Why do the Nations Rage?
Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

    A. Text: Isaiah 13-23.

    B. Thoughtful men have been asking for generations why the nations rage. (Psalm 2)

    C. You have intermingled in this passage the historical and the predictive.

II. Babylon.

    A. The Day of the Lord is near for Babylon—the destruction by the Lord.

    B. God is at work here in human affairs.

    C. The Day of the Lord is always marked by the darkening of the sun and the moon. (Matthew 24-25)

    D. Babylon's ultimate destiny: it would never be inhabited by man again.

    E. Babylon began at the tower of Babel. It pictures any group or party attempting to gain power through religious deceitfulness.

III. The fall of Satan is pictured here.

    A. The sin of Satan is narcissism.

    B. Satan forgot his dependency on God and focused on himself.

    C. The nature of sin is to play god.

        1. Inner psychological integrity is at stake.

        2. Pride is the idolatry of self and the national religion of hell.

IV. The desolation of Moab. Moab pictures worldliness.

V. Damascus will cease to be a city.

VI. There is a picture of the last days when the ruler of the world will make a covenant with Israel with the overcoming of the forces of Gog and Magog. Israel will be restored.

VII. The burden of Egypt.

    A. Egypt will see that Israel's sustenance is from the hand of the Lord.

    B. They will turn and fear God.

C. The Lord will make Himself known to the Egyptians.

D. The Lord will correct Egypt and rebuke it but heal it by those means.

VIII. That which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination before the Lord.

IX. There will be a great restoration.

X. Conclusion.

A. Moab and others picture the judgment upon the flesh.

B. Egypt, Tyre and others depict the world and the comforts of the flesh.

C. These things were written for our admonition.

Application questions:

1. What does Babylon picture?
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2. How does independence from God relate to pride? Explain.
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3. How can these Old Testament prophesies admonish the New Testament believer?
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