

The Destruction of Babylon: When God Opposes Pride

Text: Isaiah 13

Date: 3-14-21 @ 10:30 am

Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord. - Jeremiah 9:23-24

Truth: God's view of pride clashes with His own _____ . God will oppose the nation that nation chooses to lift itself up in an arrogant manner.

God calls the nations for _____

God can choose to use whomever to work out His decrees and purposes.

Why do these armies come? The Lord and His soldiers come to destroy the whole land. Nothing will be left of Babylon. The annihilation will be swift and complete.

Who is this enemy from afar? The Medes and Persians will be that enemy that destroys Babylon.

God _____ His enemies

When facing the *Almighty, El Shaddai*, destruction is _____ . No nation can stand in its own strength against Almighty God.

The day of the Lord was seen first in Isaiah as the day where God would pour out His judgment on His own people of Israel and Judah (Isa. 2:12; 4:1; 5:1-30). But now those nations that God used to punish Israel and Judah are going to be judged. Assyria and Babylon will crumble under the mighty hand of the Almighty. This day would belong to Yahweh Himself.

In all this we see God as supreme, sovereign, omniscient, omnipotent, and just.

What are the responses by man to God's judgment?

- Hands will be paralyzed and hearts will melt (v. 7). The powerful hands will go limp. They will not be able to resist the enemy.
- Fear and terror will grip them (v. 8).
- Pain and anguish will take hold of them (v. 8).
- They will be like a woman in labor. Bitter pain as a mother having a child.
- Their faces will be flushed.

"Men will have a sense of utter helplessness; their hands will be feeble and their hearts will sink within them. . . As they see enflamed Babylon flare up into a bright red and then subside into pallid emptiness, their faces will likewise be alternately flushed and pale" (Hailey 132).

Nature itself is involved in the wrath of God. Judgment is universal. The darkness is a picture of the blackness of the judgment hand of God upon mankind.

Through the pictures here we find descriptions of the extent of God's wrath. Is there any wonder at the power of God's judgment hand? He can move all of His Creation in response to His fierce anger. How much more should we recognize the coming wrath on the world? Are we living in light of this as we seek to "save" others from the wrath to come?

The _____ onslaught from the enemy

The people of Babylon will be frightened and run for their lives, but will have no one to lead them. They will scatter like sheep without a shepherd and like gazelle fleeing from a predator, yet they will be helpless to save themselves. Man is so _____ without God.

Ultimately, the destruction will come like God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. Babylon, the crown jewel of the world, will be ransacked. This judgment is seen as supernatural, directed by the hand of God. The once proud nation will be brought low.

Grace is _____. Pride costs even more. God opposes those who become a friend of the world. Those who proudly become partners with the world will encounter God's opposition.

Meditative Thoughts

_____ to God proves futile over and over again.

God sovereignly _____ who will be raised up and put down. God is supreme, sovereign, omniscient, omnipotent, and just

Now is the time to get busy serving God. Quit resisting the Holy Spirit in your life. Follow God's simple instructions. Beg to God for change in your life. Lift God up in your life to a place of _____.