

# Isaiah Series Part 6

## Chapters 13-14

The Lord of Hosts Rules over Nations



# Introduction

Isaiah 13–14 shifts the focus from Judah’s immediate troubles to the fate of the nations. Beginning with Babylon, Isaiah shows that God is not just the God of Israel, but the **sovereign Lord of history**, directing the rise and fall of empires.

**Oswalt** observes that Babylon serves as the “archetype of human pride and rebellion against God.”

**Motyer** notes that the prophetic oracles here show God’s hand guiding the destinies of nations, not simply reacting to them.

**Outline:** Let’s walk through the chapters in four movements: **judgment, deliverance, the fall of pride, and God’s sovereign plan.**

# God's Judgment Declared against the Nations(13:1–22)

## 1. The Oracle Against Babylon (13:1–5)

God summons nations as His “weapons of indignation” (v. 5). Babylon represents the proud city of man—seemingly invincible but destined to fall.

*Motyer:* This oracle reminds us that God uses even pagan powers to accomplish His will.

**Teaching Point:** No empire, however mighty, stands apart from God's control.

# God's Judgment Declared against the Nations(13:1–22)

## 2. The Day of the Lord (13:6–16)

A terrifying picture: cosmic disturbances, trembling hearts, human helplessness.

*Oswalt:* This “Day of the Lord” is not just a single event—it recurs whenever God confronts human arrogance.

Verse 11: “I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity.”

**Teaching Point:** God's judgment reveals the futility of trusting in human power.

# God's Judgment Declared against the Nations(13:1–22)

## 3. The Fall of Babylon (13:17–22)

God names the Medes as His instrument of Babylon's downfall (v. 17). Once-glorious Babylon becomes desolate, never rebuilt.

*Motyer:* Human achievements collapse when they are built on pride rather than submission to God.

**Illustration:** Think of the ruins of once-mighty cities—symbols of the truth that God humbles the proud.

# God's Deliverance of His People (14:1–2)

## 1. The Lord Will Have Compassion (14:1)

God's sovereignty is never detached from His covenant mercy.

*Motyer:* Israel's restoration flows not from their merit but from God's compassion.

# God's Deliverance of His People (14:1–2)

## 2. Strangers Will Join Them (14:1–2)

A vision of nations joining Israel in worship, serving in God's kingdom.

Reversal of fortunes: the oppressed are vindicated, oppressors are brought low.

*Oswalt:* This points to the wider promise that God's kingdom will embrace all peoples.

**Application:** In Christ, Gentiles are grafted in—God's deliverance always reaches further than expected.

# The Fall of the Proud King of Babylon (14:3–23)

## 1. The Taunt Song (14:3–11)

Israel will mock Babylon's king when God brings rest from oppression. "How the oppressor has ceased!" (v. 4).

Even the realm of the dead (Sheol) mocks the fallen tyrant.

*Oswalt:* The song emphasizes the emptiness of worldly glory once stripped of power.



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## 2. The Fall of the “Morning Star” (14:12–15)

The king of Babylon exalted himself: “I will ascend to heaven...I will make myself like the Most High.”

*Motyer:* Pride is the heart of sin—self enthronement against God. Brought low to Sheol, the ultimate reversal of pride.

Later Christian tradition reads this as a typological picture of Satan’s rebellion.

**Teaching Point:** Pride always leads to downfall; only humility leads to exaltation.

# The Fall of the Proud King of Babylon (14:3–23)

## 3. The Reality of Babylon's End (14:16–23)

Onlookers marvel: “Is this the man who made the earth tremble?” (v. 16). The king has no glorious burial—his legacy is erased. Babylon's dynasty is cut off forever.

*Oswalt:* Human kingdoms, however dazzling, cannot outlast God's judgment.

**Illustration:** Compare the pomp of rulers' funerals today with the fate of Babylon's king—shame and anonymity.

# The Sovereign Lord of History (14:24–32)

## 1. The Lord's Oath (14:24–27)

God swears by Himself: His plan against Assyria will stand.

*Oswalt:* This is a universal principle—God's purposes cannot be thwarted.

“His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?” (v. 27).

**Teaching Point:** Nations scheme, but God's plan alone prevails.

## **Conclusion: God Alone Rules the Nations**

**Oswalt:** Isaiah presents Yahweh as the universal Lord—history is His stage.

**Motyer:** Judgment is not despair but hope—God humbles the proud to deliver the humble.

### **Applications for Today:**

- Nations rise and fall, but the Lord's word stands forever.
- Pride leads to downfall; humility before God leads to life.
- God's people can rest secure, knowing that His purposes will prevail.
- In Christ, the promise of deliverance extends to all peoples—He is gathering the nations into His kingdom.