

### **Summary of Destruction of Babylon**

Isaiah 14:21-23 recapitulates the destruction of "Babylon." First, the prophet stresses the great slaughter and destruction of the land; second, the end of its wicked leadership; third, the continuing state of desolation. Thus these three verses summarize the dire predictions that have gone before.

### **Destruction of Assyrian Forces in Palestine**

Under this interpretation of the two chapters, Isaiah 14:24-28 is a vital and remarkable part of the section. After describing the ultimate end of the forces which oppose God, the prophet now portrays a defeat which will be suffered in the near future by the contemporary representative of these mighty forces.

In earlier chapters of the book, and also in later ones, considerable prominence is given to Isaiah's rebuke to Ahaz for his unholy alliance with Assyria. In Isaiah 7-8 and 28 the prophet pointed out that the plan of the king to secure relief from the Syro-Ephraimitic threat through alliance with wicked Assyria would actually put Judah into a position of terrible danger. The Assyrian forces would not stop with overcoming Syria and Israel. Removal of the buffer states would bring them right next to Ahaz' own kingdom. Eventually they would sweep on into Judah.

In our present passage, given in the year in which Ahaz died, Isaiah promised a measure of relief from the terrible consequences of Ahaz' wicked scheme. The Assyrians would indeed overrun a great part of Judah. Nevertheless they would not completely conquer the land. God would protect Jerusalem from them. This is specifically predicted in Isaiah 30 and 31, and its fulfillment in the days of Hezekiah is recorded in Isaiah 36-37 (and also in the parallel passages in Kings and Chronicles).

Isaiah 14:24-28 is a prediction of this marvelous deliverance from Sennacherib. As an earnest of the eventual destruction of all the forces of ungodliness, God would destroy the Assyrian armies right in the land of Palestine. Isaiah declares that this is the purpose which God has planned and