

Days 1 and 2 - The Burdens of Aram and Ephraim – Isaiah 17

Remember, in Isaiah, part I, lesson 4, I had you designate all the names or referrals to Aram in Isaiah 7 as one marking and all the names or referrals to Ephraim as another marking. This was so that you could easily distinguish the players in the prophecy. These two players or nations were in cahoots with each other. Ephraim of course is the Northern Kingdom of Israel; Aram is present day Syria. The capital of Syria is Damascus then and now. So, when we read “the oracle concerning Damascus” and “the head of Aram is Damascus” in Isaiah 17:1 and Isaiah 7:8, respectively, we can assume this judgment in Isaiah 17 is inclusive of all Syria. This unholy alliance between Syria and the Northern Kingdom of Israel consisted of plans to attack the Southern Kingdom of Judah and replace her king with the king of the house of Israel, Tabeel or Pekah, the son of Remaliah. God addresses both of these two co-conspirators in Isaiah 17:1-3 as incurring the same judgment and devastation of their cities. Ahaz was king of the S. Kingdom at the time when Aram and the house of Israel came against Judah. Previous to this time, Ahaz did not align his kingdom with Aram and Ephraim against the King of Assyria, as they had wanted him to do, because Ahaz had already secretly conspired with Assyria. When Aram and Ephraim showed up in the back yard of Judah, Ahaz and the people were scared beyond belief. Isaiah 7 says this, “When it was reported to the house of David, saying, ‘The Arameans have camped in Ephraim,’ Ahaz’s heart and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake with the wind.” God told the Southern Kingdom in Isaiah 7 that the Arameans and the Northern Kingdom would not be able to conquer the southern kingdom and that He would bring the King of Assyria against them. Was this judgment against Aram and Ephraim in Isaiah 17 because they had gone against the house of David? What do you think given that this judgment is in the midst of similar judgments against Judah’s other enemies?

Please read Isaiah 17 at this time and work on your double-spaced worksheets for chapter 17. I marked “oracle,” “remnant,” and “in that day” with the same, distinctive markings as I had before. The city of Aroer is a suburb of Damascus today, so I marked Aroer in the same way as I marked Damascus and Aram. Also, mark the word “glory” in some distinct fashion.

Which cities are included in this judgment in 17:2-3?

You marked “in that day,” and “remnant” in chapter 17 in the same ways you marked them in the rest of Isaiah studied so far. What will the “remnant of Aram” be like “in that day” according to 17:3? Is this a good thing?

What does it say the glory of Jacob (Israel) will be like “in that day” according to 17:4?
Is this a good thing?

Are the “glory of the sons of Israel” (Isaiah 7:3) and the “glory of Jacob” (Isaiah 7:4)
referring to the same glory?

Referring to the Northern Kingdom of Israel in Isaiah 17:7-11, what else does the
Scripture say will happen “in that day?” Are these good things?

What are the Asherim and incense stands? Use your Bible dictionary or cross references
in your Bible margin to discover what are the Asherim.

When the Assyrian invaders surrounded the house of Israel, did the Israelites then realize
their idolatry was worthless and return to the Holy One of Israel?

Was it too late for some to be spared and some to be saved?

In 732 B.C., Tiglath-Pileser, III, conquered Damascus and reduced her to a province of
Assyria. The Northern Kingdom of Israel and its capital of Samaria fell to Assyria ten
years later in 722 B.C. After Assyria ravaged the lands of Aram and the Northern
Kingdom of Israel, these lands were left desolate leaving very little behind. The
Assyrians moved only some of the people out of these two lands and mixed other peoples
from other conquered nations in with the small remnants remaining. Why did this happen
to these two lands, Aram and the Northern Kingdom of Israel, in the day of Assyria’s
invasion? (17:10-11)

What do you know concerning the fertility of the land and the worship of idols that went
on in the day of the Assyrian invasion?

Do add these 3 verses, Isaiah 17:4,7, and 9, concerning “in that day,” to your list in the appendix. You may or may not be able to discern just when in time these prophecies were or will be fulfilled.

Do add the theme of Isaiah chapter 17 to your Isaiah-theme summary chart found in the appendix.

Day 3 - The Burden of Ethiopia (Cush) – Isaiah 17:12-14, Isaiah 18

Some expositors include chapter 18 with the oracle concerning the nation of Egypt found in chapters 19 and 20. The Cush or Ethiopia of Isaiah’s day included modern-day Southern Egypt, the Sudan, and the northern parts of Ethiopia. So, it is understandable how some could think that these three chapters all refer to Egypt. However, we will consider this chapter separately from the other two, referring this burden to the land of Ethiopia, sometimes called Cush.

Please read Isaiah 17:12 through 18:7. Mark all references to Ethiopia with a distinctive marking on the double-spaced worksheet for chapter 18 found in the appendix. I just used a capital “E” marked in blue to designate “Ethiopia.”

Chapter 17:12-14 talks about the raging nations that are like the roar of surging waters. Who are these people?

What nation is quickly becoming a threat to all the nations of the world at this time in Israel’s history?

How was God using the Assyrians?

What will happen to the Assyrians once God has used them to punish His people? (Isaiah 29:5)

What is chaff?

Please read what will happen to this nation of Assyria when God is through using her to punish His people in Isaiah 37:36-37.

Please read to whom this oracle or woe is addressed to in chapter 18:1. How would you describe this nation?

Who was Cush and what did he have to do with Ethiopia? (Genesis 10:6 ff)

What do you think “whirring wings” refers to in Isaiah 18:1?

What river separates the land of the whirring wings? (18:2,7) (See your maps in your Bible.)

What did the Ethiopians do in 18:2?

Who are the “swift messengers” in 18:2? And to whom are they being sent?

What description do we have of the Cushites or the Ethiopians?

What were the Israelites to tell the Ethiopians? (18:3)

The Israelites were to tell the Ethiopians, their potential allies, that God would take care of the enemy, the Assyrians. They had been told through Isaiah, the prophet, that God would protect Jerusalem from the Assyrians and they would be spared. The Israelites just needed to trust God and the Ethiopians were encouraged to trust God, too. They were not to rely on alliances nor military might; they were to believe what God had told them through Isaiah the prophet.

What would happen to the Assyrians before they could harvest their great victory? (18:5-6)

Please read Isaiah 18:7. What will the LORD cause the people of Cush or Ethiopia to do after the fall of the Assyrian Empire?

What is this gift of homage that will be brought to the LORD of hosts “at this time” by the Ethiopians?

Is “at this time” possibly a foreshadowing of the Millennial Kingdom when all the peoples from the world will worship the LORD in Jerusalem? And what gift will the Ethiopians bring then?

Please record the theme of Isaiah 18 on the Isaiah-theme-summary chart in the Appendix.

Days 4 & 5 – The Burden of Egypt – Isaiah 19, 20

Please read Isaiah chapters 19 and 20 and work on the double-spaced worksheets for these two chapters. Mark the word “oracle” again as before and also note all the “in that day” statements, as well. There is another sign given by Isaiah in chapter 20. What is this sign and what possibly is the long-range meaning?

The LORD of Hosts, the Holy One of Israel, is the Sovereign Lord GOD. What does the word “sovereign” mean?

What is God’s will? Or what is God’s will, as explained by Jesus in John 6:39-40? And what is God’s will, in Paul’s words according to Romans 12:1-2?

I would like you to read Psalm 2 before you read Isaiah 19-20.

What do the nations do in Psalm 2:1-3?

What do the people devise?

What do the kings and rulers of the earth do?

Who is speaking and to whom in Psalm 2:4-6?

What does God say about His King, His Son, in Psalm 2:6-9?

What does God warn the kings and the judges of the earth?

What will happen if the kings and the judges of the earth do not heed God's warning?

Now, read Isaiah 19-20 and work on the double-spaced worksheets for these two chapters found in the appendix. Mark key repeated words. Note all references to "in that day" and where they start in chapter 19 and where they end in chapter 20. Also, list these references to "in that day" on the "in-that-day" chart found in the appendix.

These two chapters reveal God's judgment or burden against Egypt. Judah has been warned against making unholy alliances with other nations. They are to trust in the faithfulness of the LORD their God and in His word spoken through the prophet Isaiah. The Ethiopians and the Egyptians are looking for an alliance with Judah/Jerusalem against the mighty force of the Assyrians who will soon be on their way to seize Ethiopia and Egypt. We learned yesterday, that God wanted the Ethiopians to know that He would protect the faithful remnant in Jerusalem from the Assyrians. God wanted His own people to trust in Him alone and not in the strange alliances with other countries.

What has Isaiah already prophesied about Jerusalem?

Do you think that Jerusalem will make an alliance with Egypt and Ethiopia in the near future to Isaiah's time of writing this?

How will God ride into Egypt in Isaiah 19:1? What does this mean?

What will happen to the idols of Egypt and what will happen to the Egyptians?

What will God do to incite the Egyptians?

Several references I looked at, said that Egypt was originally a monotheistic society. However, prior to and apparently after the time of Isaiah's writing, Egypt was totally given over to idol worship, magic, satanic activity, and the occult. We know that during the time of Moses, the magicians of Pharaoh could do the same signs and miracles that Moses did, giving credence to the demonic power behind them. Then, Isaiah 19:3 says, "then the spirit of the Egyptians will be demoralized within them, and I will confound their strategy." Egypt was brought very low. Again, their gods didn't and couldn't protect them. They then resorted to even deeper relationships with their false gods.ⁱ

To whom will God deliver the Egyptians in 19:4?

Why did God judge the Egyptians?

If the Egyptians had been monotheistic at their beginning, their turning to false gods would have been enough to warrant God's judgment on them. They worshipped the sun, the bull, lice, the scarab (a dung beetle), frogs, various fish, the Nile River, and all kinds of birds. Egypt had done some horrible things to the Israelites in the past. They have had more encounters with Israel and more years in relationship with Israel than any other nation on the earth.ⁱⁱ The Egyptians enslaved the Israelites for 400 years. Their Pharaoh tried to thwart the exodus of the sons of Israel out of Egypt. Later on, future to Isaiah's day, during the time of the Selucids of Syria and the Ptolomy's of Egypt, Israel will again suffer greatly because of the Egyptians. Today, Egypt has embraced Islam and anti-Semitism. She has made herself odious to the new nation of Israel formed in 1948.

How did God manifest this judgment? (19:5-15)

Was it to be all doom and gloom for Egypt forever? (19:16-25)

What do you notice about the timeframe here?

What do you notice about their future here "in that day" accounted for in Isaiah 19:16-25? Is there a wonderful future for them?

Egypt had been a terror to Israel in the past. Who will Egypt be “in terror” of “in that day?”

In what city will the Egyptians corporately worship the LORD “in that day?”

Where will the altar to the LORD and the pillar to the LORD be “in that day?”

What will the pillar be a sign and a witness to “in that day?”

Will the Egyptians be saved “in that day?”

What will the Egyptians do? And what will God do in response to their cry?

Will the Egyptians know the LORD “in that day?”

Where will there be a highway from and to “in that day?”

Will Israel, Egypt and Assyria all worship the LORD in Jerusalem together “in that day?”

Isaiah, obviously, did something very risqué in chapter 20 to get the attention of those in Jerusalem who wanted to ally themselves with Egypt and Cush. What was this sign and what was it all about? (Isaiah 20)

Again, what did God want those in Jerusalem to do?

This is an amazing burden that will be turned into a blessing for the nation of Egypt “in that day.” Egypt will be saved. Even though they are still rebellious against God today, and have been rebellious in the past, they will one day turn to their merciful God and Savior and Deliverer and they will surrender themselves to Him, worshipping only Him in Jerusalem along side Israel and Assyria. What hope! What mercy! What an awesome God we serve.

Please write the themes of chapters 17, 18, 19, and 20 on the respective double-spaced worksheets and on the Isaiah-theme-summary chart in the appendix.

ⁱ J. Vernon McGee, *Isaiah, Volume 1*, LaVerne, CA, El Camino Press, 1978, pp.144-145.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ISAIAH -THEME-SUMMARY SO FAR
Isaiah 1-24

Isaiah 1-24
Part 3
Lesson 4-1

Chapters 1-12 Judgment Jerusalem, Judah, Israel	Chapters 13-23 Judgment on Nations	Chapter 24 Global Judgment
<p>1 God's charge agst Hs. of David</p> <p>2 Prophecy Last Days - Millennium</p> <p>3 Israel's undoing: disobedience</p> <p>4 Last Days in & out of the City</p> <p>5 Hs of Israel's doom & the 6 Woes of Judah</p> <p>6 Call & commission of Isaiah</p> <p>7 Coming invasion of Judah by Assyria</p> <p>8 Coming invasion of Judah</p> <p>9 Coming of child to be King, Last Days, 1st & 2nd comings</p> <p>10 Assyria, God's instrument to judge Israel</p> <p>11 Person of the Messiah/ peace in the Millennium</p> <p>12 Worship of the LORD in Millennium; the kingdom age</p>	<p>13 Babylon will be judged</p> <p>14 Babylon will be judged</p> <p>15 Moab will be judged</p> <p>16 Moab will be judged - last call to Moab</p> <p>17 Aram/Ephraim alliance will be judged</p> <p>18 Cush</p> <p>19 Egypt will be judged</p> <p>20 Egypt will be judged</p> <p>21 Babylon, Edom & Arabia will be judged</p> <p>22 Jerusalem will be judged</p> <p>23 Tyre will be judged</p>	<p>24 The whole earth will experience judgement; the wrath of God</p> <p><u>Judgment of the peoples alive during the Great Tribulation</u></p> <p>Isaiah 24</p> <p>Matthew 24, Luke 21</p> <p>Revelation Judgments of the 7 seals, the 7 trumpets, and the 7 bowls</p> <p><u>Effects of the Judgment of the Earth itself</u></p> <p>Isaiah 24</p> <p>Matthew 24, Luke 21</p> <p>Revelation Judgments of the 7 seals, the 7 trumpets, and the 7 bowls</p> <p><u>Effects of the Judgment on the Heavens</u></p> <p>Isaiah 24</p> <p>Matthew 24, Luke 21</p> <p>Revelation Judgement of the 7 seals, the 7 trumpets, and the 7 bowls</p> <p><u>Effects on the Remnant of God</u></p> <p>Isaiah 11 - the land will be inhabited again by Israel last time</p> <p>Daniel 9, Leviticus 23, Ezekiel 4 - the temple rebuilt & sacs</p> <p>Ezekiel 36,37 - land, population, cities, animals all increase</p> <p>Matthew 24 - those who hate Jews will deliver them to Trib, false porphets, increase in lawlessness, abomination of desolation -> flee to mtns., Gospel of the <u>kingdom</u> preached, end will come</p> <p>Revelation 12 - Israel protected in wilderness, Satan will try to devour</p> <p>Revelation 7 - Trib Saints will wear white robes; "T" mark</p>

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

**Isaiah 1-24
Part 3
Lesson 4-2**

<p align="center">the Thessalonians Two Troubles</p>	
<p align="center">Have we been left behind? 2 Thess. 2:1-10</p>	<p align="center">What about those who have died before us? 1 Thess. 4:13-18</p>
<p>What false doctrine had been circulated in the Thessalonian church? the day of the LORD had already come & they had been left behind What specific event did they think they had missed (vs.3)? the gathering together of them to Christ- or the Rapture What did Paul tell them about the “day of the LORD?” the day of the LORD will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction What is the man of lawlessness like? - he will not be revealed until restrainer (HS) is taken out - he opposes, exalts himself above q. so-called god, object of worship - will take his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as God - the mystery of lawlessness is already at work - the lawless one will be slain w/ LORD’s breath - he will be brought to an end by 2nd coming of Jesus - his coming will be w/ power, signs, false wonders & deception</p>	<p>What does fallen asleep mean? they had already died What happens to a Believing Saint when the body dies? the body is severed from the spirit at time of death. The spirit of person went to be w/ the LORD immediately after death. At the Rapture, Christ will resurrect the Believing Saint’s body from the grave (new body) & will join that body w/ the spirit of the Believing saint What will Jesus do in the Rapture? He will descend from heaven w/ a shout w/ the voice of the archangel & w/ the trumpet of God Who will Jesus bring w/ Him to meet the Living Believers at the time of the Rapture? those who have already fallen asleep Who will meet Him first? the already dead believers or the living believers? the already dead believers What will happen to the living Believers at the gathering? after the dead Believers rise first to meet Him, then those who are alive will be “caught up together w/ Christ & the already dead Believers and meet them “in the air.” What will happen to both the dead & living Believers “caught up” in the air w/ the LORD? they will live forever w/ the LORD Where will we possibly be in Revelation 4, 5? in the throne room of God w/ all the other saints, the four living creatures, the 24 elders & the Lamb who was slain & the One who sits on the throne viewing the opening of the seal judgments What did the Lamb do that warranted His being worthy? He purchased for God men from every tribe & tongue & people & nation to be a kingdom and priests to our God</p>