Isaiah the prophet to Judah began a series of “burden” (massa’) messages against the heathen nations surrounding Jerusalem, indicating that Jehovah judges not only His people (Jer. 30:7) but the heathen Gentiles as well. These judgments will be both near and remote, culminating in “the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth” (Rev. 3:10). These were oracles of heavy judgment on the enemies of God’s people (i.e., Babylon, Assyria, Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Cush, Egypt, Edom, Arabia, and Tyre), as well as on Israel and Jerusalem, and would ultimately be fulfilled during the Tribulation. The first burden message fell upon the city of Babylon (vv. 1-16), the coming enemy of Judah, and would include Jehovah’s judgment upon her through the Media-Persian Empire (vv. 3-5, 17), and ultimately in the day of the LORD (v. 6).

Verses 1-16

The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see. 2 Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles. 3 I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness. 4 The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. 5 They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. 6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man’s heart shall melt: 8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. 9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. 10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. 11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. 12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. 13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. 14 And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land. 15 Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall

1 The noun (massa’) occurs 66x in the OT, and 11x in this section of burden judgments on the nations (13:1; 14:28; 15:1; 17:1; 19:1; 21:1, 11, 13; 22:1, 25; and 23:1).

2 This is the first of thirteen references to the city of Babylon in Isaiah. The city represents the evil system of Babylonianism, having its origin at Shinar (Gen. 10:10; 11:2) and its destruction, both religious and economic, at the end of the Tribulation (Rev. 17-18). The city Babylon will be rebuilt during the Tribulation (Zech. 5:11) and then completely destroyed (Rev. 16:19), having no future existence during the Millennium (vv. 19-22).
A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah

Excerpt from Jehovah Saves: A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah

fall by the sword. 16 Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.

The prophet Isaiah saw (cf. 1:1) the divine burden upon the yet-to-be enemy of Israel represented in the city of Babylon. Assyria was the major threat to God’s people at this time, and Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire, of which Daniel prophetically spoke, did not come on the scene until 605 BC, long after Isaiah. First, Isaiah pictured the noisy, calamitous assault of Media-Persians as they gathered to destroy the Babylonians. Since Daniel would later prophesy about and live through the fall of Babylon (Dan. 2:37-45; 5:30-31, Scripture depicted the Lord’s rod in this case as “my sanctified ones” (masequddashiyy). The Media-Persians, as “the weapons of his indignation,” devastated Babylon in 539 BC (vv. 1-5).

Next, the prophet described “the day of the LORD” (cf. 2:12) of which the destruction of Babylon was a precursor. The “Almighty” (shadday), Isaiah predicted, would deal with Babylon in judgment for pride and arrogance, both in near fulfillment (539 BC) and in remote fulfillment (Tribulation). Terror shall strike the heart of man as the destruction is likened unto a woman in “travail,” with increasing “pangs” and “sorrows” (cf. Mk. 13:8), he revealed (vv. 6-8). The magnitude of both painful intensity and cosmic scope find full expression in Isaiah’s words. For instance, the judgment will be upon the land and sinners, cruel with wrath and fierce anger. The cosmos will experience the apocalyptic catastrophes set off by the world-wide earthquake causing the sun, moon, and “constellations” (cesiyl) luminaries to darken, as predicted also by Joel (Joel 2:10) and fulfilled in the Tribulation (Rev. 6:12-14). One of the reasons for “Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7) will be to deal with sin (Dan. 9:24), and the Tribulation will focus on the punishment for the wicked (rasha’) world in their evil (ra’) and iniquity (‘awon). The Lord will humble the proud, arrogant, and haughty man, making human life scarce by the conclusion of the Tribulation (vv. 9-12).

The LORD will literally shake the heavens and earth with the mega earthquake (Rev. 6:12-14), and earth will be disturbed from her absolute motionless resting place (maqom), and turned upside down (24:1, 19-20). The terrifying movement of the earth will so frighten men that they will return to their respective home lands. Many will be killed by spear or sword, including children and women during the Tribulation time of “wars and rumours of wars” (Mt. 24:6). Certainly, the Tribulation period of the Day of the LORD will be terrifying as God will accomplish His purposes of humbling and judging reprobate mankind (vv. 13-16).

Verses 17-22

Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. 18 Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children. 19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be
Excerpt from Jehovah Saves: A Commentary on the Book of Isaiah

as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. 21 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. 22 And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

The prophet harked back to the “near” fulfillment of his prophecy, focusing on the Media-Persian overthrow of Babylon. For the first and only time in Isaiah, the prophet predicted the Medes (mady) as the conqueror of the Babylonians, revealing their interest not in spoils but in displaying their extreme cruelty by slaughtering men, pregnant women, and children (vv. 17-18). One of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the glorious and beautiful Babylon, shall have a future demise similar to Sodom and Gomorrah and never be inhabited. At that time (during the Millennium), only strange demonic creatures (“wild beasts of the desert” [tziyyiym], “doleful creatures” [ochiyim], “owls” [benoth], “satyrs” [se`iyriym];11 “dragons” [tanniym];12 and “wild beasts of the islands”[fyiyiym]) and not man, will dwell in her former location.

Apparently, demons will be bound in the ruins of Babylon during the Millennium (Zech. 13:2), as four angels (demons) are presently bound in the Euphrates River (Rev. 9:14), and as Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit during the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-3). From the Lord’s perspective, Babylon’s soon and complete destruction is imminent. To be sure, the city Babylon will be rebuilt during the Tribulation only to be demolished as Isaiah prophesied (cf. Zech. 5:11; Rev. 18:10-11). The revealing angel of the Apocalypse expanded on the inhabitants of the ruins of the city of Babylon, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird” (Rev. 18:2).13

13 The “habitation” of “devils” is the same as the “hold” of “every foul spirit” and the “cage” “of every unclean and hateful bird.” Occasionally animals represent demons (Rev. 16:13).

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Pastor Strouse’s TULIPs finally bloomed as determined.
BBTS Commencement Weekend

The culmination of another year for Bible Baptist Theological Seminary will occur on the weekend of May 21-22, 2016. Two Filipino pastors are candidates for seminary degrees and one Irish pastor. Pastor Emmanuel Tanierla (DMin candidate) and Pastor George Totica (MBS candidate), both from Iloilo, Philippines, will receive their degrees along with Pastor Les Hill (MBS candidate) from Ireland. Pastor Tanierla will defend his dissertation on the subject of church planting among Asians at 10 AM. Bible Baptist Church members will host a graduation banquet on Saturday, May 21, honoring these candidates and their families (Mrs. Elvie Tanierla and Emmanuel, Jr., Mrs. Alma Totica, and Mrs. Jenny Hill) along with a few invited guests. On Sunday, May 22, Pastor Les Hill will teach Sunday School at 10 AM, and Pastor Emmanuel Tanierla will preach the 11 AM message. Special music will be provided by the visitors. For the seminary commencement message at 1:30 PM, Dr. Thomas M. Strouse, pastor and dean, will preach the biblical challenge to the candidates and church body. Pray that the Lord will be honored and all will be challenged to live for Christ.

Mother’s Day Cookout

For Mother’s Day, the men of Bible Baptist Church had a cookout for mothers/wives to honor them and give them a break from cooking the afternoon meal. The food and fellowship were good, the ladies enjoyed it, and the Lord was glorified.
With a deep sense of personal loss, we had to say goodbye to our friend and companion in the Lord’s work, Partho Chakraborty, affectionately known as Tapon. After a very brief illness, Tapon went to be with his Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ on April 30, 2016. We are encouraged by the Scriptures which state, “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints” (Ps. 116:15), and “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (II Cor.:6-8). His funeral was on May 4, 2016 with Dr. Thomas M. Strouse preaching the funeral message and presiding at the grave site.

Tapon was the financial manager of the now defunct Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary, maintaining a sterling financial testimony by keeping the seminary in the “black” and honoring all designated gifts. Tapon was saved out of Hinduism and escaped his family which desired to kill him for his Christian conversion. He identified with Baptist missionaries with whom he served the Lord as Gospel preacher, teacher, and financial advisor for many years in India and the USA. Bible Baptist Church offers condolences to his wife Bobbie, family, and relatives. We who know the Lord as Saviour have the blessed hope of seeing Christ and the saints at the Rapture, if not before, as Scripture reveals, saying, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thes. 4:14-17).
Key To Prosperity & Success

As to the time element of our meditation upon the Word, it is to be “day and night.” It is interesting in both texts above that we find this phrase. It is not the usual words for “day” and “night,” but rather words which mean “by day” and “by night.” It is not meditating all day and all night or all of the time, but rather we are commanded to meditate daily and nightly.

Meditation on God’s Word and obedience to His Word are closely linked. The more you think about God’s instruction the more likely you are to obey it; that is why David said, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11). David knew the power of thinking upon the Word, “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:97). However, when David turned his heart to his fleshly lusts rather than the Word, then he sinned grievously.

Meditation upon God’s Word will bring us prosperity and successfulness. -CAR

Many people have wondered what it takes to be prosperous and successful. The key is found in this verse as Joshua begins to embark upon the great task of conquering the promised land. The key: “this book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night.” In other words, meditate upon the word of God, the Bible.

The word, “meditate” means “to study” or “to muse” or “to imagine.” To go over and over in one’s mind, that is to think about or to reflect upon. When we do this it will cause us to consider and obey God’s instructions. It is then that God can bless us and cause us to prosper and be successful in our endeavors. The Psalmist reflects this same truth when he said, “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalm 1:2-3). Note: “shall prosper” is emphatic language.

Quotes From the Past:

Erasmus Roterodamus
1466-1536
Dutch Renaissance Theologian

“...some who face reality; and then there are those who turn one into the other.”
Read: Luke 17:12-18

v.15  And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

v.17  And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

v.18  There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

Reflection: It can be so easy for us to petition the Lord for so many cares, burdens, needs, etc... Do we remember when we are praying to praise, thank, and worship our Great God and Father or do we simply come to Him with a list of what we want or need?

Where do you see yourself in the verses for today?

Challenge: Take some time to praise the Lord and thank Him for the innumerable blessings in this day. How many can you name?

“Growing in Grace: A 12 Week Devotional for Women”

This 12 Week Devotional is a ministry of Bible Baptist Church in Cromwell, CT. It is designed for women, and is meant as a support for victory in daily Christian living. Spiritual victory comes by having the Genuine Christ, Accurate Biblical Teaching, Applying the Infallible Word of God, and a Humble Heart.

Using this Devotional Each day you will be given a daily Scripture followed by thoughts upon which to reflect and a challenge for the day. To get the most out of this book, it is encouraged that you take the time each morning to reflect upon and apply each devotion.

Psalm 119:2 “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.”

Please contact Bible Baptist Church (Elenas6259@gmail.com) if you would like a complimentary copy.
**The Book Corner**

These Books may be purchased through **Bible Baptist Church**:  
40 Country Squire Rd.  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-229-5387

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**BBC Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- **May 21, 2016**  
  Graduation Banquet

- **May 22, 2016**  
  BBTS Commencement Service

- **May 30-June 3, 2016, Sunday**  
  Ireland Module  
  “Psalm 119”  
  “Prison Epistles”

- **June 13-17, 2016**  
  BBTS Module, Quakertown, PA  
  “The Book of Romans”

- **July 25-29, 2016**  
  Calvary Baptist Independent Church  
  Plymouth, NH  
  “TBA”

- **August 22-26, 2016, Sunday**  
  Fairhaven Baptist College  
  “TBA”

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If you have any news for the next issue of the BBC Update, please send email to:  

[mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com](mailto:drtms_bbts@juno.com)