



Isaiah 15-27

Oracles to the Nations

Overview

From Genesis 12 through the rest of the Old Testament, the Bible focuses primarily on Abraham’s descendants—the Hebrew people that would become the nation of Israel. Israel was a special and chosen nation, but that didn’t mean God was unconcerned about the rest of the world. In fact, when one remembers God’s promise to Abraham, it was that through Abraham’s seed the whole world would be blessed. Yes, all the nations of the world need redemption! Thus, it should not surprise us to see God concerned about other nations in the Bible.

Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: Isaiah 15-16
- Tuesday: Isaiah 17-19
- Wednesday: Isaiah 20-22
- Thursday: Isaiah 23-24
- Friday: Isaiah 25-27

That is especially true in this week’s section of Isaiah. Chapters 13-27 focus on God’s judgment of various nations. While Israel was God’s chosen nation, He was still angered when other nations continued in idolatry, violence, and immorality. These chapters are not the angry rants of a Jew that hated other nations. On the contrary, we see Isaiah’s pity for other nations on multiple occasions. What we see is divine judgment and righteous indignation. Further, we also see God’s plan to redeem not just the Jews, but other nations as well. At the end of the oracles, Jerusalem also receives an oracle of judgment. The theocratic nation would not stand forever as God’s chosen—God’s plan for Israel was spiritual in nature. It would be through Spiritual Israel that all nations would finally receive ultimate blessing, and it would be in spiritual Israel that God would call forth the remnant of peoples from all corners of the earth!

Questions:

1. Where would the fugitives of Moab flee to? _____
2. What would Damascus become? _____
3. Where is the place of the name of the Lord? _____
4. What does Isaiah say the Lord rides on when He comes to Egypt? _____
5. How long did Isaiah walk naked and barefoot? _____
What did this represent or signify? _____
6. What is the name of the steward Isaiah rebukes for building an elaborate tomb?

7. The Lord is said to be strength to the _____, a refuge from the _____,
and shade from the _____.
8. What three descriptions are given of the Lord’s sword? _____

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Chapters 13 through 24 contain several messages of judgment. At first, it might seem like a depressing section of Isaiah’s prophecy. Chapters 24-27 wrap up this section though, and while they continue the theme of judgment, they also speak of salvation for God’s true people. Judgment and salvation are intrinsically tied. All mankind is given the opportunity to believe and obey God, but those who refuse God will face His wrath and judgment. In that judgment, however, not only will the wicked be punished, but the righteous will be delivered and saved. Following judgment, those that choose to obey God will know eternal peace and everlasting life. They will be delivered forever more!

The Empathetic Prophet



Isaiah occasionally spoke of his prophecies as “burdens.” It pained him to see the judgment others would face for their sin. Isaiah’s sadness was not reserved only for his kinsmen. Speaking of Moab’s judgment Isaiah says, “My heart cries out for Moab!” (15:5) Even though Moab was typically an enemy, Isaiah was moved by sadness at the suffering they would endure for their sins. Isaiah didn’t wish any to suffer God’s wrath—he desired them to be delivered from it. Isaiah stands in stark contrast to Jonah, who wished for the Assyrians to be punished! What about us today? Do we love men’s souls enough to warn them of God’s judgment? Does it sadden us to know there are those who will face God’s wrath eternally? Are we content to let sinners be condemned, or do our hearts cry out for the lost?



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