

Fall of the Evil

Isaiah 14:1-32

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Isaiah 13 ended with the desolation and gloom that would come upon Babylon. Since Babylon was Judah's great enemy, any judgment on Babylon was an expression of mercy on Israel. So, Isaiah follows the pronouncement of judgment on Babylon with the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will still bless Israel.

Isaiah 14:1-2 – Mercy on Jacob

For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will 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. ² Then 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 the Lord; they will take them captive whose captives they were, and rule over their oppressors.

v1 – Why is it important that the Lord will still choose Israel?

Sometimes we feel that God chose us, but if He had to choose again, He would change His choice! We almost feel that God is "stuck" with us now, and would choose differently if He could. Here, the LORD reminds His children that He does still choose us, and would choose us all over again!

Why was the promise of restoration to their own land important?

The Babylonians had forcibly exiled most of the population of Judah, so the promise of return was precious.

What does it mean that strangers will be joined with them?

The regathered and restored Israel would invite Gentiles to receive the goodness of God with them. That is what God intended for Israel, to be His representatives to the nations.

How would Jacob rule over their oppressors?

In inviting the strangers to come and be joined with them, Israel eliminates their enemies. The ultimate way to conquer an enemy is to make them your friend!

This was somewhat fulfilled when they returned after Babylon (Ethiopian eunuch & Phillip), but even more so

following the Diaspora in preparation for the ultimate fulfillment during the Millennial Kingdom.

Isaiah 14:3-11 – Fall of the King of Babylon

³ *It shall come to pass in the day the Lord gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve, ⁴ that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: "How the oppressor has ceased, the golden city ceased! ⁵ The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers; ⁶ He who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke, He who ruled the nations in anger, Is persecuted and no one hinders. ⁷ The whole earth is at rest and quiet; They break forth into singing. ⁸ Indeed the cypress trees rejoice over you, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, 'Since you were cut down, no woodsman has come up against us.' ⁹ "Hell from beneath is excited about you, to meet you at your coming; It stirs up the dead for you, all the chief ones of the earth; It has raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. ¹⁰ They all shall speak and say to you: 'Have you also become as weak as we? Have you become like us? ¹¹ Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, and the sound of your stringed instruments; The maggot is spread under you, and worms cover you.'*

v3 – When would Judah have rest from their sorrow?

The day would come when the oppression of Babylon would be lifted.

Jeremiah 25:11 – *this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.*

What is the principle here that applies to us today?

Matthew 11:28 – *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

The Lord wants us to come to Him for rest from our sorrows, fear, burdens, and even bondage.

v4 – What would cause Judah to rejoice?

That you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon: In the day of restoration, the defeat and weakness of the king of Babylon will be exposed, and Israel will rejoice.

What dual prophetic fulfillment in the context of Isaiah 13 should we keep in mind here?

It is important that we remember that there is the immediate and partial fulfillment regarding the empire of Babylon and its king. But also, there is the distant and ultimate fulfillment regarding the spiritual empire of Babylon - the world system - and its king, Satan.

- Thus, the returning of Israel to the land following the fall of Babylon foreshadows their ultimate return to the land after the fall of the Antichrist's empire at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.

Why does God tell His people, either in an immediate or ultimate sense, the destiny of Babylon and her king?

So that we can think and live now, knowing the ultimate fate of the world system and Satan. We often have said, "If I only knew then what I know now" once we see how things turn out. Here, God is allowing us the opportunity to know now what we will see then, and to allow it to affect our thinking and our actions.

The literary form of this passage is important: Its form is that of a funeral dirge, with the characteristic rhythm of a Hebrew lament. Thus, there is an element of irony, so that the whole song becomes a taunt in the guise of a lament.

- This is a funeral song that mocks and taunts the dead.

v4-5 – How is it the oppressor has ceased?

God want us to know now that the days are numbered for the king of spiritual Babylon (Satan). There will come a day when his oppression has ceased, and when the LORD will break the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers.

How should that be an encouragement for us today?

Sometimes we get so weary and discouraged from Satan's attack, it is almost as if we think his day will last forever.

- It helps to remember that one reason he works so hard is because even he knows his time is short. We can hang in there! We can out-last him!

v6-7 – What had the king of Babylon done?

He who struck the people in wrath ... who ruled the nations in anger: Both the king of literal Babylon and the king of spiritual Babylon were mighty, oppressive rulers over the people and the nations. But now, the one who once persecuted is himself persecuted and no one hinders, and as a result, the whole earth is at rest and quiet, and they even break forth into singing!

v8 – How had the king of Babylon oppressed the trees?

Babylon cut down thousands of trees for both fuel and lumber, leaving Israel and Lebanon deforested.

Nebudchadnezzar used large supplies of choice timbers in his extensive building efforts in Babylon after 605 B.C.

- The trees also rejoice at the fall of the king of spiritual Babylon, because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:21)

What is going on environmentally today that Jesus will have to correct when He returns?

Isaiah 24:5-6 – *The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.*

The ultimate polluting of the earth will occur during the Tribulation when nuclear weapons will probably be used.

- We have wars and rumors of wars as foreshadowing birth pangs today
- Lack of forest stewardship has cause wildfires to burn out of control.
- Mining the rare earth metals used for EV batteries require more energy and impacts the environment more than pumping oil.
- The global warming faithful are experimenting with putting solar blocking and reflective materials in atmosphere (chemtrails... Spain admitted, China experimenting with weather control).

v9 – Why would hell be excited about receiving the king of Babylon?

Hell can't wait to be the place where the one who tortured so many is tortured himself. This was true both for the king of literal Babylon, and the king of spiritual Babylon.

- God wants us to know now that Satan is destined for hell. He isn't a winner, he is a loser, and he certainly isn't the boss or lord of hell.
- Satan will go to hell as a victim, as the ultimate prisoner in the dungeon of darkness, and hell will be happy to receive him this way!

v10 – Why would hell ask the king of Babylon, have you become as weak as we? Have you become like us?

When he went to hell, the king of literal Babylon was exposed as a mere man, though he thought of himself as greater than that. As well, when the king of spiritual Babylon goes to hell, all will be amazed to see that he was only a creature.

Why do some often inflate Satan's status and importance thinking of him as the opposite of God?

Mormons for example. Satan wishes he was the opposite of God, but God wants us to know now what everyone will know someday - that Satan is a mere creature. If Satan has an opposite, it is not God the Father or God the Son, it would be a high-ranking angelic being such as Michael.

v11 – What would become of the king of Babylon?

Your pomp is brought down ... the maggot is spread under you, and worms cover you: In the end, it just won't be defeat for the king of Babylon. Both for the literal and spiritual kings of Babylon, their defeat in hell will be disgusting and degrading.

Knowing how disgusting and degrading the end of Satan will be, why would anyone work for his cause?

Most serving his cause are useful idiots. They don't realize what they are doing... they've rationalized that Satan doesn't even exist and this mortal life is all there is.

v11 – How is Satan associated with music?

And the sound of your stringed instruments: Ezekiel 28:13 says of Satan before his fall, the workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. Apparently, the musical career of Satan did not end with his fall, because the sound of his stringed instruments is only brought down when he is sent to hell.

Isaiah 14:12-21 – The Fall of Lucifer

¹² *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground,*

You who weakened the nations! ¹³ *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 of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;*

¹⁴ *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’* ¹⁵ *Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.* ¹⁶ *“Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms,*

¹⁷ *Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?’* ¹⁸ *“All the kings of the nations, all of them, sleep in glory, Everyone in his own house;* ¹⁹ *But you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, like the garment of those who are slain, Thrust through with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a corpse trodden underfoot.*

²⁰ *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.

²¹ *Prepare slaughter for his children because of the iniquity*

of their fathers, lest they rise up and possess the land, And fill the face of the world with cities.”

v12 – How does this verse make it clear the spiritual king of Babylon was Satan?

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! Here, the prophet identifies the king of Babylon as Lucifer, son of the morning. The name Lucifer refers to a brightly shining object in the heavens. This once brightly shining king of Babylon is now fallen from heaven.

Why would Satan have such a glorious title such as son of the morning?

This fit Lucifer well before his fall. The morning is glorious, and in Hebrew thinking, the son of "x" is characterized by "x." So, before his fall, Lucifer was characterized by the glory of the morning.

- Jesus Himself is called the Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22:16). Satan, though a created being, had some of these glorious qualities in himself.

How is Lucifer an appropriate name for Satan?

2 Corinthians 11:14 – *Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*

Satan is not the hideous looking creature he is often depicted to be... he deceives people with his apparent glory, beauty, and goodness. He capitalizes on our love of the light to deceive us. He wants us to think that he is good, truthful, loving, and powerful – all the things that God is. To portray himself as a dark, devilish being with horns would not be very appealing to the majority of people.

How can we discern which light is of God and which light is of Satan?

Psalms 119:105 – *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* and Psalm 119:130 – *The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.*

The words of God have power. Just as God's voice spoke physical light into existence, it can speak spiritual light into our hearts. Exposure to His voice – in His Word – will help us recognize the difference between the good light of God and that which is counterfeit.

When was Satan fallen from heaven?

There are in fact there are four falls of Satan, and this refers to his future final, fourth fall.

- Satan fell from glorified to profane (Ezekiel 28:14-16). This is what Jesus spoke of in Luke 10:18 when He says He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. This is the only fall of Satan that has already happened.
- Satan will fall from having access to heaven (Job 1:12, 1 Kings 22:21, Zechariah 3:1) to restriction on the earth (Revelation 12:9).

- Satan will fall from his place on the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Rev 20:1-3).
- Finally, as mentioned here in Isaiah 14:12, Satan will fall from the bottomless pit to the lake of fire, which we commonly know as hell (Revelation 20:10).
- Satan wanted to be the highest among all creatures, equal to God in glory and honor, and the plan to create man would eventually put men above angels.
- He was apparently able to persuade one-third of the angelic beings to join him in his rebellion (Revelation 12:3-4, 7, and 9).

What does it mean that Satan is cut down to the ground?

His false glory will be exposed. What a contrast! This being, once so high, once so shining, once so bright, is now cut down to the ground.

v13-14 – What was the motivation of both the king of Babylon and Satan?

For you have said in your heart: God tells us the reason behind both kings of Babylon, the literal and spiritual. The fall was prompted by something he said, even though he may have never said it with his lips - it was enough that he said it in his heart.

How did the kings of Babylon show their pride?

In the “I will” statements demonstrating selfish ambition. This is the essence of the self-focused and self-obsessed life.

- *I will ascend into heaven:* "Heaven will be my home and my place of honor."
- *I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:* "I will be enthroned, and will be exalted above all other angelic beings."
- *I will also sit on the mount of the congregation:* "I will sit in the place of glory and honor and attention."
- *I will ascend above the heights:* "I will continue to rise, even in heaven, until all see me in my bright shining glory."
- *I will be like the Most High:* "I will be glorious, and be set equal to God, far above all other created beings."

We see in these statements not so much a desire to exalt one's self above God, but the desire to exalt one's self above one's peers. It seems that Satan's desire was to be honored and regarded as the highest angel, receiving the glory and attention one would receive being next to God, like the Most High.

- Principle: We don't have to want to be exalted higher than God to be like Satan. It is enough to want to be exalted above other people!

Why did Lucifer rebel against God?

Perhaps because he rejected God's plan to create an order of beings made in His image (Genesis 1:26), who would be beneath the angels in dignity (Hebrews 2:6-7a; 2 Peter 2:11), yet would be served by angels in the present (Hebrews 1:14; 2:7-8; Psalm 91:11-12) and would one day be lifted in honor and status above the angels (1 Corinthians 6:3; 1 John 3:2).

What is Satan's present strategy against man?

To obscure the image of God in man through encouraging sin and rebellion, to cause man to serve him, and to prevent the ultimate glorification of man.

v15 – What will become of Satan?

Yet you shall be brought down: Despite Satan's desire to exalt himself, he will not be exalted at all. Certainly, there is a sense in which he is exalted right now, but this is but an eye-blink in the scope of eternity. Satan, like all those who desire to exalt themselves, shall be brought down.

What is the true path for being exalted?

Mark 9:35 – *If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all*

1 Peter 5:6 – *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.*

God's ways are not man's ways... humility as Jesus demonstrated going to the cross will be rewarded whereas pride comes before a fall (Proverbs 16:18).

v16 – How had the king of Babylon and Satan make the earth tremble and shake kingdoms?

War does that...

I rode a tank, Held a general's rank
When the blitzkrieg raged
And the bodies stank
...Pleased to meet you, Hope you guess my name,
Ah, what's puzzling you Is the nature of my game...
(Sympathy For The Devil, The Rolling Stones)

But the Bible tells us the nature of his game... to thwart the plan of God by exalting himself.

v17 – How had the king of Babylon and Satan make the world a wilderness?

- Well, the king of Babylon certainly made Judah desolate and probably did that to the other nations they conquered as well.
- Satan will make the earth desolate during the Tribulation... *I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold* (Isaiah 13:12). ~95% die

v18-21 – What is going on in this passage?

Isaiah brings his focus back more upon the king of literal Babylon. He notes the comfort and ease the other kings of the earth enjoy, but not the fallen king of Babylon, who is instead cast out of your grave like an abominable branch.

- Instead of a proper burial, the king of Babylon gets a bed of maggots and a blanket of worms! (Isaiah 14:11)
- The corpse of the king of Babylon would be thrown out like a rejected branch... What a contrast to the Branch from the stump of Jesse that would bear abundant fruit! (Isaiah 11:1)

This would also be the end of Satan in the lake of fire...

Mark 9:47-48 – *if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire— where ‘Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.*

Jesus quoted:

Isaiah 66:24 – *And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched.*

v21 – Does God punish people because of the iniquity of their fathers?

The Bible mentions “generational curses” in several places (Exodus 20:5; 34:7; Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 5:9). God warns that He is “*a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.*”

- The effects of sin are naturally passed down from one generation to the next. When a father has a sinful lifestyle, his children are likely to practice the same. The warning of Exodus 20:5 is the fact that children will choose to repeat the sins of their fathers.
- The cure for a generational curse has always been repentance. When Israel turned from idols to serve the living God, the “curse” was broken and God saved them (Judges 3:9, 15; 1 Samuel 12:10-11).
- Yes, God promised to visit Israel’s sin upon the third and fourth generations, but in the very next verse He promised that He would show “*love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments*” (Exodus 20:6). In other words, God’s grace lasts a thousand times longer than His wrath.

Isaiah 14:22-27 – Babylon & Assyria Destroyed

²² *“For I will rise up against them,” says the Lord of hosts, “And cut off from Babylon the name and remnant, And offspring and posterity,” says the Lord.*

²³ *“I will also make it a possession for the porcupine, And marshes of muddy water; I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” says the Lord of hosts.*

²⁴ *The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, “Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand: ²⁵ That I will break the Assyrian in My land, and on My mountains tread him underfoot. Then his yoke shall be removed from them, and his burden removed from their shoulders. ²⁶ This is the purpose that is purposed against the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. ²⁷ For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?”*

v22-23 – Who would God sweep with the broom of destruction?

Babylon - both literal and spiritual - will be complete. The LORD will cut off from Babylon the name and remnant.

- There will not even be a remnant of Babylon left, when the Lord sweeps it with the broom of destruction.

v24-25 – Who would the Lord tread underfoot?

Assyria... *Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass:* God’s thoughts are as good as actions. All God has to do is think a thought, and worlds can be created.

- What a comfort to know that God thinks good thoughts towards His people: *I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.* (Jeremiah 29:11)

I will break the Assyrian in My land: God did this powerfully when the Assyrians invaded Judah. 2 Kings 19:35 describes how God simply sent the angel of the LORD, and killed 185,000 Assyrians in one night.

v26 – Who is in control of the nations? Didn’t Jesus refer to Satan as the ruler of this world in John 12:31?

God is sovereign so ultimately, He is in control of the nations. But God, has allowed Satan to operate in this world within certain boundaries. Satan has power over the world of unbelievers.

- Believers are no longer under the rule of Satan (Colossians 1:13).
- Unbelievers, on the other hand, are caught “in the snare of the devil” (2 Timothy 2:26), lie in the “power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19), and are in bondage to Satan (Ephesians 2:2).

v27 – Can the will of God be changed?

For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? God always accomplishes His purpose! His plan is never frustrated! Even when we have no trust at all in our own plan, we can fully trust God's purpose!

Isaiah 14:28-32 – Philistia Destroyed

²⁸ *This is the burden which came in the year that King Ahaz died.* ²⁹ *“Do not rejoice, all you of Philistia,*

*Because the rod that struck you is broken;
For out of the serpent's roots will come forth a viper,
And its offspring will be a fiery flying serpent.*

³⁰ *The firstborn of the poor will feed, and the needy will lie down in safety; I will kill your roots with famine,
And it will slay your remnant.*

³¹ *Wail, O gate! Cry, O city! All you of Philistia are dissolved; For smoke will come from the north, and no one will be alone in his appointed times.”*

³² *What will they answer the messengers of the nation? That the Lord has founded Zion, and the poor of His people shall take refuge in it.*

v28-29 – Why is Philistia mentioned here?

Do not rejoice, all you of Philistia, because the rod that struck you is broken: There was constant warfare between Israel and the Philistines, and so on many occasions, Israel was the rod that struck the Philistines. Now, when Israel and Judah are humbled, God does not want the Philistines to glory in it.

v30-31 – What would become of Philistia?

All you of Philistia are dissolved: God's judgment will come against the Philistines also. They should not think that just because God was judging the Israelites, that they had somehow escaped.

- Some see in this a judgment for "modern Philistines," that is, Palestinians. The name "Palestine" is a Latin name from the name Philistia, and this may be a prophetic warning to the Palestinians.

v32 – In the midst of the judgment of the nations, what will one then answer the messengers of the nation?

What does God have to say to His people and to all the nations, when nations are being judged?

- God's answer is simple: *The LORD has founded Zion.* When judgment comes, what is founded on the LORD is made evident.
- The second part of the answer is also simple: *The poor of His people shall take refuge in it.* God's place of security is not for the rich and self-sufficient. It is for the poor of His people, the poor in spirit who find refuge in God's city.

What applications come to mind from our discussion?

- We are eternally secure... we don't have to worry that God will un-choose us.
- The Lord wants us to come to Him for rest from our sorrows, fear, burdens, and even bondage.
- In the midst of spiritual warfare remember the clock is running out on Satan... We can out-last him!
- Pride comes before a fall... embrace the humility of Jesus!
- Satan only wanted to be exalted above his peers, not God... don't be like Satan.
- Satan only wanted to be exalted above his peers, not God... don't be like Satan.
- Our Enemy hates us as the imagers of God... but our Savior is far greater!
- Generational curses can be broken by all who embrace Jesus as their Savior.
- Satan rules over the nations today but is limited by God... and the day is coming when he'll be removed.
- God's will be done... and it will be glorious!