

ISAIAH 17

Verses 1-8 Poetry

Verse 9 Prose

Verse

(This chapter is about Damascus. Damascus has witnessed at least 5,000 years of human history. Paul was on the road to Damascus when Christ appeared to him. The ultimate fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in this chapter is yet to be seen. Both Northern Israel (Ephraim) and Damascus will suffer a defeat and then Assyria and other nations will take advantage of this defeat to invade. Later, Israel will repent and all those nations will be swiftly destroyed. See the Map at the end of chapter 18)

Verse 1

The Burden of Damascus:

(and) Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city,
It shall be a ruinous heap.

Verse 2

The cities of Aroer are forsaken:

(Cities along the northern bank of the Arnon River)

(and) They shall be for flocks, which shall lie down,
None shall make them afraid (disturb them).

Verse 3

(and) (When) the fortress (Ephraim's defense) shall cease from Ephraim,
(So shall) the kingdom cease from Damascus.

(and) (As with) the glory of the Children of Israel,
(So shall it be with) the remnant of Syria, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Verse 4

(And) **In that day it shall come to pass that:**

(and) The glory of Jacob shall be made thin (wane),
The fatness of his flesh shall wax lean.

Verse 5

(And) It shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn,
(and) It shall be as when the harvestman reapeth the ears with his arm.

Verse 6

(and) It shall be as ears (of corn) gathered in the Valley of Raphaim,
(Yet) It shall be as when only the gleanings are left.

(Valley of Raphaim - A fertile valley south of Jerusalem)

It shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries
(shall be left) in the top of the uppermost bough,
It shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, four or five berries
(shall be left) in the outmost fruitful branches thereof,
saith the Lord of Hosts.

Verse 7

At that day:

(and) A man shall look to his Maker,
His eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel.

Verse 8

(And) He shall not look to the alters, the work of his hands,
Neither shall he respect that which his fingers have made,
either the groves, or the images.

(The people of Damascus Israel will no longer worship false gods)

Verse 9

In that day shall ^(their) strong cities be as a forsaken bough, and
an uppermost branch, which they left because of the Children
of Israel; and there shall be desolation.

(Prof. Gileadi's translations - "In that day, their mighty cities shall be like the deserted towns of the Hivites and Amorites, which they abandoned before the Israelites during the desolation.)

(The towns of the Hivites and Amorites were places destroyed or abandoned when Israel took the Promised Land.)

Verse 10

(Because)
(and) Thou hast forgotten the God of thy Salvation,
Thou hast not been mindful of the Rock of thy Strength.

(Therefore)
(and) Thou shalt plant pleasant plants,
Thou shalt set it with strange slips (sow hybrid seeds).

Verse 11

(and) In ^(a) day shalt thou make thy plant to grow,
In the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish,

(but)
(and) The harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief,
The harvest shall be of desperate sorrow.
(The harvest shall vanish in a day of diseases and incurable pain.)

Verse 12

(and) Woe to the multitude of many people which make a noise like
the noise of the sea ^(rage),
Woe to the rushing of nations that make a rushing ^(turbulence)
like the rushing of mighty waters.

(Assyrian Empire and other numerous nations - See Psalms 83: 5-8 for some of the possible nations aligned against Israel/Judah)



ISAIAH 18

All Poetry

(This chapter references Egypt in the beginning, but it is not specifically about Egypt. It is more about the Assyrians and their conquest of all the lands in the area. Most include this as part of the prophesy about Damascus. It references Egypt only as an example of a nation that tried to send emissaries to Assyria in the hopes of forestalling its inevitable take over.)

Verse 1

Woe to the land shadowing with wings!
Woe to the land beyond the rivers of Ethiopia (Cush)!

(Land of "Buzzing Flies" or "Shadowed with wings" is Egypt, Cush – Area somewhere in the region of Southern Iraq or Saudi Arabia)

Verse 2

That sendeth ambassadors by the sea,
That sendeth ambassadors in vessels of bulrushes upon
the waters.

(Here we see emissaries sent from Egypt to Assyria. Everyone wants to make false peace with Assyria)

Saying, go ye swift messengers:

To a nation scattered and peeled, (perpetually on the move)
To a people terrible from their beginning hitherto.
(dreaded far and wide)

A nation meted out and (treading) down,
A nation whose rivers (mighty power) have spoiled the lands.

(A nation – strong (extended) and treading down on other nations and a nation that has annexed many lands with its mighty power - Assyria)

Verse 3

(and)

All ye inhabitants of the world,
All ye dwellers on the earth.

See ye, when (the Lord) lifteth up an ensign on the mountains,
Hear ye, when (the Lord) bloweth a trumpet!

(See Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 42 & 49, Ensign/Trumpet – the Lord's Servant- parallel)

Verse 4

For so the Lord said unto me:

(and) I will take my rest,
I will consider (watch in silence) in my dwelling place.

(and) Like a clear heat upon herbs,
(and) Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.

(Day of judgment imagery – You don't want heat or rain while you are harvesting - Time of the early harvest – Before Fall in the middle of Summer – This will be the season of the judgement - Per. Bro. Gileadi)

Verse 5

(and)

For afore the harvest, when the bud is perfect,
For afore the harvest, when the sour grape is ripening in
the flower.

(and)

(The enemy) shall cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks,
(The enemy) shall take away and cut down the branches.

(Cut down fruit-bearing twigs with knives and remove the new branches by slashing.)

Verse 6

(and)

They shall be left together unto the fowls (carrion) of the mountains,
They shall be left together to the beasts of the earth.

(and)

The fowls shall summer (feed in summer) upon them,

(and)

All the beast of the earth shall winter (feed in winter) upon them.

(They – Them - The twigs/branches/enemies – Lands left desolate, animals take over - Curse)

Verse 7

**In that time shall (a) present (tribute) be brought unto
the Lord of Hosts from:**

(and)

(This) people scattered and peeled, (always on the move)
(This) people terrible (dreaded) from their beginning hitherto.

(and)

(This) nation meted out and (treading) under foot,
(This) nation whose rivers (mighty power) have spoiled the lands.

(This nation – strong (extended) and treading down on other nations and a nation that has annexed many lands with its rivers of mighty power - Assyria)

**To the place of the name of the Lord of Hosts,
To Mount Zion.**

(The attempts to appease the wicked nation will not be successful, but in the end, out of this wicked nation (Assyria) shall come a few who survive and they will repent and come to Zion with tribute.)

