

## A Prophecy Against Bavel ~ Part 2

### Yesha'yahu 13:11-22

In my last post, we moved on to the next section of the **Book of Yesha'yahu** in **A Prophecy Against Bavel ~ Part 1** in **Yesha'yahu 13:1-10**. In this post, we continue to examine **A Prophecy Against Bavel ~ Part 2** in **Yesha'yahu 13:11-22**. In this post, we see hints of the coming **Tribulation** period.

***<sup>11</sup> I will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity. I will end the arrogance of the proud and humble the insolence of tyrants.***

The object of God's wrath is pride that leads people to trust in themselves rather than in Him. The yet future **Tribulation** period is to deal with **Isra'el**, who has rejected the **Messiah** but also to judge a world that has cursed the cause of **Messiah** and His kingdom.

***<sup>12</sup> I will make humans rarer than gold, scarcer than Ofir's pure gold.***

The purity of the gold of **Ofir** is the measure for the cleansing of humanity by God's intervention. The actual location of **Ofir** is still unknown, although Arabian and East African (Zimbabwe or Somalia) sites are favored (1 Kings 9:28). <sup>1</sup> Those who realize that **Yeshua** is Lord will be refined like gold. How is gold refined? In fire. Thus, good will come from the fire of the **Tribulation** period for perhaps millions will be refined and will be saved.

***<sup>13</sup> This is why I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken from its place at the wrath of Adonai-Tzva'ot on the day of his fierce anger.***

In the **Tribulation** period, God will shake the heavens, and the earth shall **be shaken from its place**. The globe is presently "out of her place" because it's tilted on its axis. This means there is a high possibility that at one time, the earth stood straight on its axis. This would explain the evidence of vegetation under the polar ice caps. But something cataclysmic happened - perhaps the result of Lucifer being cast out of heaven or the collapse of the water canopy at the time of the **Genesis Flood**. It is possible that, in the time of shaking and **Tribulation**, the earth will be set back straight. This would cause the polar caps to melt and the world to become uniformly tropical once again. <sup>2</sup>

***<sup>14</sup> Then, like a hunted gazelle, like sheep with no one to gather them, everyone will head back to his own people; everyone will flee to his own land. <sup>15</sup> Anyone found will be pierced through; anyone caught will fall by the sword,***

The destroyed **Bavel** had residents from many different nations. Once destroyed, the people will be leaderless and will quickly run (**like hunted gazelles**) back to their homeland. However, they may not make it back. The road will be lined with dangers, including robbers and perhaps even an enemy army.

***<sup>16</sup> their babies dashed to pieces before their eyes, their houses looted, their wives raped.***

In ancient, as well in our times, defeated cities endured the horrible atrocities described in this verse. The worst was that their children would be killed, and the women raped.

***<sup>17</sup> I will stir up against them the Medes, who cannot be tempted by silver or bought off with gold.***

The attacking army is described as the implacable **Medes**, a people known as early as the ninth century BCE. They came from the Zagros Mountains east of the Mesopotamian plain. These warlike people are known in

<sup>1</sup> The IVP Bible Background Commentary – Old Testament.

<sup>2</sup> Jon Courson's Application Commentary Old Testament Volume 2.

history as **Bavel's** allies when they defeated Assyria. However, in the sixth century BCE, they were engulfed by **Persia**. The combined armies of the **Medes** and **Persians** defeated **Bavel** in 539 BCE.

*<sup>18</sup> Their bows will tear young men to pieces; they will have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye will not spare children." <sup>19</sup> Thus Bavel, that jewel of kingdoms, the pride and glory of the Kasdim, will be like S'dom and 'Amora when overthrown by God.*

For the first time, **Bavel** is named as the object of God's warring activity. They are described as the jewel of the kingdoms in anticipation of the position they will assume after their defeat of **Assyria** at the end of the seventh century BCE. The **Chaldeans** were the leading tribe that produced the leaders (**Nabopolassar** and **Nebuchadnezzar**) who led the resurgence of **Bavel**. The destruction of **S'dom** and **'Amora** is described in Genesis 19. This account in **Yesha'yahu** implies a horrible end. It associates **Bavel** with the perverse sin that led to the destruction of those cities.

*<sup>20</sup> It will never again be inhabited, never lived in through all generations. Arabs will not pitch tents there, nor shepherds bring their flocks.*

Turning again to **Yesha'yahu's** day, the Lord said **the Medes would crush Bavel**. In **Yesha'yahu's** day, the **Medes** were nothing more than a group of nomads. Two hundred years later, the **Medes** would ally with the Persians and would invade **Bavel**. Were **Yesha'yahu** merely making educated guesses, he would have said it would be the **Assyrians** who would destroy **Bavel**. The Lord prophesied through him that it would be the **Medes** who would come against **Bavel**. And history, of course, would prove it to be so.

*<sup>21</sup> But wildcats will lie there, their houses will be full of owls, ostriches will live there, and wild goats will dance there. <sup>22</sup> Jackals will howl in their palaces and wild dogs in their temples of delight. Its time is close at hand; its days will not last long. ~ Yesha'yahu 13:11-22 (CJB)*

These verses describe animals that lived in ruins and desolate places. Ostriches and owls were considered unclean (Leviticus 11:15-16).

In my next post, we learn that God promises to restore **Isra'el** and after they have rested, they will sing **A Taunt-Song Against Bavel ~ Part 1** in **Yesha'yahu 14:1-23**.