

Today, we'd like to see the title of "Against Syria, Israel, & Ethiopia" in the book of Isaiah 17-18

To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

Q1. In 17:10 & 11, "Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, And have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold, Therefore you will plant pleasant plants And set out foreign seedlings; ¹¹ In the day you will make your plant to grow, And in the morning you will make your seed to flourish; *But* the harvest *will be* a heap of ruins In the day of grief and desperate sorrow," what do they mean? And what can we learn from here?

Q2. In 17:14, "Then behold, at eventide, trouble! *And* before the morning, he *is* no more. This *is* the portion of those who plunder us, And the lot of those who rob us," and in 18:6, "They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey And for the beasts of the earth; The birds of prey will summer on them, And all the beasts of the earth will winter on them," what was their historical background?

Q3. In 18:7, "In that time a present will be brought to the LORD of hosts From a people tall and smooth *of skin*, And from a people terrible from their beginning onward, A nation powerful and treading down, Whose land the rivers divide— To the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, To Mount Zion," which nation will bring the present to the Lord of hosts and why will the nation do so?

(Background)

Isaiah's prophecy was made **during 745-695 BC** when 4 kings of Judah reigned in light of Isaiah 1:1 "The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah [Azariah] (the 9th 767-740), Jotham (the 10th 740-736), Ahaz (the 11th 736-716), and Hezekiah (the 12th 716-687) , kings of Judah."

Today, Isaiah made the prophecy against Syria, Israel, & Ethiopia.

In the last chapter 16, Isaiah made the prophecy in 704 BC about Moab's fall in 702 BC, and the prophecy in 734 BC about Syria's fall in 732 BC. In 722 BC, Israel's fall occurred.

Assyria conquered Israel (722BC) – The kings of Assyria were Tigath-Pileser, Shalmanesser, Sargon, Sennacherib, and Esarhaddon in order; Babylon conquered Judah (586BC); Persia conquered Babylon (536BC).

It notes that this prophecy doesn't follow in a chronological order because Syria's fall in this chapter 17 was 30 years earlier than Moab's fall in the last 16 chapter. So, his writing style had changed in 30 years, not meaning a different author than Isaiah. The prophecies often were

collected, and put together with themes without chronology.

(Text)

<p>17</p> <p>¹ The burden against Damascus.</p> <p>“Behold, <u>Damascus</u> will cease from <i>being</i> a city, And it <u>will be a ruinous heap</u>.</p> <p>² <u>The cities of Aroer</u> are forsaken; They will be <u>for flocks</u> <u>Which lie down, and no one will make them afraid</u>.</p> <p>³ The fortress also will cease from <u>Ephraim</u>, The kingdom from <u>Damascus</u>, And <u>the remnant of Syria</u>; They will be as <u>the glory of the children of Israel</u>,” Says the LORD of hosts.</p> <p>⁴ “In that day it shall come to pass <u>That the glory of Jacob will wane</u>, And <u>the fatness of his flesh grow lean</u>.</p> <p>⁵ It shall be as <u>when the harvester gathers the grain</u>, And <u>reaps the heads</u> with his arm; It shall be as <u>he who gathers heads of grain</u> In the Valley of Rephaim.</p> <p>⁶ Yet gleaning <u>grapes</u> will be left in it, Like the shaking of <u>an olive tree</u>, <u>Two or three olives at the top of the uppermost bough</u>, <u>Four or five in its most fruitful branches</u>,” Says the LORD God of Israel.</p>	<p>1= Damascus (the capital city of Syria); will be a ruinous heap (will be destroyed, in 732 BC)</p> <p>2= The cities of Aroer (Syrian cities); for flocks Which lie down, and no one will make them afraid (because most people were carried away captive)</p> <p>3= Ephraim (the major tribe of Israel the Northern kingdom); Damascus (the capital city of Syria; Israel made allies with Syria against Assyria, not seeking God); the remnant of Syria... the glory of the children of Israel (will cease, i.e., will be gone away; Syria and Israel will fall by Assyria)</p> <p>4= the glory of Jacob will wane (the glory of Israel will be weakened); the fatness of his flesh grown lean (the prosperity of Israel will be thin, weakened, or wasted away.)</p> <p>5= when the harvester gathers the grain (from the bottom to the head, so the head portion is the last left few things of the grain.); reaps the heads; he who gathers heads of grain (Israel is just as he who gathers the last few things of the grain, i.e., Israel's fall is very close.)</p> <p>6= grapes ... like the shaking of an olive tree, 2 or 3 olives at the top of the uppermost bough (taking out from bottom to top, so the last few left grapes are described for Israel's close fall); 4 or 5 in its most fruitful branches (just 4 or 5 olive fruits left in its most fruitful branches)</p>
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<p><u>7 In that day a man will look to his Maker,</u> <u>And his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel.</u></p> <p><u>8 He will not look to the altars,</u> <u>The work of his hands;</u> <u>He will not respect what his fingers have made,</u> <u>Nor the wooden images nor the incense altars.</u></p> <p><u>9 In that day his strong cities will be as a forsaken bough</u> <u>And an uppermost branch,</u> <u>Which they left because of the children of Israel;</u> <u>And there will be desolation.</u></p> <p><u>10 Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation,</u> <u>And have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold,</u> <u>Therefore you will plant pleasant plants</u> <u>And set out foreign seedlings;</u></p> <p><u>11 In the day you will make your plant to grow,</u> <u>And in the morning you will make your seed to flourish;</u> <u>But the harvest will be a heap of ruins</u> <u>In the day of grief and desperate sorrow.</u></p>	<p>7= In that day (In that day of Israel's fall); a man will look to his Maker, And his eyes will have respect the Holy One of Israel (Israel regrets so in that day because he left from God, and took a lot of idols ; US will regret so unless we repent our a lot of things against God – secularism; paganism; selfishness; materialism; sexual immorality – unlike pagan gods, our God doesn't attract the great number of people but seek those whose heart is loyal to God ¹ <i>Jeremiah 2:13; 2 Samuel 24:3,17; 2 Chron 16:9</i>)</p> <p>8= altars; work of his hands; what his fingers have made (a lot of temporal things, not eternal thing, e.g. we might rely on expensive car, big house, huge bank account for security rather than trust God for eternal security) the wooden images (Ashtoreth, a goddess of fertility)</p> <p>9= In that day his strong cities will be.... There will be desolation (Israel will be completely destroyed by Assyria in 722 BC)</p> <p>10= Q1 Because (why is Israel's complete fall?); forgotten the God of salvation; not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold (you forsook God) ; plant pleasant plants and set out foreign seedlings (the seed to grow for luck and to die for bad luck in Adonis gardens, in pagan practice)</p> <p>11=Q1 your plant to grow... your seed to flourish (for luck) ; But the harvest ... a heap of ruins... grief and desperate sorrow (But at end, you will be perished; If you rely upon any temporal things for security, at end you will be perished away; If you rely upon any others than God, you will be forsaken ² <i>Chr 15:2</i>)</p>
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¹ *Jeremiah 2:13* "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.; *2 Samuel 24:3,17*³ And Joab said to the king, "Now may the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times more than there are, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?" ¹⁷ Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."; *2 Chron 16:9* For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars." (Asa King of Judah allied with Benhadad king of Syria at the time of Israel's invasion instead of asking the Lord. So, Hanani the seer told so to Asa.)

² *2 Chr 15:2* And he went out to meet Asa. and said to him: "Hear me. Asa. and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

<p>¹² Woe to <u>the multitude of many people</u> <u>Who make a noise like the roar of the seas,</u> <u>And to the rushing of nations</u> <u>That make a rushing like the rushing of mighty</u> <u>waters!</u></p> <p>¹³ The nations will rush like <u>the rushing of many</u> <u>waters;</u> <u>But God will rebuke them and they will flee far</u> <u>away,</u> <u>And be chased like the chaff of the mountains</u> <u>before the wind,</u> <u>Like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.</u></p> <p>¹⁴ Then behold, <u>at eventide,</u> trouble! <u>And before the morning, he is no more.</u> <u>This is the portion of those who plunder us,</u> <u>And the lot of those who rob us.</u></p> <p>18</p> <p>¹ Woe to <u>the land shadowed with buzzing wings,</u> <u>Which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia,</u></p>	<p>(12-14 : God's dealing with Assyria)</p> <p>12-13 = the multitude of many people (Assyrians); a noise like the roar of the seas; the rushing nations; a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!; the rushing of many waters; But God will rebuke them (God will destroy Assyria) and they will flee far away (how?); like the chaff of the mountain before the wind (by the wind the grains drop down on the rock of mountain by weight but the chaffs blow away); a rolling thing before the whirlwind (like tumbleweeds; Assyria will be destroyed by Babylon in 612 BC ³Psalm 1:1-4)</p> <p>14= Q2 at eventide [evening-tide]... before the morning, he is no more (Assyria all soldiers 185,000 were killed by the angel of God because Sennacherib's reproaching God ⁴2 Kings 19:14-16; 35)</p> <p>1= the land shadowed with bussing wings (for a lot kinds of flies in jungles in Ethiopia, the land indicates Ethiopia); beyond the rivers of Ethiopia (look at Map, a lot of tributaries divided into north bound toward Nile river – the longest river at 4,180 miles or 6,695 Km – from Ethiopia, through Sudan, to Egypt.)</p>
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³ Psalm 1:1-4 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

⁴ 2 Kings 19:14-16; 35¹⁴ And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. ¹⁵ Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, *the One* who dwells *between* the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. ¹⁶ Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. ³⁵ And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when *people* arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.

² Which sends ambassadors by sea,
Even in vessels of reed on the waters, saying,
“Go, swift messengers, to a nation tall and
smooth of skin,
To a people terrible from their beginning onward,
A nation powerful and treading down,
Whose land the rivers divide.”

³ All inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth:
When he lifts up a banner on the mountains, you
see it;
And when he blows a trumpet, you hear it.

⁴ For so the LORD said to me,
“I will take My rest,
And I will look from My dwelling place
Like clear heat in sunshine,
Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.”

⁵ For before the harvest, when the bud is perfect
And the sour grape is ripening in the flower,
He will both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks
And take away *and* cut down the branches.

⁶ They will be left together for the mountain birds
of prey
And for the beasts of the earth;
The birds of prey will summer on them,
And all the beasts of the earth will winter on them.

2= ambassadors by sea, even in vessels of reed on the waters (the sea is referred to the Nile river because the Ethiopians did come down the Nile tributaries in those boats made of reed or bull rushes); a nation tall and smooth of skin (Ethiopian stature is tall and their skin is smooth or sleek); a people terrible from their beginning on ward; a nation powerful and treading down (on Moses' time, it was strong country); whose land the rivers divide (a lot of tributaries into Nile river)

3= When he lifts up a banner on the mountains (When Assyria gets a victory over war), you see it (Ethiopia sees it); he blows a trumpet (Assyria gets a victory), you hear it (Ethiopia hears it -- described the doom of Ethiopia and victory of Assyria)

(4-7 : God's dealing with Assyria)

4= said to me (Isaiah); My rest; from My dwelling place (from heaven); clear heat in sunshine (Assyria like clear heat in sunshine); a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest (Assyria like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest – Assyria's temporal victory, not lasting long)

5= before the harvest when the bud is perfect (before the bud fully blossomed); the sour grape (not fully ripe grape); cut off the sprigs ... the branches (God will destroy Assyrians completely – both small branches and the branches with pruning hooks)

6=Q2 left together for the mountain birds of prey... for the beasts of the earth (185,000 corpses will be food for birds and beasts)... summer... winter (the carcasses as their food during both summer and winter, see 17:14, above)

⁷ In that time a present will be brought to the LORD of hosts
 From a people tall and smooth of skin,
 And from a people terrible from their beginning onward,
 A nation powerful and treading down,
 Whose land the rivers divide—
 To the place of the name of the LORD of hosts,
 To Mount Zion.

7=Q3 In that time (In that time God's angel slew 185,000 Assyrians); a present to the Lord of hosts ... From a people tall and smooth.....land the rivers divide (From Ethiopians); to the place of the name of the Lord of hosts, to Mount Zion (to God in Jerusalem; Ethiopians brought Thanksgiving offering to God for His delivery from Assyrians; How should we do to God? give thanks for all & in all ⁵1 Thessalonians 5:18; Eph 5:20)

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⁵ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Eph 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,