

*Is. 13:4 A sound of tumult on the mountains, Like that of many people! A sound of the uproar of kingdoms, Of nations gathered together! The Lord of hosts is mustering the army for battle.*

Verse 4 should be studied in conjunction with verses 1-3 of this chapter. The Gentile army of verse 3, an army of believers (*consecrated ones*), will be a huge army that goes against the Antichrist's capital, Babylon. It is *The Lord of hosts* that will gather this *army* together (v.4).

*Is. 13:5 They are coming from a far country From the farthest horizons, The Lord and His instruments of indignation, To destroy the whole land.*

God's army of Gentile nations will *destroy the whole land* of Babylon, a destruction that will be thorough and complete (as confirmed by verses 20-22).

*Is. 13:6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.*

Verses 6-12 describe conditions that will exist during the Tribulation. *The day of the Lord* (the Tribulation) will be a time when *destruction* will come *from the Almighty*. As is clear from the notes associated with Isaiah 13:3, The Campaign of Armageddon will be part of *the day of the Lord*, meaning that Babylon will be destroyed during the Tribulation.

*Is. 13:7 Therefore all hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt.*

Verses 7 and 8 list some of the things that will happen to unbelievers as a result of the Tribulation. *All their hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt.*

*Is. 13:8 And they will be terrified, Pains and anguish will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor, They will look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame.*

Mankind (the unredeemed) *will be terrified* during the Tribulation, experience *Pains and anguish, ...writhe like a woman in labor*, and *look at one another in astonishment, Their faces aflame* (they will be totally embarrassed and humiliated).

*Is. 13:9 Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, Cruel, with fury and burning anger, To make the land a desolation; And He will exterminate its sinners from it.*

*The day of the Lord* (the Tribulation) will be the catalyst that *exterminates* all *sinners from the land*—one of the main purposes of the Tribulation. The last of the *sinners* eliminated will be the unredeemed Gentiles who are alive at the end of the Tribulation. They will be exterminated during the seventy-five day interval between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennium (these seventy-five days are addressed in Daniel 12:11-12). The *judgment* that will remove these Gentiles is addressed in Matthew 25:31-46 as well as Joel 3:1-3, a *judgment* based on whether they have supported or persecuted the Jews during the Tribulation (Matthew 25:40 and 45). Those who have supported the Jews will be believers, the *sheep* Gentiles of Matthew 25:31-40, while the *goats* will be the unbelieving Gentiles, those who have failed to support the Jews during the Tribulation (Matthew 25:31-33, 41-46). At the completion of this judgment, the goats, unbelieving Gentiles, will be cast into hell (Matthew 25:46), while the sheep Gentiles, believers, will reap the blessings of the Millennium (Matthew 25:46).

It is obvious, from the time we have invested in the book of Isaiah, that many *sinners* (Isaiah 13:9) will lose their lives during the seven years of Tribulation. We must keep in mind, however, that the final group of *sinners* is not eliminated until the completion of the judgment of the

Gentiles (which occurs during the seventy-five day interval between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennium). This confirms that all who enter the Millennium in their physical bodies will be redeemed. We know from other sections of Scripture that those who enter the Millennium in their resurrected bodies are, of course, redeemed as well. Therefore, no unredeemed person will be ushered into the Millennial Kingdom.

*Is. 13:10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not flash forth their light; The sun will be dark when it rises, And the moon will not shed its light.*

Because Isaiah is dealing with the Tribulation in this verse, he is saying that blackouts will occur during the day of the Lord. We should understand, however, that blackouts occur before and after the Tribulation as well. The five blackouts described in Scripture are as follows: The first is before the Tribulation begins (Joel 2:30-31). The second occurs during the beginning of the first half of the Tribulation (Revelation 6:12-13); the third occurs in the latter portion of first half of the Tribulation (Revelation 9:2); the fourth during the second half of the Tribulation (Revelation 16:10-11); and the fifth comes after the completion of the Tribulation (Matthew 24:29). These blackouts will bring terror to the unredeemed inhabitants of the earth.

*Is. 13:11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud, And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.*

From verses 9 and 11, we see that one of the purposes of *the day of the Lord* (the Tribulation) is not only to judge *the wicked*, but to also *exterminate* them from the earth. Only the redeemed will be alive at the end of the seven years of Tribulation to enter into the Messianic Kingdom.

*Is. 13:12 I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold, And mankind than the gold of Ophir.*

*Man* will become scarce because a massive number of people will be destroyed during the Tribulation.

*Is. 13:13 Therefore I shall make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the Lord of hosts In the day of His burning anger.*

Verses 13-16 deal with the destruction that will fall on Babylon during the Tribulation. God's *anger* will be such that the *heavens will tremble, And the earth will be shaken*.

*Is. 13:14 And it will be that like a hunted gazelle, Or like sheep with none to gather them, They will each turn to his own people, And each one flee to his own land.*

As a result of God's anger directed toward the city of Babylon (v.13), all foreigners will *flee* from the city (v.14). From Jeremiah 51:9, we not only understand that foreigners will flee from Babylon, but also that *her judgment* will reach *to heaven* instead of the *tower* she desired to build *into heaven* many years earlier in Genesis 11:4—*Shinar* of Genesis 11:2 being Babylon. All Jews will *flee from the city of Babylon* before the city is destroyed (Isaiah 48:20; Jeremiah 50:8, 28; 51:6, 45; Zechariah 2:6-7; Revelation 18:4).

*Is. 13:15 Anyone who is found will be thrust through, And anyone who is captured will fall by the sword.*

Even though foreigners leave the city of Babylon, the Babylonians choose to stay and are killed.

*Is. 13:16 Their little ones also will be dashed to pieces Before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished.*

The Babylonian children will be killed, the *houses...plundered*, and the Babylonian *wives ravished*. Note: God desired that the men, women, and children of *Amalek* be destroyed (1 Samuel 15:1-3). Even Moses condoned such actions (Deuteronomy 2:34; 3:6), as well as *Joshua* (Joshua 6:21; 8:24-27). Other examples are listed in the Scriptures as well. Therefore, it will be proper for God to bring about a similar destruction in Babylon, especially since it will be the headquarters of the Antichrist during the second half of the Tribulation.

*Is. 13:17 ¶ Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them, Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold,*

Isaiah prophesies that *the Medes* will be raised up as leaders to direct the other nations in their campaign against the Babylonians. It is interesting that the territory of *the Medes* covers present day Iran, Afghanistan, and what was southern Russia—all to the north of the holy land. This fits in well with Jeremiah 50:41 (note the phrase, “*a people is coming from the north*”), especially since Jeremiah 50 deals with the destruction of *Babylon* during the Tribulation. Jeremiah 51, which also describes the devastation of *Babylon* during the Tribulation, confirms the same—read Jeremiah 51:11, 27-29, and 48.

*Is. 13:18 And their bows will mow down the young men, They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb, Nor will their eye pity children.*

Those who destroy the Babylonians will display no mercy on *young men* or *children*. (Read the notes associated with verse 16.)

*Is. 13:19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.*

The destruction of the city of *Babylon* will be like that of *Sodom and Gomorrah*. It will be total.

*Is. 13:20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there.*

The results of this destruction, which occurs at the end of the Tribulation, will cause *Babylon* to *never again be rebuilt or inhabited*. This was not the case when the Medes and Persians overthrew *Babylon* in Daniel 5:30-31; for it was taken without a fight; and, therefore, the city was spared. In fact, it was inhabited for approximately one thousand years after its overthrow in Daniel 5. Therefore, Isaiah 13 cannot describe what happened to *Babylon* at the hands of the Medes and Persians.

It is worthy to note that *the Arab* will not *pitch his tent there*, *Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there* after Babylon's final fall. Today, however, Arabs do *pitch* their tents and pasture *their flocks* in this location.

*Is. 13:21 But desert creatures will lie down there, And their houses will be full of owls, Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there.*

From Revelation 18:2, we understand that *demons* and *unclean* spirits will inhabit Babylon after her fall. We also know from Revelation 19:3 that *smoke rises up* from Babylon *forever and ever*, meaning that normal animals and fowl could not withstand such an environment. Consequently, some of the animal like creatures described here in verse 21 must be demons. In fact, the word "*owls*" can be interpreted "goat demons." This lines up well with Revelation 9, a chapter which confirms that *demons* can appear with features similar to animals, *locusts*, and *scorpions*.

*Is. 13:22 And hyenas will howl in their fortified towers And jackals in their luxurious palaces. Her fateful time also will soon come And her days will not be prolonged.*

Again the demons are described as having features similar to animals.

When this destruction of Babylon occurs, it will *come* swiftly, *her days will not be prolonged*.