10:18.** Satan fell from glorified to profane This is what Jesus spoke of in [Luke 10:18](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Luke+10:18&t1=en_nas) when He says He *saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven*. This is the only fall of Satan that has already happened.
		2. **See** [**Job 1:12**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Job+1:12&t1=en_nas)**,** [**1 Kings 22:21**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Kings+22:21&t1=en_nas)**,** [**Zechariah 3:1**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Zechariah+3:1&t1=en_nas)**, and Revelation 12:9.** Satan will fall from having access to heaven to restriction on the earth**.**
		3. **Refer to Revelation 20:1-3.** Satan will fall from his place on the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.
		4. **Finally, as mentioned here in** [**Isaiah 14:12**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+14:12&t1=en_nas) **and Revelation 20:10.** Satan will fall from the bottomless pit to the lake of fire, which we commonly known as *hell*.
3. **The “Son of the Morning” reference is disclosed in Genesis 3, with the word “serpent,” the shining one. Explain.** How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! Here, the prophet identifies the king of Babylon as Lucifer, son of the morning. Some debate if Lucifer is a *name* or a *title*; the word means *morning star* or *day star*, referring to a brightly shining object in the heavens. Whether it is a title or a name makes little difference; this once brightly shining king of Babylon is now fallen from heaven.
	1. Describe “Son of the morning.” This is a title of glory, beauty, and honor, which fit Lucifer well before his fall. The morning is glorious, and in Hebrew thinking, the son of “x” is characterized by “x.” So, before his fall, Lucifer was characterized by the glory of the morning**.**
	2. **In Revelation 22:16, Jesus Himself is called the *Bright and Morning Star*. Compare and contrast to Satan’s title.**
	3. **See 2 Corinthians 11:14, and note Paul’s description of Satan**. Though a created being, had some of these glorious qualities in himself. No wonder that *Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light* ([2 Corinthians 11:14](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Corinthians+11:14&t1=en_nas)), deceiving many with his apparent glory, beauty, and goodness.
4. **What did Satan say in his heart, according to verses 13-14?**
	1. **What are the five “I WILL” statements? Lucifer fell prior to Genesis three. These are progressive statements that get more and more high in exalting Himself! Same lie that Satan told Adam and Eve in the garden……they could be like God.**
	2. **I will ascend into heaven.**
	3. **I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.**
		1. **Who are the “stars?”**
	4. **I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north…sides of the north are the limits of the whole earth, east to west—how long can you travel eastward—forever.**
	5. **I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.**
	6. **I will be like the Most High.**
	7. **What is the outcome of Satan because of his unholy desires? See verse 15,** [**Ezekiel 28:12**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Ezekiel+28:12&t1=en_nas) **and** [**Ezekiel 28:14**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Ezekiel+28:14&t1=en_nas).
	8. **How do people react to Satan’s fall?**
	9. **How does his pride end?**
5. **Where did sin begin**? In the heart of Lucifer…the root of sin was his pride. God hates most—pride or ego. **Isaiah 14, “I will’s.” Satan used the same deception against Eve and Adam.**
6. **In verse 16, how does Isaiah show the “narrowness” of Satan? Is he bringing down the limits of Satan to nothing?**
7. **Look at Ezekiel 28 and discuss about the King of Tyre. but from verse 11 on, it changes.**
	1. **When does Ezekiel shift gears to start talking about the devil?**
	2. **Where was Eden in verse 13?**
	3. **What was his description in verse 13?**
	4. **According to verse 14, was he in front of God?**
	5. **Where do the stones show up elsewhere?**  Priests breastplate, Revelation
	6. **What does God say about “exalting yourself?**” **Refer to.** [**1 Peter 5:6**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Peter+5:6&t1=en_nas) expresses the true path to being exalted: *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time*. ..and [Mark 9:35](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Mark+9:35&t1=en_nas), Jesus said *If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.*
	7. **Was Lucifer a musician? See Ezekiel 28:11-19.** The workmanship of thy timbrels and thy flutes.
	8. **Apply John 1:3 to this portion. Why is it important to recognize Satan as a created being?**.…..”in Him were all things made,” tells that Jesus made him, because he made everything—devil is a created being
	9. **What is a cherub? Four that surround the throne of God who announce God’s holiness, and Satan—he seems to have been in charge (that covereth)**

**See Genesis 3:22-24, Ezekiel 10:9-16, 11:22-23.**

* + 1. **Did God fly on a cherub? Examine 2 Samuel 22:11, and Psalm 18:10.**
	1. **Was Satan created? Refer to Ezekiel 28:15. Why is that important?** Thou wast perfect—created; **Refer also to Revelation 12:3-4.**
	2. **Why did Lucifer rebel?**  Perhaps because he rejected God’s plan to create a man in His image….**See** [**Genesis 1:26**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+1:26&t1=en_nas)**,** who would be beneath the angels in dignity[**Hebrews 2:6-7**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Hebrews+2:6-7&t1=en_nas) **a;** [**2 Peter 2:11**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Peter+2:11&t1=en_nas)**,** yet would be served by angels in the present[**Hebrews 1:14**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Hebrews+1:14&t1=en_nas)**;** [**Heb 2:7-8**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Heb+2:7-8&t1=en_nas)**;** [**Psalms 91:11-12**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Psalms+91:11-12&t1=en_nas)**,** and would one day be lifted in honor and status above the angels [**1 Corinthians 6:3**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Corinthians+6:3&t1=en_nas)**;** [**1 John 3:2**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20John+3:2&t1=en_nas)**,** Satan wanted to be the highest among all creatures, equal to God in glory and honor, and the plan to create man would eventually put men above angels. He was apparently able to persuade one-third of the angelic beings to join him in his rebellion[**Revelation 12:3-4**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+12:3-4&t1=en_nas)**;** [**Revelation 12:7**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Rev+12:7&t1=en_nas)**, and** [**Revelation 12:9**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+12:9&t1=en_nas)**.**
	3. **See Daniel chapter 10. Discuss the implications of the spiritual battles described here.**
	4. **See also Jude 8-9.** This reference is about not speaking evil of dignitaries….the allusion. Michael did not bring accusations against the devil….let the Lord deal with that.
	5. **Describe humans’ two gigantic errors concerning Satan.**
		1. **Ignoring him. See I Peter 5:8.** (the devil, a roaring lion)
		2. **Over-react and tremble about him, so that you see him behind every tree. Elaborate.**
		3. **Read I John 4: 4 and comment.** “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them because …..greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”
		4. **See also Ephesians 6:10-14,** “put on the whole armor of God.
	6. **Compare Isaiah 59:17 with Ephesians 6. Is Paul quoting Isaiah?**
1. **Describe the concept in verses in 18-23**. The amazing and bloody destruction of Babylon.
2. **In verse 18, how many kings?**
3. **Who is the “Abominable Branch?” Contrast the “branch” of Isaiah 11.**
	1. **Colossians 1:13 tells us that there is a Kingdom of darkness. Elaborate?**
4. **Babylon is destroyed in verses 22-23. Why?** This goes back to the local prophecy, where Babylon is destroyed.
5. **In verses 24-27, is Assyria destroyed?**
	1. **Who is Assyria?** An ancient kingdom of N Mesopotamia: it established an empire that stretched from Egypt to the Persian Gulf, reaching its greatest extent between 721 and 633 B.C. Its chief cities were Assur and Nineveh
	2. **Did God purpose this? Why? See verse 24**. No one can stop God. Trust what He says.
6. **In verses 25-26, who is the Assyrian? Could this be the empire? Could this be the antichrist, a distinct individual?** This is the end times. Note “the whole earth.” This is the end times anti-Christ. A title of the global leader.
7. **In verse 27, who can stop God’s purpose?**
8. **The final verses, 28-32, discuss Philistia. Who is this?** Palestine
	1. **Discuss their destruction.**
		1. **In verse 29, contrast the “root of the serpent” to the “root of Jesse?”**
		2. **What is the “fiery flying serpent” in verse 29? Refer to Isaiah 30:6, Deut. 8:15, Numbers 21:6-8. Could these be nephilim creatures or “dragon-like?”**
		3. **Is Philistia modern-day Palestine?** The name “Palestine” is a Latin name from the name Philistia.
		4. **What is Zion?** Sunny; height, one of the eminences on which Jerusalem was built. It was surrounded on all sides, except the north, by deep valleys, that of the Tyropoeon (q.v.) separating it from Moriah (q.v.), which it surpasses in height by 105 feet. It was the south-eastern hill of Jerusalem.
			1. **Examine when David took it from the Jebusites in** [**Joshua 15:63**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/joshua/15-63.html) **and** [**2**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/joshua/2.html) **Sam.** [**5:7**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/joshua/5-7.html)**.**
			2. **Review “The city of David” in** [**1 Kings 8:1**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/8-1.html)**,** [**2**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/2.html) **Kings 14:20, [1 Kings 19:21](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/19-21.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**,  **1 Kings 19:31, and** [**1 Chronicles 11:5**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-chronicles/11-5.html)**.**
			3. **In the later books of the Old Testament this name was sometimes used, as in** [**Psalms 87:2**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/87-2.html)**,** [**149:2**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/149-2.html)**,** [**Isaiah 33:14**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/33-14.html)**, and** [**Joel 2:1**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/joel/2-1.html)**, to denote Jerusalem in general, and sometimes God’s chosen Israel, also in** [**Psalms 51:18**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/51-18.html) **and** [**87:5**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/87-5.html)**.**
			4. **See Hebrews 12:22**. In the New Testament (see [SION](http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/eastons-bible-dictionary/sion.html)) it is used sometimes to denote the Church of God ([Hebrews 12:22](http://www.biblestudytools.com/hebrews/12-22.html) ), and sometimes the heavenly city…**and** [**Revelation 14:1**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/revelation/14-1.html)**.**
9. **Summarize the content of Isaiah 13-14.**

***The promises….***

**Isaiah 46:9-10, “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is no one like Me. Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times the things that are not yet done, Saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”**

**Psalm 121:4, “Behold he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.”**

# *Prophecy Fulfilled: Israel Becomes a Nation In 1948* Prior to 1948, Israel last existed as an independent nation in 606 B.C. when the first captives of Israel were taken by Nebuchadnezzar. The destruction of Israel at the hands of the Babylonians was completed in 587 B.C. with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. For 70 biblical years (approximately 69 years on the Gregorian calendar), the Jewish people were held as captives in Babylon. In 537 B.C., the Persian King Cyrus conquered Babylon and issued a decree for the Jews to return to their land and rebuild the Temple. It was during the Babylonian captivity and this return to Israel that Ezekiel appeared as a prophet and provided the following information on the future existence of Israel as an independent nation: "Now lie on your left side and place the sins of Israel on yourself. You are to bear their sins for the number of days you lie there on your side. You will bear Israel's sins for 390 days - one day for each year of their sin. After that, turn over and lie on your right side for 40 days - one day for each year of Judah's sin." Ezekiel 4:4-6 ([NLT](http://www.end-times-bible-prophecy.com/new-living-translation.html)) According to this passage, the people of Israel would not be free until this period of punishment passed. This time is known as the "Servitude of the Nation," and the time allotted by God is 430 years.

**However, 70 years of atonement for Israel's sin had already been served during the Babylonian captivity, so only 360 years of punishment remained. The Jews who returned to Israel in 537 B.C. refused to repent of their sins as Ezekiel warned. As a result, Israel continued to be ruled by foreign powers: the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans. In A.D. 70, Titus and the Roman legions destroyed the Temple and scattered the Jewish people as slaves among the various provinces of the Roman Empire. The year 176 B.C. had come and gone, yet Israel never emerged as an independent nation. So what happened? Was the Bible wrong? Did God change his mind? Absolutely not.**

**Several earlier Old Testament passages shed light on this mystery. In the Book of Leviticus, they reveal that if, upon their return to the land of Israel, the people refused to obey God, he would increase their punishments seven-fold. This is repeated several times:**

**"And if in spite of this, you still disobey me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over." Leviticus 26:18 (**[**NLT**](http://www.end-times-bible-prophecy.com/new-living-translation.html)**)**

**"If even then you remain hostile toward me and refuse to obey, I will inflict you with seven more disasters for your sins." Leviticus 26:21 (**[**NLT**](http://www.end-times-bible-prophecy.com/new-living-translation.html)**)**

**"And if you fail to learn a lesson from this and continue your hostility toward me, then I myself will be hostile toward you, and I will personally strike you seven times over for your sins." Levticus 26:23-24 (**[**NLT**](http://www.end-times-bible-prophecy.com/new-living-translation.html)**)**

**"If after this you still refuse to listen and still remain hostile toward me, then I will give full vent to my hostility. I will punish you seven times over for your sins." Leviticus 26:27-28(**[**NLT**](http://www.end-times-bible-prophecy.com/new-living-translation.html)**)**

**In the year 537 B.C., 360 years of punishment remained on God's timetable. However, when the people of Israel refused to repent of their sins, this punishment was multiplied seven-fold from 360 years to 2,520 years. 360 days comprise a biblical year, so the allotted time equaled 907,200 days. However, in modern times, we don't use the Jewish calendar, but rather the Gregorian calendar which has 365.2425 days in a year. If the 907,200 days are divided by 365.2425, we get approximately 2,483.8292 years. Historians have established that Cyrus the Persian issued his proclamation to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem sometime in the first half of the year 537 B.C. We don't know the exact day of the proclamation, but the Bible reveals that it had to be prior to the seventh month on the Jewish calendar because in that month, "the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled together as one person in Jerusalem." Ezra 3:1 (**[**NLT**](http://www.end-times-bible-prophecy.com/new-living-translation.html)**) Without an exact starting date, it's more accurate to count backward 907,200 days from the day of Israel's restoration. Israel declared its status as an independent nation on May 14, 1948. The**[**following online calendar conversion tool**](http://www.abdicate.net/cal.aspx)**is available for counting days as well as converting between the Gregorian calendar and the Jewish calendar.**

## [Calendar Conversion Tool](http://www.abdicate.net/cal.aspx)--Subtracting 907,200 days from the Gregorian date of May 14, 1948, the calculator reveals a date of July 15, 537 B.C.

**Gregorian calendar: A.D. 14 May 1948
Jewish calendar: 5 Iyyar 5708**

**-907,200 days (360 days x 2,520 years)**

**Gregorian calendar: 15 July 537 B.C.
Jewish calendar: 15 Av 3224**

**Does this reconcile with the Biblical statement that the Jews had resettled in Jerusalem in the seventh month of 537 B.C.? The equivalent date on the Jewish calendar is 15 Av 3224 - the fifteenth day of the fifth month. Since approximately 900 miles separate Babylon and Jerusalem (the geographical distance is less, but the ancient travel route is estimated at 900 miles), and ancient caravans rarely traveled more than 20 miles per day, this date doesn't seem to contradict the biblical account. The Jews would have had only 74 days to make their trip. Accounting for the Sabbath day of rest that leaves approximately 63 actual travel days to reach Jerusalem before the end of the seventh month. To cover 900 miles in that time, they needed to average 14.29 miles/per day, 6 days per week - a task well within reach.**

**It also seems highly likely that Cyrus made his proclamation in this part of the year, because the Jewish holiday Tisha B'Av, a three week fast commemorating the destruction of the Temple 50 years earlier ends on the 9th of Av. 9 Av 537 B.C. was within a one week of the 50th anniversary of the Temple's destruction, a fitting time for a king's proclamation to rebuild it.**

**Although July 15, 537 B.C. cannot be verified by outside sources as the exact day of Cyrus's proclamation, we do know that 537 B.C. was the year in which he made it. As such, we can know for certain that the Bible, in one of the most remarkable prophecies in history, accurately foresaw the year of Israel's restoration as an independent nation some two thousand five hundred years before the event occurred.**

|  |
| --- |
| Ezekiel's 430 Days***by Chuck Missler*** |

**Prophetic Simile**

**The Prophet Ezekiel was called upon to undertake a number of strange performances, one of which was to lie on his side for a total of 430 days.** [**1**](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/#notes) **Each day was expressly to represent a year of judgment against the nation.**

**A number of commentators acknowledge a difficulty which appears when one attempts to apply this specifically to Israel's history. Seventy of the years would seem to be accounted for in the Babylonian Captivity, but that leaves 360 years (430 minus 70) unaccounted for.** [**2**](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/#notes) **The 360 years do not seem to fit any period of their history.**

**Leviticus 26**

**It has been suggested by some that there might be a clue in Leviticus 26, where God indicates that: ...if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. -Leviticus 26:18 (In fact, this commitment is reiterated four times in that chapter for emphasis.**[**3**](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/#notes) **)**

**It has been suggested that multiplying the "problem" 360 years by seven yields 2520 years, which is "approximately" the duration of time from the exile through the Diaspora. This seemed rather contrived. Furthermore, it had bothered me since I never like to use the term "approximately" and "God" in the same sentence! I felt that if it was meant to fit, it would fit precisely.**

**Calendar Reconciliation**

**Sir Robert Anderson, in his classic work “The Coming Prince,”**[**4**](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/#notes) **noted that the Bible uses 360-day years in both Genesis and Revelation.**[**5**](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/#notes) **However, I noticed that no one seemed to try to apply this insight to the 2520 years potentially suggested in Ezekiel Chapter 4.**

**In attempting to reconcile the 2520 360-day years to our Roman calendar, one is faced with the discrepancies between the sidereal year and the solar year. (The Julian year is 11 minutes and 10.46 seconds longer than the mean solar year.)**

**In 1572, it was recognized that errors had accumulated to 11 days too many, and adjustments were required. In the Gregorian Reform, September 4th was declared September 14th, and the formula for leap years was changed to exclude centuries unless divisible by four (and millennia by 400). Thus, 2520 360-day years contain 907,200 days, which are accounted for on our current calendar as 2483 years, 9 months and 21 days:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2483 x 365** | **=** | **906,295 days** |
| **9 months x 30** | **=** | **270** |
| **21 days** |  | **21** |
| **Leap Years - 2483/4** | **=** | **621** |
|  |  | **-18** [**6**](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/#notes) |
|  |  | **+11** [**7**](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/#notes) |
|  |  | **614** |
| **2520 x 360** | **=** | **907,200 days** |

**Another problem occurs when we examine more closely the "Babylonian Captivity." There are two different periods that are candidates: "the Servitude of the Nation," and the "Desolations of Jerusalem." Each of these was prophesied to be seventy years in duration and many assume they are synonymous of each other; however, they are not.**

**There were actually three sieges of Nebuchadnezzar upon Jerusalem. The first siege began the "Servitude of the Nation" and was prophesied to last 70 years. (And it did, to the very day.**[**8**](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/#notes) **When Cyrus conquered Babylon he encountered the amazing letter written to him by Isaiah a century and a half earlier, which addressed him by name, highlighted his meteoric career, and predicted that he would free the captives. His astonishment resulted in his releasing the Hebrew captives to return to Judea to rebuild their temple.)**

**The vassal king that Nebuchadnezzar left later rebelled; a second siege resulted in his uncle, Zedekiah, being appointed to the throne. The prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel both went on to warn that if they persisted in rebelling against Nebuchadnezzar the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed. Yet Zedekiah ultimately yielded to the false prophets and rebelled.**

**A third siege resulted in the destruction and desolation of the city of Jerusalem. The "Desolations of Jerusalem" also lasted 70 years, until Nehemiah ultimately succeeded in getting the authority to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. This, too, was precisely 70 years. To which of these two periods should we apply the 2520 years?**

**The 70 years of servitude, to be consistent, should be reckoned as 25,200 days, or two days short of 69 years on our Roman calendar. The first siege of Nebuchadnezzar, in 606 B.C., began the "Servitude of the Nation," which lasted until the summer of 537 B.C. If July 23, 537 B.C. was the time of their release:**

**-537y 7m 23d
+1 (no year "0")
2483y 9m 21d**

**1948 5 14**

**On May 14, 1948, the nation Israel was reestablished on the world scene. A remarkable coincidence!! Isaiah appears to have highlighted this very restoration: And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. -Isaiah 11:11, 12. Yet, there is another alternative application of the 2520 years: The "Desolations of Jerusalem."**

**The third siege of Nebuchadnezzar, in 587 B.C., began the "Desolations of Jerusalem," which lasted until 518 B.C. If August 16, 518 B.C. was the completion of the walls of Jerusalem, then: -518y 8m 16d +1 (no year "0")2483y 9m 21d 1967 6 7…..On June 7, 1967, as a result of the Six Day War, the Biblical city of Old Jerusalem was restored to the nation. Another remarkable coincidence! It should be borne in mind that the "starting" dates are not known precisely to the day. More research needs to be done. But this certainly seems provocative enough to ponder. Whence Jerusalem? Zechariah predicted that the day would come when the entire world would be against Jerusalem, and that it would prove intractable to resolution. Even as this goes to press, a climax is in the making. Yasser Arafat has announced that Jerusalem will be the declared capital of a Palestinian State on September 13th of this year. Ehud Barak has indicated that he would annex the "West Bank." President Clinton had called for a meeting at Camp David in the hopes of bringing this to a "permanent resolution." In fact, the enforcement of a seven-year covenant, by a coming world leader, is the very definition of the "Seventieth Week" of Daniel.**[**10**](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/276/#notes)