Is your faith in the Messiah growing? Are you serving him more each day?

Lesson 8

2/4/2018

Prophecies Against Nations I

Isaiah 13-14

Our goal for this lesson is to explain that God preserved the remnant through judgment against the nations that threatened it.

Chapters 13-23 can be labeled “Prophecies against Nations” – nations other than Judah. Nine nations plus Judah are referred to in this section. How does this fit in a book telling the nation of Judah to “repent or perish”, & teaching of the coming Messiah? We just concluded a section promising God’s permanent kingdom (7-11) & learned of the destruction & captivity of Judah. The question then arises “What about the heathen nations that surround us?” Jeremiah & Ezekiel address this as well (Jer 46-51, Ezek 25-32).

Remember…Isaiah is not chronological so these prophecies could have been made at the end of Isaiah’s life (when Babylon started to gain strength) or at the very beginning of his ministry. God named Cyrus (Medes/Persians) in Isaiah 44:28-45:1 as the king who would allow Jerusalem to be rebuilt after Babylon falls.

1. Against whom is this oracle (chapter 13) proclaimed?

2. In 13:3-5, “who” is being brought to Babylon?

3. The “day of the Lord” is discussed in 13:6-16.

 (a) What descriptions of the event are used in vs 6-8 & 14 to tell the people’s reactions?

(b) What phrases are used in vs 9-13 & 15-16 to describe this event?

4. Isaiah 13:11 shows the principle behind this judgment. How can this be a comfort to God’s people? See also Revelation 6:9-11.

5. Consider 13:17 & 19 in light of 13:3-5. What does this tell you about why the Medo-Persian empire was able to defeat Babylon in 539 BC?

6. From reading 13:17-22, what would be the extent of Babylon’s destruction?

Chapter 14 continues the thought of 13, leading to a “song” about Babylon’s fall.

7. Who are the “strangers” or “aliens” referred to in 14:1? (See Acts 2:10, Acts 17:4 & 17, Gal 3:28)

8. Does the “taunt” or “proverb” of 14:4-11 match what we would call “taunting”? What then is the focus of this section?

9. Who is being referred to in 14:12?

10. What contrast is made between 14:13-14 & 14:15-21? See also Daniel 4 & Jeremiah 50:29

11. Considering 14:24-27, where would Assyria be broken?

12. In what year was the prophecy of 14:28-32 given?

13. To what “nation” does 14:32 refer?