

weak. Through many previous centuries at various times Babylon had appeared as a great mistress of nations. Now, however, her rule has come to an end; from this time on she will be subject to foreign powers. The downfall of Babylon was indeed sudden. She seemed to be at the very apex of her strength when suddenly Cyrus attacked her and brought her rule to an end. Verses ^{twelve and} thirteen speaks of her enchantments and astrologers. All these are to prove of no avail. How silly it is for a nation to trust to its knowledge of secrets ~~even~~ the secret of how to make an atomic bomb. These things cannot give lasting security. Only in obeying God and carrying out His commands can a nation live in security and have any expectation of lasting peace.

The chapter is a vivid picture of a nation used to luxury and supremacy suddenly reduced to captivity and feebleness. Such is the fate eventually of all those who oppose God.

Next month we will take up the chapters from forty-eight on which lead us with ever increasing velocity toward the great climax of the solution of the problem of sin—which we find in Isaiah fifty-three. This is the work of the servant of God—Israel is the servant, but Israel cannot do the work. Yet the work is definitely to be performed.

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