

Wednesday, August 9, 2023 • Read Isaiah 13–14

Questions from the Scripture text: What does 13:1 call this word? Against whom is this burden? Who saw it? What does v2 say to do to the invading army? What does v3 call them? How does v4 describe them? What are they (v5)? Why do they come to earth? What day is this (v6)? What effect will this have upon whom (v7–8)? How does the day come (v9)? How much of creation is involved in this wrath (v10, 13–14b)? Why is this punishment coming (v11, cf. v19)? What result would such punishment have (v12)? How great is the devastation (v15–16)? Who will use whom in a day that anticipates this day (v17a)? What will they be like (v17b–18)? Why (v19)? Who won't inhabit Babylon (v20)? Who will (v21–22)? Why does this day (13:17–22) of YHWH, and the great day (13:2–16) of YHWH, come (14:1)? Upon whom will YHWH have mercy? Whom will He choose? Who will be grafted in? How will these strangers treat Israel (v2)? What will YHWH do for His people in a coming day (v3)? What will Judah (now united Israel) do in that day (v4)? What will they say happened to Babylon? Who will they say has done what to whom (v5)? What will have happened (v6)? With what result (v7)? What else will be "glad" for Babylon to be defeated (v8)? Why (v8c–d)? What further awaits Babylon (v9)? Who is there? What do they ask (v10)? What has brought them all down (v11a–b)? What envelops them now (v11c–d)? Who was the first to fall so (v12a–c)? Whom had he weakened (v12d)? How high was his pride (v13–14)? How low was his fall (v15)? What will others say about both Satan and Babylon (v16–17)? How will Babylon's fall be more like Satan's than other nations' (v18–21)? By Whom would/could this happen (v22–23b)? To what menial chore is this compared for Him (v23c)? Who else's destruction is an example of this work (v24–26)? What will Assyria's falling in this exact way show (v27)? In what year did this next burden come, even though it is placed here in the book (v28)? Against whom is it (v29, 31)? What has happened to David ("the rod that struck" Philistia, v29b)? How is Philistia tempted to respond (v29a)? But what will happen to Philistia anyway (v29c–31)? But who will have survivors (v32)? Why/how?

What does the Lord do in destroying Assyria? Isaiah 13–14 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these fifty-four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **in judging Assyria, YHWH would display His justice and salvation, which He does in a bigger way by judging Babylon, and in the ultimate way at the last day.**

An ultimate day of YHWH, 13:2–16. It seems odd that the burden would be against Babylon, when it is Assyria whose use in punishing Israel and whose own subsequent punishment have been prophesied (10:5ff). But Babylon will be a bigger historical preview of the great day of YHWH. That day (v6) will involve all of creation (v10, 13–14). YHWH will come with His holy ones (v3–5, cf. Rev 19:11–16), and all His enemies will be dismayed (v6–8, cf. Rev 6:15–17). The punishment will be utter and complete (v14c–16). More than that, it will be deserved (v11). It was at Babylon (Babel) that all of humanity made its purest expression of pride against God. The judgment at the last day will be a perfect justice against this. And now, even as the Lord prophesies the restoration/rescue of His people from Babylon, He gives Babylon itself and its destruction as a great warning against the pride of man!

A great day of YHWH, 13:17–22. With v17, the focus shifts back to the nearer future. The Medes (and Persians) will be YHWH's instrument for destroying Babylon (v17a). Their thirst for destruction (v17b–18) will make them an appropriate parallel to the judgment coming on the last day. Babylon's unique pride (v19) will make their great fall (v20–22) an appropriate parallel to the destruction of proud humanity in the last day.

YHWH's focus in history, 14:1–2. Why, then, does history even continue? And how can any humans be saved from their own pride? Yahweh has compassion on Jacob (the heel-grabber!), despite himself. And He has chosen to save him as Israel (God wrestles). Indeed, YHWH has chosen him to save strangers along with them (v1c, cf. Gen 12:3, 18:18, 22:17–18, 26:4). And the two will become a household with humbled Jacob as the head (v2). Only in Christ, as slaves in His house of love, is there salvation from the wrath of God.

The fate of all the others, v3–11. The rest of humanity, as represented in Babylon. Even the inanimate creation had suffered under him (v8d) and will rejoice over his elimination (v8a–c). But his fall does worse than elimination from this world. Hell itself is excited to receive him (v9), and the maggots and worms of v11 offer not the peace of elimination but the horror of perpetual gnawing (cf. 66:24; Mk 9:44, 46, 48). Even the idea of pleasure apart from the Lord (v11b) has made their pride (v11a) all the worse. The pride itself will be a Hell of torture.

The first great fall, v12–15. There was, however, one fall greater than Babylon's. Humanity has followed Lucifer, who "weakened the nations" (v12d). His pride was the template for all of ours (v13). It was he who said, "you will be like God" (v14, cf. Gen 3:5). Hell was originally prepared for him (v15, cf. Mt 25:41; Rev 19:20, 20:14).

The higher they fly, the lower they fall, v16–32. So, in time, the king of Babylon is like a little Lucifer, who flew so high and was destroyed so completely (v16–17). God makes his destruction uniquely wretched such that it is noticed as an example to all (v18–21). Lesser enemies would endure falls corresponding to them: Assyria (v24–27), Philistia (v28–32), and even Moab (ch. 16–17). Within Moab's burden, the hope of being gathered into Israel, and therefore unto YHWH, will be expanded upon. But here, Philistia, and Assyria, and Babylon have increasing pride and therefore increasing destruction.

The only hope, v22–23, 27, 32. At the close of each of these sections, YHWH gives a comment that distills the instruction of it. In v22–23, He proclaims His superiority; His rise that devastates Babylon is as effortless as sweeping a broom. Whatever He purposes shall come to stand (v24, 27). And His purpose has been to found Zion, to give refuge not to the proud of the nations but to the poor of His elect nation (v32). We are all doomed by our pride, except in the hope that is in the Lord's saving purpose! Is that your hope, dear reader? Or will you be sunk to Hell by the desire to be your own purpose, to live for your own pleasure, and according to your own principles?

How does remaining pride express itself in some of the purposes at which you are aiming with your life? How does remaining pride express itself in some of the pleasures for which you strive? How does remaining pride express itself in the Scripture principles of morality that you are willing to compromise? Who is your hope for forgiveness for this pride? Who is your hope for deliverance from it? How are you acting upon these hopes?

Sample prayer: Lord, like Lucifer and Babylon, our hearts are still riddled with wicked pride. We often aim for purposes other than You and strive for pleasures apart from You and live by principles in which we compromise Your commandments. Have mercy upon us in Your electing love for Jacob! Forgive us, for the sake of Christ, and the love in which You gave Him. And cleanse us by the power of Christ, applied to us by Your Spirit, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP98 "O Sing a New Song" or TPH299 "Joy to the World!"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Isaiah chapters 13 and 14. These are God's words. The burden against Babylon, which I said the son of amazon, Lift up a banner on the high mountain. Raise your voice to them, wave, your hand that they may enter the gates of the nobles. I have commanded my sanctified ones.

I have also called my mighty ones for my anger. Those who rejoice in my exaltation. The noise of a multitude in the mountains like that of many people. The tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of the nation's gathered together, you always have hosts musters army for battle. They come from a far country from the end of heaven.

Y'all play in this weapons of indignation, to destroy the whole land whale. For the day of yahweh, as a hand. It will come. As destruction from the almighty. Therefore, all hands will be limp or remains art will melt They will be afraid payings and sorrows will take hold of them.

There will be in pain as a woman and childbirth. There will be amazed at one another, their faces will be like flames. Behold the day of yahweh comes. Cruel with both wrath and fierce anger to lay the land desolate. He will destroy it. Sinners from it. For the stars of heaven, and their constellations will not give their light.

The sun will be darkened and it's going forth. The moon will not cause it's light to shine. I will punish the world. For its evil and the wicked for their iniquity. I will halt the arrogance of the proud and I will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, a man.

More than the golden wedge of a fear. Therefore, i will shake the heavens. And the earth will move out of her place. And the wrath of galway of hosts. And in the day, Of his fierce anger. It shall be as the hunted gazelle. And there's a sheep that no man takes up every man will turn to his own people.

Everyone will fleet and land everyone who is found will be thrust through and everyone who has captured will fall by the sword. Their children, also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes, their houses will be plumbed and their wives rabbit.

Behold. I will stir up the meads against them. Who will not regard silver and as for gold. They will not delight in it. Also, their bows will dash the young men to pieces. They will have no pity. On the fruit of the womb, their eye will not spare children.

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms. The beauty of the chaldeans pride. Will be as when god over through sodom and Gomorrah. That will never be inhabited. Nor will it be settled from generation to generation? Nor will the arabian pitch, tents there. Nor will the shepherds make their sheep folds there.

But while beasts of the desert will lie there, And their houses will be full of owls. Ostriches real problem. While goats will caper there. Hyenas. Well howl, their citadels And jackals and they're pleasant palaces. Her time is near to come. And her days will not be prolonged. Y'all may will have mercy on jacob.

And we'll still choose israel. And settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them. And they will cling to the house of jacob. And people will take them and bring them to their place. And the house of israel will possess them for servants and maids in the land of yahua.

They will take them captive, who's captives. They were And rule over there across ours. It will come to pass in the day. You always gives you rest from your sorrows. From your fear, a hard bondage. Which you were made to serve. That you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon and say, How the oppressor has ceased?

The golden city has ceased. You always has broken the staff of the wicked. The scepter of the rulers, he who struck the people in wrath of the continual stroke, he who ruled the nations of anger. Is persecuted and no one hinders the whole earth is at rest quiet. They break forth into singing.

Indeed, the cypress trees rejoice over you. Then the cedars of lebanon saying. Since you were cut down, no woodsman has come up against us. Hell from beneath that's excited about you. To meet you at your coming. It stirs up the dead for you all, the chief ones of the earth has raised up.

From their thrones, all the kings of the nations. They also speak and say to you. Have you also become as weak as we eat? Have you become like us? Your pump is brought down to see all. And the sound of your stringed instruments. The maggot is spread under you.

And worms will cover you. How you are fallen from heaven. Oh, lucifer. Son of the morning. How you are cut down to the ground. You who weakened the nations. For you have said, in your heart, i will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of god.

I will also sit on the mount to the congregation on the farthest sides of the north. That we'll send above the cloud above, the heights of the clouds. I will be like the most high. Yet you shall be brought down to see old. To the lowest steps of the pit.

Those who see you will gaze at you and consider you Saying is this the man who made the earth tremble. Who shook kingdoms. He made the world as a wilderness. And destroyed its cities. Who did not open the house if his prisoners All the kings of the nations, all of them.

Sleeping glory. Everyone in his own house. But you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch. Like the garment of those who are slain. Thrust through with the sword. We go down to the stones of the pit. Like the corpse trodden underfoot. You will not be joined with them in burial because you have destroyed your land.

And slain your people. The brood of evildoers shall never be named. Prepare slaughter for his children. Because of the iniquity of their fathers, lest they rise up and because that's the land. And fill the face of the world with cities. For iowa, rise up against them since your way of us.

Cut off from Babylon, the name. Remnant. And offspring and posterity says, Yahweh. I will also make it a possession for the porcupine. And marshes of muddy water. I will sweep it with the broom. Of destruction. It says, yahua posts. Y'all way of hosts has sworn saying, Surely as i have thought.

So it shall come to pass. I have purpose which shall stand. That i will break the Assyrian in my land. And on my mountains, tread him under fucked. Than his yoke shall be removed from them, and this burden removed from their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed against the whole earth.

And this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For you all have hosts has purposed. And who will annul it? His hand is stretched out. Who will turn it back? This is the burden, which came in the year that king ahast died. Do not rejoice, all you of ballistia.

Because the rod that struck you is broken. For out of the serpents. Roots will come forth. A viper And it's offspring will be a fiery flying serpent. The firstborn of the poor will feed the needy. Will lie down in safety. I will kill your roots with feminine. And it will slide your remnant.

Well, or gate cryo city. All you have felicia are just dissolved. For smoke will come from the north. And now one will be alone and has appointed times. What will the answer the messengers of the nation? That yahweh has found a zion. And the poor of his people. Shall take refuge in it.

So far the reading of gods inspired and inherent worked.

Chapter 13, introduces a new section of the book of Isaiah. My saying the burden against Babylon. Which isaiah son of Emma's, which is very interesting. Because up until this point, the big bad in The book of isaiah has been Assyria. Who has invaded the north you remember? Uh, the lord was going to Permit syria as he had ordained that.

They would be the rod by which Uh, he punished the northern kingdom israel. But then as a Syria grew more and more arrogant, he would stop them. At jerusalem. Where they would only be able to shake their fists. And he would punish Assyria. He's always, we pronounced a low upon syria.

And he is. I'm going to get to syria. He gets to syria and in our passage, I will break the Assyrian in my land on, on my mountains. Tried him underfoot. It's what he's

said. About stopping synacrib at Jerusalem. So that drawst one's an acrob is saying you can tell by the outcomes that all the gods are the same because I smashed them.

All God gives him the opposite outcome so that he will know that. Not all the gods are the same. But there is one living and true God who is not an invention of men. And, The Lord will destroy Assyria. And demonstrate it in that day. But Isaiah starts with Babylon, especially because Babylon is.

And even more prime example, Of the pride into arrogance of men, Babylon will rise after Assyria. And, Babylon. Not only is going to be in the future. An example of both the pride of men and of how God destroys those. Who exalts themselves? Remember God, opposes the proud. Uh, but Babylon was also a place where man himself.

Uh, first raised himself up. Well, I guess not first. But you remember after the flood, And, In the plane of shenar, there was the city called Babel. And, At the city called Babel man, exalted himself. And said, let's build a tower that goes up into heaven, to make a name for ourselves.

And that was literally satanic. This is something that he shows us in chapter 14. When he switches from Babylon to Lucifer. He says how you are fallen from heaven. Lucifer, son of the morning. Uh, how you are cut down to the ground? You who weakened the nations for you have said into your, in your heart.

I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. I will also sit on the mount of the congregation. Well, this idea of Ascending in.

So, go get it.

This idea of ascending into heaven. And exalting his throne above the stars of God verse 13. Ascending above the clouds and being like the most high. Verse 14, that was the very idea of the tower of Babel. And so, we see how All of the exalting of man. Uh, man's exalting himself is really a demonstration that they are under the power of the devil.

And,

And that their characters like unto the devil. And so that's why babbling is Uh, the first one. Against whom the burden is being declared. Because there isn't just one judgment that's coming against a Syria. Or one judgment that's coming against Babylon. There is a great judgment coming. Lucifer has fallen from being an angel.

But his final destruction is being cast into the lake of fire. Uh, with his angels, some it was all of those who do not. Belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. That day is still coming and that's the day. That is immediately in view in the first half. Of chapter 13.

When he gets to Babylon in verse 17, he says, behold I will stir up the meads. Against him. And they will not regard, silver gold. They are going to be. A. They ruthless and vicious people. But in the day that is being described in verses 2 through 16, it is the holy ones.

The sanctified ones verse 13, the mighty ones. Um, who rejoice in the exaltation of Yahweh. Verse 3, this is describing something that we end up seeing in revelation 19. Where there are the holy angels and the souls of just made perfect and they're being led by the Lord. Jesus Christ to rather anti-climactically wins the entire battle all by himself.

And yet, this is The army of Yahweh of hosts, that has mustered for battle. Verse 4. And so, he's describing the day of Yahweh. Verse 6. That. That great day. That is coming. In which? All of God's enemies. Will be destroyed in which the sun is darkened. And the stars don't give light to the moon, ceases to shine.

Verse 10, all of the Original lights. That were created. The heavens will be shaken. And the earth removed. Verse 13. Using the language that is often used in scripture. Of the last day. And what this is it's a reminder. That. Our pride doesn't just provoke the Lord. For punishments that come in time.

The way Israel was punished in time the way a Syria was punished in time. The way Babylon was punished in time. The way many people and households and churches, A nations have been punished in time. And the Lord tarrying this nation too. Be punished in time. But what was happening?

As a reminder that the wrath of God that breaks into history in these small ways. There's a wrath that is going to conclude history. And so, our great need for the King. Is not just that there will be an administration or a rain in Judah that will actually last But we need a King.

Who. With whom we will be safe. And glad in the last day. And so that's the the great lesson from all of these invasions into time of the wrath of God. And that's why. A God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah as an example. Just as God had to overthrow, the world in the flood as an example.

And he draws that connection in verse 19, Babylon, the glory of kingdoms. The beauty. I've kept the Chaldeans pride will be. As when God overthrew, Sodom and Gomorrah. So there are these great days of y'all play throughout history. All of which look forward to the great day. Singular. Of your way that is coming.

At the end of history. But right in the middle of the passage the beginning of chapter 14. As the Lord's focus in history, if the Lord ate sin, if the Lord is punishing, Satan, if the Lord is punishing men, Why is he waiting? Why is he taking so long?

And the answer is he's not just punishing Satan. In order to vindicate his own name. These punishing Satan in order to have mercy. On the people whom he's chosen. And so that's chapter 14, verses 1 and 2. This gives us the Lord's. Focus and all of history. Yahweh will have mercy on Jacob and will still choose Israel and strangers will be joined with them and cling to the house of Jacob.

So the reason history continued after the fall of the devil, the reason history continued after the fall of man. The reason history continued after the flood. Is because there were people that God has determined to save. And even now, God is still grafting into the house of Jacob. He's still grafting in to the house of Israel, which is no longer being led by prophets priests and kings on earth.

But as being led by thou, great prophet priest and king in glory, our Lord, Jesus Christ, the anointed one, that's what Christ means. When God is still grafting, people into him from all the nations. He is the root. He is the branch that we've already begun to hear about.

In the book of Isaiah. And he will rule us. And we'll be glad to be ruled by the house of Jacob will be glad to be ruled by the heads of Israel. You know, those who have anti anti-Semitic. Uh, tendency is an inclination. Would not like heaven would not like glory.

When we are ruled by a Jew by an Israelite, by a son of Jacob, A son of David. And we will be ruled by him forever and ever as part of his house and the whole earth, and the whole new new heaven and new earth. Will be the land of Yahweh.

So, chapter 14 verses 1 and 2 that tell us what the goal is. So now that we understand the goal of history, we understand the goal of the warning, That it's not just to make us shape up so that we stop being proud. We actually can't do that anyway.

But the goal of the warning, obviously here. Is to direct us to Christ. That we would not just humble ourselves before him. But as we know from Uh, knowledge of God

and ourselves and just has given by the rest of the bible. That he himself, would give us faith that he himself.

Would give us humility. Lest. We end up like Babylon. Uh, in verses three through 11, then Of chapter 14. And base, basically, the gist of it is, Um, The. However, great men look. Uh, like they are. Whatever they seem to accomplish and attain to, in this life. They will all come to the same end.

And so either you come to that end in christ. Or. Despite all of the pump. And the sound of your strength, instruments verse 11. Despite all of the earthly attainments. They end up being a maggot sandwich. Maggots the maggot is spread under you. And worms cover you. And that's not just an image of decomposing.

Because you remember what the lord, jesus. Said about this. And, Uh mark nine 44, and 46 and 48. We're over and over again. He says Um, Where the worm, the flame is not clenched and the worm does not die. That's actually from the book of isaiah, which is going to return to this.

Uh, this image in chapter 66, with the worm, That doesn't die. And so, The fate of anybody who doesn't end up with jesus, like his described in verses one and two. Is the same as babbling. Yeah, Babylon thought he was so great and then he died. And the picture is of hell and the kings who are in it, excited to receive him so that they can mock him because he thought he was so great.

And now here he is, To be naught on by worms for unending ages. Just like everyone else. And how much will his greatness be worth that. What fools we are. Who live? For this world. So, we've already Covered the fall of lucifer. And how those who, Raise themselves up and pride are like him, particularly those.

Who raised themselves up and pride and either provoke others to sin or attack others? And so Babylon is just like, Now, just like His initial example. The greater. They are the higher. They fly. The lower they fall. And so the king of Babylon. The king of this area, the king of philistia, you know, you notice the the greatest fall and destruction.

Is for Babylon. The lord will sweep him away with a broom he describes. And he gives us as he goes from babble into a serial to Philistia, and it's actually going to continue with moab. But there's a wonderful redeeming purpose that we're going to hear about when we get Um, Uh, when we get to Moab,

But the lord gives us these little theological comments to remind us. Of the purposes here. One verse 23. He's in a sweet babbling with a broom of destruction. It says nothing. It's like sweeping the floor. For him to destroy even. A nation like Babylon. And then he describes. Verse 27.

Um, He says y'all way of hosts his purpose and who will annul it. His hand is stretched out dual turnip back. So that will remember that history is going according to the lord's plan. And if he has planned to destroy proud and wicked nations, which he has Than nothing can stop it from coming.

And then verse 32. And the section on philistia, Plus Jeff course. Perhaps excited that A has is dead. And the lord says, you know, ahas wasn't your problem. He was the rod that struck you, but i was the one doing the striking. And so, Felicia should not be glad that they has has died.

And he says, what will they answer the messengers of the nation? That yahweh has founded Zion. And the poor of his people shall take refuge in it. He is the hope of his people. Even. Even in the midst of times, and which They have been. Brought law. So the lord teaches us these things by what he does and history.

And here before, The destruction of listia, the destruction of this area, the destruction of emblem. He prophesies it ahead of time. So that we'll be able to rightly understand and interpret. These destructions these days of the lord days of yahweh. That break into. History. So, let us take our refuge in Christ.

And not be fearful. Of men who have lifted themselves up. And let us dread the idea of lifting, our end cells up. Last, we imitate And participate in the same. Of the devil. But let us humble ourselves before god. And take refuge in the Lord jesus christ.

Our father, we pray that you would Blessed to us to support them of your word. Make us humble lord. Make us to hate pride. Make us to see the character of the devil in. Give us to remember the destructions of the flood and of sodom. And a babbling in the syria and philistia And many others since you have taught us how to understand history now, Make us to remember.

What comes to all men apart from christ? Lest we should live for this life for less. We should be proud of ourselves or unless we should be Overly intimidated by others. Give us instead of bought. To humbly rest and the lord jesus. To count him. That's our great treasure.

That's the parole of great price. And make us to walk with you as those belong to him. And look forward to the day. When you shall be exalted and destroying your enemies. So we pray that just as your holy angels, we would be those Who love and rejoice in your exaltation.

Granted, we ask in christ's name.