

Stripped and Barefoot

Isaiah 13 - 23

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The prophet Isaiah delivered the Lord's warnings to virtually every nation God's people had ever encountered. The Lord would use some of these nations to carry out punishments against the others before they themselves felt the force of God's anger.

"Scream in terror!" Isaiah told them. "The Day of the Lord is near. Your pride and arrogance will be your downfall. You will call out to your false gods, but they will not be able to save you. Idol worship is worthless. Turn to your creator, the Holy One of Israel."

The Lord instructed Isaiah to remove his clothing and his sandals and to go stripped and barefoot for three years. Then the Lord said, "Just as my servant Isaiah has demonstrated, those on whom I send punishment will be led away stripped and barefoot by their conquerors. Though they once were trusted and sought out in time of need, now, afraid and disgraced, they will be pitied."

Isaiah had a vision. "A great army will march against Jerusalem to lay siege to it. While the enemy is still far away, the city's leaders will attempt to flee. They will all be captured without putting up any resistance. The people will see many weaknesses in their defenses. But they will refuse to ask the Lord Almighty for help. Instead they will say to each other, 'Let's eat, drink, and have a good time, since tomorrow we're all going to die.' "

Isaiah proclaimed, "In the end, the true people of the Lord will find rest. People of every nation will come to them and find refuge. The oppressed and needy will partake in the Lord's peace and prosperity."