

THE FALL OF BABYLON

2 NEPHI 23 and 24

AND

ISAIAH 13 and 14

SEE ALSO REVELATION 17 and 18

Lesson 34
Part 3

Suggested Hymn:
#253 Like Ten
Thousands Legions
Marching



Why Babylon?

Isaiah's words about Babylon and her king were applicable to the wicked living during Book of Mormon times as well as the unrighteous today.

History, we know, is apt to repeat itself, and to foist very old incidents upon us with only a slight change of costume.
GEORGE ELIOT

Isaiah teaches: the wicked will perish and the Lord will have mercy on His people



Nephi knew of Babylon as a Boy

A century after Isaiah delivered his Babylon prophecy, people would have “known he was completely wrong in his prediction. Before Nephi was born, Babylon had overthrown the Assyrian yoke and regained her independence, and the New Babylonian Empire would be the greatest empire the Near East had ever see.

When Nephi was a youth, Daniel, his three friends, and many other gifted Jews were taken to Babylon to help build her into a magnificent city (Daniel 1).

...Babylon was not decreasing but increasing in wealth and power. This was the Babylon that Nephi knew when he and his family left Jerusalem about 600 BC

“Shortly after Babylonian armies destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC, the Babylonian Empire began a steady decline.

Persian conquest in 539 BC

Babylonian culture and language gradually died out, the last know tablets dating AD 75.

The city of Babylon was deserted by AD 200



Comparing

The destruction of Babylon to the destruction of the wicked at the Savior's Second Coming.

Babylon refers generally to the wickedness of the world.

Isaiah prophesied that 'great destruction' would come upon the wicked in Babylon and in the last days.

The Burden of Babylon—The message of doom

Lift ye up a banner—standard around which armies gather

Gates of the Nobles—Often represent the entire city—or the proud

My sanctified ones—Saints

I'll be your host---"Lord of Hosts" = "Lord of Sabaoth" = title of Jehovah = hosts were armies of Israel...also angelic armies of heaven



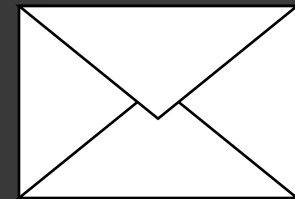
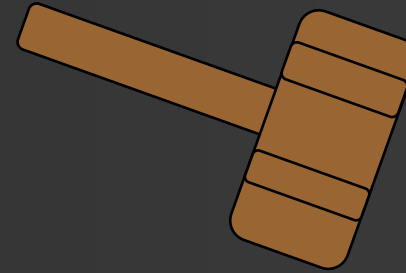
Lord's Power Against Spiritual Babylon

The day of the Lord—Judgment day

Hearts shall melt—failing them in the last days

Faces shall be as flames—faces flushed with shame and guilt...or faces witnessing the burning at the Second Coming.

Wrath and fierce anger— justice doing His work, but the Lord's judgment comes only after repeated invitation to repent are ignored



The sun shall be darkened—strange signs and wonders as a signal that the Second Coming is near (D&C 45:42)



More precious than fine gold—Rare and scarce...Many people will be destroyed in the event preceding Jesus' Second Coming.

Shake the Heavens

The Earth will be moved out of its place and flee toward Kolob at amazing speed (D&C 88:87)—The Renewal of the Earth

The Chased roe—a hunted deer—famous for tremendous speed

No man taketh up—without a shepherd to take care for and protect

The Medes—This nation at one time formed an alliance with Babylon, but eventually attack and conquer about (538 BC). God uses the Medes as a weapon against physical Babylon—a description of the killing of Satan's mortal army

Not regard silver and gold—The Medes will be more interested in killing than in gathering the spoils of the conquered land

Persians, Cyrus and the armies swept into Babylon. Isaiah not only identifies their destruction but the nation that will do it. They will spare no one.



One of The Great Cities

The glory of kingdoms--Babylon was one of the great cities.
How could it be destroyed?

Chaldees—often synonymous with Babylonians

Just like: Sodom and Gomorrah—this city is a wasteland

No one will live there—it will be leveled to dust



Wild beast of the desert shall lie there—Wild beasts and doleful creatures will occupy what was once a mighty Babylon

Satyrs—he-goats

Dragons—wild dogs or jackals

“As, therefore, the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of the world; that is, as the servants of God go forth warning the nations...and as they (the people) harden their hearts and reject the light of truth, (they are) delivered over to the buffeting of Satan, and...they are left in darkness, and delivered over unto the day of burning.”

Joseph Smith

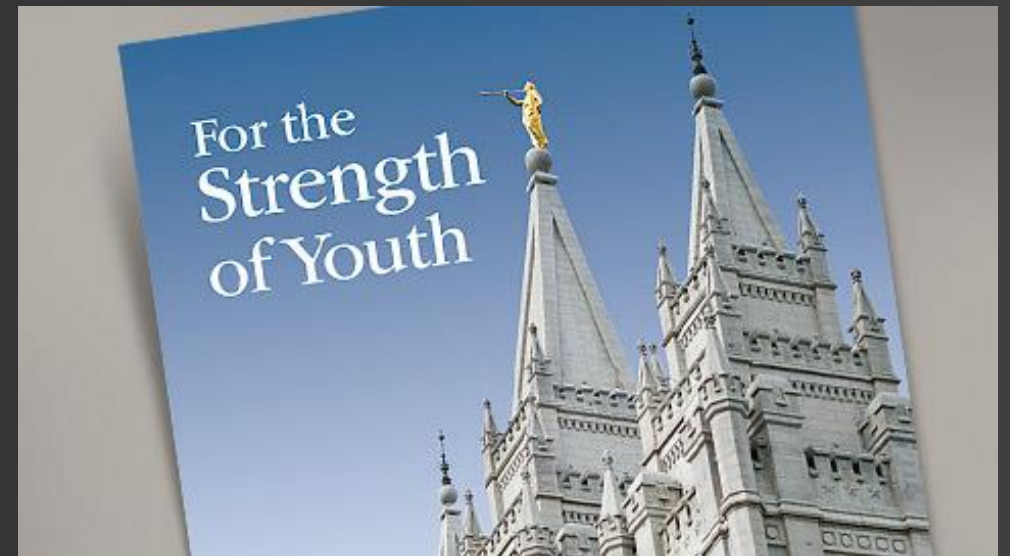


“Seduced by our culture, we often hardly recognize our idolatry, as our stings are pulled by that which is popular, in the Babylonian world...



We do not need to adopt the standards, the mores, and the morals of Babylon. We can create Zion in the midst of Babylon. We can have our own standards for music and literature and dance and film and language. We can have our own standards for dress and deportment, for politeness and respect. We can live in accordance with the Lord’s moral laws. We can limit how much of Babylon we allow into our homes by the media of communication.

We do not need to become as puppets in the hands of the culture of the place and time. We can be courageous and, walk in the Lord’s paths and follow His footsteps.”
David R. Stone



Merciful

The only ray of hope in
a rather dismal
prophecy



Restoring Covenant Israel

Dual Prophecy

King Cyrus of Persia will allow the Jews to return from Babylonian captivity to Judah in 537 BC

Also: it may refer to the latter-day gathering of Israel, in which modern covenant Israel will receive help from the Gentiles—"Strangers shall be joined with them..." (Isaiah 14:1)



"The Lord shall give thee rest, from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve."

When we turn away
from worldliness and
rely on the Lord's mercy,
He gives us rest and
peace.

Taunt song verses 4-20

A Rest Hymn = Peace for a 1,000 years = Millennium

About the Fallen King of Babylon—Satan

Israel sings against its king.

The song is written using a common Hebrew poetic form.

Ancient kings of Babylon were not only powerful, but they were also notorious for their arrogance and persecution against others.

The Kingdom has fallen.

Note: verses 19-20

Thou art cast out of thy grave

**The body of the king of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar)
was never found.**

Similarly, Lucifer has no body and will occupy no grave



“It has always been considered a great calamity not to obtain an honorable burial: and one of the greatest curses the ancient prophets could put on any man, was that he should go without a burial.”

Joseph Smith

The Fall of Lucifer

How would we feel about Satan if we could see him for what he is?



“In the premortal council, it was pride that felled Lucifer, ‘a son of the morning.’ ...

In the pre-earthly council, Lucifer placed his proposal in competition with the Father’s plan as advocated by Jesus Christ.

He wished to be honored above all others.

In short, his prideful desire was to dethrone God.”

Ezra Taft Benson



Fate of Follows of Satan

His children—the children of Lucifer

“Let not another evil generation arise and resume an evil regime”

Cut off

We all hope our families will enjoy the Lord’s promised blessing. Being “cut off” is synonymous with being excommunicated or denied eternal increase (1 Nephi 22:20; D&C 1:14; D&C 132:19)



Possession for the bittern

Instead of beautiful cities, it will be inhabited by the bittern, which has also been translated as “owl,” “hedgehog,” and “porcupine.”

The “pools of water’ -- marshes or swamps.

A “besom” – broom— swept away

Fall of Assyria

Probably refers to the Assyrian attack on the kingdom of Israel (721 BC)

Yoke depart—
Assyrian's yoke
will be removed
from Israel



His hand is stretched out still



“The God who fathered the spirit of every person on this earth will always remember His faithful children.”

Victor L. Ludlow



“You and I may fail as individuals and miss the blessing. But (the Lord's) work cannot fail. There will always be those he will raise up to accomplish it.”

Gordon B. Hinckley

The Burden

Those Philistine peoples that bordered Judah to the west.



“The only kingdom that will stand the test of time is the one founded by the Lord of Hosts. Zion, where the “first-born of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety” is the stronghold where the righteous dwell.

Since the days of King David, the Philistines were subject to the military and economic power of Judah. Although they might rejoice that Judah was being attacked by Assyria and “the rod of him (Judah) that smote thee is broken:”, (v. 29), even worse catastrophes were awaiting Palestina.

Assyria later attacked the Philistines, and conquered their nation.

Nephi understood the weakness of worldly powers such as Babylon



Sources:

GEORGE ELIOT, *Janet's Repentance*

John Bytheway *Isaiah for Airheads* pg 147-152

Joseph Smith *Teachings* Pg 101 and pg 295 (burial)

David R. Stone *Zion in the Midst of Babylon* Ensign May 2006

Ezra Taft Benson “*Beware of Pride*” *Ensign*, May 1989, 4–5

Victor L. Ludlow *Unlocking Isaiah in the Book of Mormon* pg 198-

Gordon B. Hinckley *He Slumbers Not, Nor Sleeps* Ensign May 1987