

## **Isaiah 17:14-18:7 + 19:25**

Isaiah predicts Damascus will be overrun by Assyria. But then the Assyrians would later be overthrown themselves.

This passage is comparing the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (**Genesis 19**) to the destruction of the army of Sennacherib, in which 185,000 were killed.

It's a threshing floor analogy:

**Isaiah 17:13-14** - "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 (cloud of chaff) before the whirlwind. And behold at evening 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."

"Like a rolling thing." — The Hebrew word is the same as the "wheel" of Psalm 83:13, and probably refers, like the "chaff of the mountains," to the whirling dust-clouds driven from an elevated threshing-floor before the wind (Psalm 1:4; Psalm 35:5).

"At eventime, behold terror! before morning, it (the tumult) is gone!" — in a very short time period. Like the rain of fire and brimstone in the overthrow of Sodom.

Isaiah 18 foresees a similar fate for Cush, and in Isaiah 19, for Egypt.

But in the end, all will be healed.

**Isaiah 19:24-25** - "In that day shall Israel be a third with Egypt and with Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth. Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance."

Commentators see this fulfilled in the days of Messiah, when Syria, Egypt and Ethiopia became converted to Christianity.

## **Side Trip on Sodom, Moabites and Ammonites**

A similar fate is foreseen by Ezekiel for "Sodom."

God tells Ezekiel to show Jerusalem her abominations, which surpass Sodom's.

**Ezekiel 16:48** - "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters."

Sodom of course, no longer existed. But the commentators say, "The Moabites and Ammonites, descended from Sodom (since Lot was a resident of Sodom), are called by this name."

**Ezekiel 16:53-54** - “When I shall bring again (turn) their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of your captives in the middle of them; That you may bear your own shame, and may be confounded in all that you have done, in that you are a comfort to them.”

In other words, the greater sin of Judah became a comfort by making Sodom’s own evil seem less bad.

But eventually there will be healing and restoration for all:

**Ezekiel 16:55** - “When your sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate, then you and your daughters shall return to your former estate.”

“The Jews, as Jerome says, are of opinion that in the days of Messiah, Sodom will be restored to its ancient state and be as the garden of God, and as the land of Egypt; and Jarchi interprets the bringing again the captivity of Sodom, in Ezekiel 16:53, by the Lord's healing the land of brimstone and salt, and placing inhabitants in it; and it is asserted by the Jews (Shemot Rabba, sect. 15. fol. 101. 3.) that Sodom and Gomorrah shall be rebuilt in future times, in the times of the Messiah.” — Gill's Exposition

But this restoration is not literal, it predicts the conversion of the Gentiles to Christ.