


WEEK #12

Isaiah 13 - 23 - Enemies

An open Bible is shown on a desk, with its pages filled with text. The Bible is the central focus of the image, and the text is overlaid on top of it. The background is slightly blurred, showing a desk and some other items.

For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...

—Isaiah 14:13



Isaiah by Mail

A Bible Study Born in the Midst of Covid
Monday, August 24, 2020

Hi Everyone!

We are covering eleven chapters today! Chapters 13 – 23. Don't worry, I'm not commenting on every verse, but I would like for you to read all of it. It talks about how the Lord did long ago, and will someday, destroy the enemies of Israel.

Israel has always had many enemies – enemies who hate Israel because they hate God. But honestly, the one, main enemy Israel has is the same one, main enemy we have: Satan. I'd like for you to come away from this week's scripture lesson with a greater appreciation for who your enemy is, and how you should think about this business of having an enemy.

Ken and I were travelling from Colorado to Indiana many years ago with our 5 children. They were ages 10, 8, 6, 4 and 2. I was 30 years old. We were driving a soon-to-be-repossessed van, and were homeless. We had been starting a church in Colorado, and had just simply run out of money. Ken couldn't get a job. We were hungry. Our only choice seemed to be to leave Colorado and find a place to live with my Dad, in Indianapolis, Indiana. So...we packed up all of our worldly possessions and our 5 children and made a long and bewildering trip to what would be our home for the next 37 years and counting.

Somewhere in between Colorado and Indiana we stopped at a small restaurant to have dinner. Ken was carrying our youngest, the three older boys ran into the restaurant, and I was carrying our 3-year-old. There was a fierce storm blowing, and we just headed for the door of the restaurant, knowing that once we were inside the storm could blow all it wanted and we would have a few minutes reprieve from the drive.



As I left the car with Beth in my arms, the wind suddenly whipped up, and I felt like she was going to be snatched out of my grasp. The wind took my breath away, and I held on to her for dear life, leaning into the wind, barely making any headway. I knew the LORD was with me, but it sure felt like satan was throwing his weight against us and that he might win. I was afraid, and she was afraid, but I just kept putting one foot in front of the other, and made it into the restaurant...it honestly felt like a miracle.

The LORD was our shelter that night from the wind and the rain, and, if you ask me, from the forces of evil. He got us inside that place of safety, gave us a warm meal, and then sent us the rest of the way to our new home.

Never forget Who has walked you through all of your storms. He always wins the battle against satan and his demons. He may have more storms ahead for you, but He is your shelter every time.



Kathleen

Isaiah 13 - 23 – Enemies Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 14:13

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...’ “

Discussion Questions for Isaiah Chapters 13-23

Questions: On the following pages, see if you can name all the enemies of Israel as you read through Chapters 13 – 23.

1. Who is the enemy of Israel talked about in the following passages?

Chapters 13:1–14:23 and 21:1-10 _____

Chapter 14:24-27 _____

Chapter 14:28-32 _____

Chapters 15 & 16 _____

Chapter 17:1-14 _____

Chapter 18:1-7 _____

Chapters 19&20 _____

Chapter 21:11&12 _____

Chapter 21:13-17 _____

Chapter 22:1-25 _____

Chapter 23 _____

2. Who is the one, main enemy of Israel, who convinces all the others to do their worst to Israel?

Chapter 14: 12-15 _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

3. Who are your enemies?

4. What do Isaiah chapters 13-23 teach us about our enemies?

Isaiah 13 - 23 – Enemies Kathleen's Answers & Comments

Memory Verse: Isaiah 14:13

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...’ “

Israel is surrounded by her enemies today, and she was surrounded by enemies in Isaiah's day. Israel, from the time God picked her up and chose her to be His own, has had a big, red target painted on her back.

So...why does Israel have all these enemies? Why does she have them even today? Because of her one, main enemy: satan. Satan hates God. And satan hates anything God loves. And satan will do anything to destroy God's plans.

Right in the middle of the passage describing Babylon in Isaiah Chapter 14, the LORD gives us a brief glimpse of what happened in the heavens when a beautiful, glorious angel of God rebelled, and took 1/3 of the angels of heaven with him, away from the heavens and down to the earth, spurred on by such evil ambition that his act would affect all of eternity.

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.” Isaiah 14:12-15

Look at the passage above and tell me what word you see the most in the words of satan. “I”. “I will...” . Satan wanted to be God. He didn't want to glorify God...instead, he wanted God to glorify him. And in the process of rebelling against what he was created to do – glorify God – he convinced 1/3 of the angels of heaven that he could, indeed, do what he purposed to do – and they fell from heaven with him. (Revelation 12:4)

Here are some things we know about satan, the enemy of Israel:

- 1). For now, he is called the “ruler of this world”. (*John 12:31*). After he fell from the heavens, he convinced Adam and Eve to join him in his rebellion, and when they did, they handed over the reins of this world to him.

- 2). He is all about darkness (*Acts 26:18*) He doesn't operate openly in the light. He fools, he tricks, he lies. He loves the darkness because his deeds are evil.
- 3) He is called the "god of this age", and he blinds people. (*2nd Corinthians 4:4*) Again, he has power on this earth because of the sin of Adam and Eve. And one of his powers is to blind people to the reality of what he is doing. People who do not believe in the One, True God cannot see what he is doing.
- 4) He is called the "prince of the power of the air", and he inspires people to lust. (*Ephesians 2:1-3*) His downfall was his lust. He wants everyone else to do the same. Lust for power. Lust for control. Lust for food. Lust for sex. Lust for things.
- 5) He has "princes", or other fallen angels – demons, assigned to different nations. (*Daniel 10:20*). He wants to control the whole world, and he begins by controlling nations. As nations buy in to his program of lust and sin, he controls them more and more.
- 6) He tries to steal worship that belongs only to God. (*Matthew 4:8-10*). All worship belongs to God. None belongs to any other being or thing. Satan wants it. His expressed purpose in life is to have what God has.
- 7) He is an imitator. (*Isaiah 14:15, 2nd Corinthians 11:14&15*) He is not a creator. He cannot make something out of nothing. He can only imitate what he has seen God do. He disguises himself as an "angel of light", making himself appear to be good and proper, just like God.
- 8) His end? He lives on earth right now, with his holding cell below the earth. He gets to visit heaven every once in a while (*Job 1*), but he will be permanently cast out of heaven about half-way through the Last 7 Years (*Revelation 12*), and 3½ years after that he will be bound in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years, while the Savior of the World reigns on earth. After that, he will be let loose for a little while (*Revelation 20:1-3 and :7-10*) so that he can try one last time to destroy God, and he will fail. He at that time will be cast into the Lake of Fire, and will be tormented day and night, forever and forever.

Questions: On the following page, see if you can name all the enemies of Israel as you read through Chapters 13 – 23.

1. Who is the enemy of Israel talked about in the following passages?

Chapters 13:1–14:23 and 21:1-10 Babylon

Chapter 14:24-27 Assyria

Chapter 14:28-32 Philistia

Chapters 15 & 16__	<u>Moab</u>
Chapter 17:1-14	<u>Damascus (Syria) and Ephraim (Israel)</u>
Chapter 18:1-7	<u>Ethiopia</u>
Chapters 19&20	<u>Egypt</u>
Chapter 21:11&12	<u>Dumah and Seir (Edom)</u>
Chapter 21:13-17	<u>Arabia</u>
Chapter 22:1-25	<u>Judah and Jerusalem</u>
Chapter 23	<u>Tyre (Phoenicia)</u>

2. Who is the one, main enemy of Israel, who convinces all the others to do their worst to Israel?

Chapter 14: 12-15 satan

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

3. Who are your enemies?
4. What do Isaiah chapters 13-23 teach us about our enemies?

The following are the thoughts of Warren Wiersbe as he summarized these chapters, taken from his commentary on the book of Isaiah:

1. God is in control of the nations of the world, and He can do with them what He pleases.
2. God especially hates the sin of pride.
3. God judges the nations for the way they treat each other.
4. God always gives a word of promise and hope to His people.