

Study 59: Isaiah, Part 15

Isaiah 17 [There are some who cite this prophecy as being “only *partially* fulfilled” and is therefore still future to us. Let’s be clear about one thing: “Partial” fulfillment = NO fulfillment. Either a prophecy is fulfilled or it isn’t! The “problem” is with verse 1. It states that Damascus “will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins.” The assertion is that this *never* happened.

Joel Rosenberg claims that Isaiah didn’t receive his prophecy about Damascus until *after* the city was destroyed (made a “heap of ruins”) by the Assyrians in 732 BC. He bases this claim on Isa 14:28, which states, “This prophecy came in the year king Ahaz died.” That would date “this prophecy” to around 728 BC, *after* 732 BC (though Rosenberg claims Ahaz died in 710 BC). Bible commentators state that the prophecy that “came in the year king Ahaz died” refers not to the next several *chapters*, but only to Isa 14:28-32 (the prophecy concerning the Philistines). Even **if** the prophecy regarding Damascus wasn’t received by Isaiah until *after* the death of Ahaz, the city was destroyed *once again* by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC (as prophesied by Jeremiah in Jer 49:23-27).

Gary DeMar points out that this same hysteria manifested itself a number of years ago when it was claimed that prophecy was being fulfilled “right before our eyes!” According to one video that was uploaded on July 21, 2011, the destruction of Damascus was “about to occur in our lifetime in just a matter of months.” According to this video, “This is going to fulfill one of the biggest biblical prophecies of all time! Be ready for Christ’s Return after this occurs! I hope this gives you hope of His coming!”

Proverbs 13:12 says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” Giving *false* hope to people is not a very kind thing to do!

A prophecy against Damascus:

“See, Damascus will no longer be a city
but will become a heap of ruins.

2 The cities of **Aroer** will be deserted
and left to flocks, which will lie down,
with no one to make them afraid.

[In the LXX (Septuagint), the city name, Aroer, was incorrectly translated into Greek as εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα (eis ton aiōna - *into the ages or forever*). This was probably due to the similarity of the Hebrew letters ר (resh) and ד (daleth). It appears that the translators of the LXX read אֶרְעָר (arō ‘ēr) as אֶדְעַד (‘adê ad), which is translated as *forever and ever* elsewhere in the LXX (e.g. Isa. 30:8; 32:14, 17; 34:17; 59:21)].

3 The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim,
and royal power from Damascus;
the remnant of Aram will be
like the glory of the Israelites,”
declares the Lord Almighty.

4 “In that day the glory of Jacob will fade;
the fat of his body will waste away.

5 It will be as when reapers harvest the standing grain,
gathering the grain in their arms—
as when someone gleanes heads of grain
in the Valley of Rephaim.

6 Yet some gleanings will remain,
as when an olive tree is beaten,
leaving two or three olives on the topmost branches,
four or five on the fruitful boughs,”
declares the Lord, the God of Israel.

7 In that day people will look to their Maker
and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel.

8 They will not look to the altars,

the work of their hands,
and they will have no regard for the Asherah poles
and the incense altars their fingers have made. [The poles were wooden or stone (phallic) symbols of the goddess *Asherah*. This same worship continues in the Roman Catholic church, with the goddess now in the guise of Mary. Both “goddesses” are called “Queen of heaven” (e.g. Jer 7:18; 44:17-19, 25). See illustrations below.]

9 In that day their strong cities, which they left because of the Israelites, will be like places abandoned to thickets and undergrowth. And all will be desolation.

10 You have forgotten God your Savior;
you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress.
Therefore, though you set out the finest plants
and plant imported vines,

11 though on the day you set them out, you make them grow,
and on the morning when you plant them, you bring them to bud,
yet the harvest will be as nothing
in the day of disease and incurable pain.

12 Woe to the many nations that rage—
they rage like the raging sea!

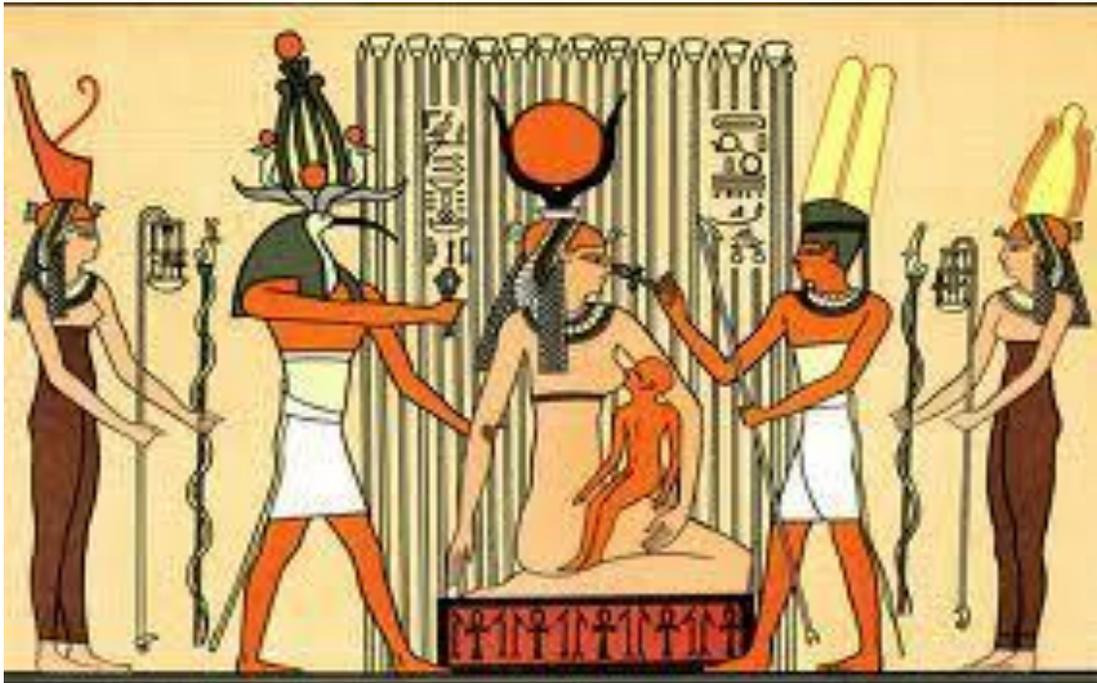
Woe to the peoples who roar—
they roar like the roaring of great waters!

13 Although the peoples roar like the roar of surging waters,
when he rebukes them they flee far away,
driven before the wind like chaff on the hills,
like tumbleweed before a gale.

14 In the evening, sudden terror!
Before the morning, they are gone!
This is the portion of those who loot us,
the lot of those who plunder us.

Discussion

Attendance:





- 1) Ankh Nes Meryre and Son Pepi
- 2) Cyprus.
- 3) Madonna Guanyin, Goddess of mercy
- 4) Matrika from Tanesara of India
- 5) Yasoda and Krishna
- 6) Mother and son 2000-1850 B.C.
- 7) Mexico, Jalisco 200 B.C. - A.D. 500
- 8) Maya
- 9) Mexico, Colima 200 B.C. - A.D. 500
- 10) Mykene, Greece
- 11) Sun Goddess, Arinna
- 12) Virgin Mary

Asherah poles:

