

Isaiah

“The **Evangelical** Prophet”

I. God’s *Denunciation* of **Judah** (1:1-12:6)

II. God’s *Denunciations* against other **Nations** (13:1-23:18)

- A. The *Judgment* against **Babylon** (13:1-22)
- B. The *Judgment* of the **King of Babylon** (14:1-23)
- C. The *Judgment* against **Assyria** (14:24-27)
- D. The *Judgment* against **Philistia** (14:28-32)
- E. The *Judgment* against **Moab** (15:1-16:14)

F. The *Judgment* against **Aram** (Syria) and Her Ally **Ephraim** (Israel) (17:1-14)

1. The *Prophecy* against **Aram** (Syria) (17:1-3)

17 The **oracle** concerning **Damascus**.

“Behold, **Damascus** is about to be *removed* from being a city
and will become a *fallen ruin*.

²“The **cities** of **Aroer** are *forsaken*;
they will be for **flocks** to *lie down in*,
and there will be **no one** to frighten *them*.

³“The **fortified city** will disappear from **Ephraim**,
and **sovereignty** from **Damascus** and the **remnant of Aram**;

they will be like the *glory* of the **sons of Israel**,”
declares the **LORD of hosts**.

2. The *Purging* of Israel’s **Population** (17:4-6)

⁴Now *in that day* the *glory* of **Jacob** will *fade*,
and the **fatness** of his **flesh** will become *lean*.

⁵It will be even like the **reaper** gathering the **standing grain**,
as his arm **harvests** the **ears**,
or it will be like one *gleaning ears* of **grain** in the valley of **Rephaim**.

⁶ Yet **gleanings** will be left in it like the **shaking** of an **olive tree**,
two or three olives on the **topmost bough**,
four or five on the branches of a **fruitful tree**,
declares **the LORD**, the **God of Israel**.

3. The **Picture** of a **Repentant Israel** (17:7-8)

⁷ **In that day** man will have **regard** for his **Maker**
and his eyes will **look** to the **Holy One of Israel**.

⁸ He will **not** have **regard** for the **altars**, the **work** of **his hands**,
Nor will he **look** to that which his **fingers** have **made**,
even the **Asherim** and **incense stands**.

4. The **Perilous condition** of **sinful Israel** (17: 9-11)

⁹ **In that day** their **strong cities** will be like **forsaken places** in the **forest**,
or like **branches** which they **abandoned** before the **sons of Israel**;
and the **land** will be a **desolation**.

¹⁰ For you have **forgotten** the **God of your salvation**
and have **not** remembered the **rock** of your **refuge**.

Therefore you **plant delightful plants**
and set them with **vine slips** of a **strange god**.

¹¹ In the day that you **plant it** you carefully **fence it in**,
and in the **morning** you bring **your seed** to **blossom**;

But the **harvest** will be a **heap** in a day of **sickliness** and **incurable pain**.

5. The **Portrait** of **Assyria's Judgment** (17:12-14)

¹² **Alas**, the **uproar** of many people who **roar**
like the **roaring** of the **seas**, and the **rumbling** of **nations**
who rush on like the **rumbling** of **mighty waters**!

¹³ The **nations** **rumble** on like the **rumbling** of many **waters**,
But **He** will **rebuke them** and they will **flee far away**,

and be **chased** like **chaff** in the mountains before the wind,
or like **whirling dust** before a gale.

¹⁴ At **evening time**, behold, **there is terror**!
Before **morning** they are **no more**.

Such **will be** the **portion** of those who **plunder us**
and the **lot** of those who **pillage us**.

Personal Application
So *what* Happened to the **Northern**
Kingdom of Israel (Ephraim)?
What led to their **Judgment by God?**

Some Likely **Reasons**:

1. ***Israel*** had **aligned** with, and allowed **themselves** to be ***influenced*** by **Aram (Syria)**, and other **pagan** nations. (II Kings 17:7-19)

Now *this* came about because the **sons of Israel**
had **sinned** against the **LORD their God**,..

and **walked** in the **customs** of the **nations**
whom **the LORD** had ***driven out*** before the **sons of Israel**,
and *in the* **customs** of the **kings of Israel** which they had introduced...

The **sons of Israel** did things ***secretly***
which were **not right** *against* the **LORD their God**...

They set for themselves **sacred pillars** and **Asherim**
on every **high hill** and under every **green tree**,..

They **served idols**, concerning which **the LORD** had said to them,
“You shall **not** do this thing.” Yet **the LORD *warned* Israel and Judah**
through all **His prophets** and every **seer**, saying,

“***Turn*** from your **evil ways** and **keep My commandments**,
My statutes according to all the **law** which I ***commanded*** your **fathers**,
and which I **sent** to you ***through*** My **servants the prophets**.”
(II Kings 17:7, 8, 9a, 10, 12-13)

2. ***Israel*** aligned itself with **Aram** (Syria), and **attacked Judah**
(the **Southern Kingdom**), and the **house of David**. (7:1-9)
3. We read tonight that ***Israel's*** “**fortified city**” would **disappear**,
and its “**glory fade**.” (17:3a, 4a). When **Assyria** invaded **Israel** and
Aram (Syria), they **deported** much of the **populace** except for a
very small remnant (17:4-6).

In the **ninth year of Hoshea**, the **king of Assyria**
captured Samaria and ***carried Israel away*** into **exile** to **Assyria**,
and settled them in **Halah** and **Habor**, *on* the river of **Gozan**,
and in the cities of the **Medes**. (II Kings 17:6)

4. We read tonight that *Israel* had **forgotten** the “**God** of their salvation,” and the “**rock** of their refuge” (17:10).
5. We read tonight *Israel’s* joint “**planting**” together with the *strange* “**vine**” of **Aram** (Syria), would eventually reap a harvest of “**ruin**” in a day of **sickness** and **deep sorrow** (17:10-11).

Closing Comments

It seems as though *only* when **men** face **great difficulties**, **suffering**, and **ruin**, do they *then* **turn** from their “**idols**” and **look** to their **Maker**?

⁴ Now *in that day* the **glory** of **Jacob** will **fade**,
and the **fatness** of his **flesh** will become **lean**...

⁷ *In that day* **man** will have **regard** for **his Maker**
and his **eyes** will **look** to the **Holy One of Israel**.

⁸ He will **not** have **regard** for the **altars**, the **work** of his **hands**,
Nor will he **look** to that which his **fingers** have **made**,
even the **Asherim** and **incense stands** (17:4, 7-8).



