

9: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground."

In verse 10 this is applied to the people of Judah; they are God's threshing, they are the corn of God's floor. They are the area in which God is particularly interested. They are the people whom He has set apart in order that He may show forth His righteousness through them -- that He may give the oracles of God through them -- that He may through them bring His Son into the world. "My threshing" indicates that God has important work which He is doing with Judah. He is not simply desirous to please them as His pets; they are set apart as His people, in whom and through whom a great work is to be performed. In 28:23-29 the same idea is presented by reference to the farmer who threshes out different crops in different ways. At the beginning of chapter 29, Jerusalem is called "the hearth of God:" it is the place where God is working out His great purposes. "Oh my threshing and the corn of my floor" -- it is important that you see what God has revealed. You should not trust in Babylon, for Babylon is doomed to fall before Assyria.

Isaiah 21:1-10 deals with the futility of looking to Babylon for help against Assyria, since Babylon itself will fall before that mighty aggressor. Sennacherib, the Assyrian king whose attack threatened utter destruction to Jerusalem, tells of his treatment of Babylonia in the following words: "In an open battle, like a hurricane I cast down Merodach-Baladan, king of Babylonia, the Chaldeans and Arameans, together with the armies of Elam, his ally. He fled alone to the sealand ... and in that place he died."

Of Babylon itself, Sennacherib says: "The city and its houses, from its foundation to its top, I destroyed, I devastated, I burned with fire. The wall and the outer wall, temples and gods, temple towers of brick and earth, as many as there were, I razed and dumped them into the Arahtu Canal. Through the midst of that city I dug canals. I flooded its ground with water, and the very foundations thereof destroyed. I made its destruction more complete than that by a flood, that in days to come the site of that city, and its temples and gods, might not be remembered. I completely