

Isaiah 17

King James Version (KJV)

(Prophecy of Damascus)

17 The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. (This was done by the Assyrians, just before they took Israel <the 10 northern tribes>. Judah and Benjamin remained free for another 200 years)

(Ephraim <10 tribes of Israel> had made an alliance with Syria to war against Judah and to defeat it. God hates civil war. HE sent the Assyrians against both Syria and Israel to protect Judah)

²The cities of Aroer are forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make them afraid. (Aroer = a ruin)

(The people will be scarce there)

³The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts. (Ephraim- the 10 northern tribes of Israel)

(It's going to be just as bad for Syria as it will be for Ephraim. They were punished by God for trying to defeat Judah)

⁴And in that day it shall come to pass, that the glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean. (There will be a famine for the Word of God – spiritually; as well as a famine for food - physically)

(They did it to themselves, when they turned against God)

⁵And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim. (Rephaim - the giant offspring of the fallen angels and Adamic women) See Genesis-6, Jude-1

(In other words, these people had become spiritually dead, just like the Rephaim of older times)

⁶Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel.

(There will be enough food left for the remnant; those who study and live by God's Word. They stood by God in the First Age, and they will do so again in this Age)

(God has fed them spiritually and physically down through the centuries; right up to today. HE will continue to do so right up to the end of this Age)

⁷At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel. (This is conditional - If faithful people finally turn back to God. Some did; most didn't)

⁸And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images. (groves - Ishtar worship will cease. The fertility rites and sex orgies in the groves will be stopped) (Images - pillars of the sun; they were also sun worshippers)

(If people abandoned all their idol worship, and returned to God, they would have been blessed again. They didn't)

⁹In that day shall his strong cities be as a forsaken bough, and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel: and there shall be desolation. (After they lose their blessings, their nation will become nothing but a ruin)

¹⁰Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips: (strange = foreign; from the beliefs of foreigners and heathen people)

(That is why this entire calamity came down upon them)

¹¹In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow. (They will plant much, but harvest almost nothing; because of the false religions of foreigners)

(They adopted those strange pagan belief systems, and added them into Christianity; such as Easter, rapture, etc)

(Easter was taken from Ishtar worship and substituted for Passover. Passover is a God given holyday. Ishtar was a pagan goddess of

fertility. This is blasphemy towards God. Yet Christians still celebrate Easter today and believe that they are pleasing God)

¹² Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! (One world-ism, secularism, multi-cultural-ism) (The waters are the multitudes of people)

Revelation-17:15 (And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues)

(This is the result of planting false seeds <false doctrines> as in verse-11. The harvest is nothing but a heap of grief and sorrow)

¹³ The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. (Like tumbleweeds, they roll around aimlessly in the wind. They are worthless to God because they stand for nothing)

(God wanted man to be His planting in a fertile valley; spiritually nourished by the living waters that Jesus spoke of) John-4:10-14

¹⁴ And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us. (These are the politically correct left; who rob the people with false secular doctrine)

(They call Christians far right wing bigots, because we follow the Word of God. By the end of the Millennium, if they haven't straightened out, they'll be gone)