

## Isaiah 14:1-32

### "I Will Or Thy Will?"

Near/far fulfillment of prophecy. It's a common place principle that we established in the previous passage. You might download & listen to Ch 13 if you need the details on that. Today we want to jump right in.

We spoke in our last gathering of the Biblical reference to Babylon. How it's not only a physical/historical place, but spiritually, it typifies the kingdom of the world system apart from God. In Ch 13 God promises the destruction of the *kingdom* of Babylon (& all that it stands for). In Ch 14 He promises the destruction of its *king*.

& As w/the previous Ch, I believe that this has application, *not* only to a physical king, but I believe that they speak to the power *behind* the king, even Satan himself. Now, you don't have to agree w/me on that (there are great people on both sides of that perspective). But I believe there's support that suggests that what Isaiah's speaking to here applies to more than just a man.

But, who is the king of this world system apart from J.C.? Satan. When Jesus was being tempted in the wilderness, Satan came to Him. & We read, "*Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.'"*<sup>1</sup> Did Jesus contend w/him & say, "You can't give them to anyone because they're not yours!" Not at all. Adam forfeited his dominion over the earth in the garden when he fell.

This world system is under Satan's rule. People want to blame God for the way the world is, the devil is the one currently ruling over it... Now, his rule will come to an end (we see that even here in Isaiah 14), but Paul referred to him (2 Cor 4:4) as the "... (g)od of this age" who has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. The world won't *look* like this, *show out* like this or *rebel* like this when *Jesus* is ruling over it. (Which, we pray will be soon. Amen?)

### Vs 1-2

A role reversal is on the way for the nation of Israel. They won't be the "underdogs" of the world. They'll be the "top dog" among the nations. God is assuring Israel that even in judgment, He won't forget them. He will have mercy on them, He will still choose them, restore them & people will be blessed just to be connected to & associated w/them.

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<sup>1</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Lk 4:5-7). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Now obviously this hasn't happened yet because Israel hasn't been restored to the full scope of the land God promised them & they're not the preeminent nation of the world (yet). But when God restores them & Jesus is ruling the earth from Jerusalem, they won't have any problems w/the nations of the world around them.

But we love this phrase, "The Lord will have mercy on Jacob, & will still choose Israel..." Sometimes we can get the feeling that God chose us, but given the chance to do it again, we're not sure He would "*still choose*" us... We feel like we've messed up so bad, we've sinned so egregiously, acted so defiantly, or failed so miserably that God is just kind of "stuck" w/us now. If He were to do it again, surely, He would choose differently.

But the heart of God here says, "No, I *still choose you even presently.*" Listen, there's a marvelous attribute of God (we spoke of it last time w/regard to the way He validates His word through prophecy), called foreknowledge. God knows the end from the beginning. Not only as it relates to world history, but as it relates to your life personally. This is why it's impossible to disappoint God. – He already knows your every decision. **Now, He's not forcing your decision, He's not responsible for your decision, in many cases He doesn't condone nor approve of your decision (or mine). But He knows it, nonetheless. And for all the dumb, self-centered, unthoughtful decisions you've ever made or ever will make (& you know you've made some doozies ☺). God not only chose you, but He still chooses you.** He has so loved you that He gave His only begotten Son *for* you. Ladies & Gentlemen, it's not the well who need a physician, it's the sick. Jesus didn't come to call the righteous, but the sinner to repentance! Can we all just give God praise for that? \*

### Vs 3

Let me just say that obviously the *interpretation* of this Vs belongs to Israel. God promises a day of real, genuine rest & freedom from fear for Israel. Again, that day is not this day. You go to Israel now; you'll see soldiers walking around everywhere. They're armed & ready to go to work at the drop of a hat. That's not rest, that's not freedom from fear. But that day is coming... Having said that, there's *application* in this Vs for every believer in the Lord J.C.

Both presently as well as ultimately/eternally. Jesus gives us rest from our sorrows. That doesn't mean that you'll never have a sad day. But He takes away our pain. Brings healing to our soul. We call it "the great exchange". Isaiah speaks of it in the 61<sup>st</sup> Ch.

God gives us, "...*beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;*"<sup>2</sup> "Come let us *reason together,*" says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." He gives us *rest* from our sorrow, from our fear & from our hard bondage in which we were made to serve. Being enslaved to sin is a rigorous, unrelenting hardship... Jesus said, "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*"<sup>3</sup>

We rest from the fear of hoping I didn't do too much wrong & that I did enough things right so that God will be pleased w/me. It's not about me laboring to do or not do. It's about resting in what Jesus has done... But Isaiah writes that in the day Israel receives rest...

**Vs 4-8**

So again, near/far fulfillment. Was the king of Babylon defeated physically? Yes. We see the fall historically in the book of Daniel. (Remember that "handwriting on the wall" event we made mention of?) In that sense, the oppressor of Israel ceased. There would be rest & rejoicing.

But was the "whole earth" at rest? Did the earth break forth into singing? No... So let's not forget, w/prophecy it's fairly common to have a dual fulfillment (near/far). The time is coming when the *spiritual* empire of Babylon will be crushed – & its king, Satan will be destroyed.

Again, I want to be clear that some strongly disagree w/me here. They see this passage as historical, referring only to the king of literal Babylon & nothing more. – I believe there's good reason to see this in the light of both the ancient king of Babylon & the spiritual power *behind* that king.

So, this proverb was in the mouth of the returning exiles when Babylon was finally conquered & the people of Judah could return to the Promised Land. But ultimately it will be fulfilled when it sounds forth from the mouth of God's people when the world system apart from God & *its* king (Satan) are conquered & destroyed.

God tells us that the destiny of Babylon & its king, (the one who struck the people in wrath [notice, w/a *continual* stroke; Satan refuses to relent in his wrath against mankind] & ruled the nations in anger) is destruction.

Think about this.

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<sup>2</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Is 61:3]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>3</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Mt 11:28]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Why would God tell His people (be it in an immediate or ultimate sense) the destiny of Babylon & her king? – How many times have you looked back over your life & thought, “If I only knew then what I know now...” (You can finish that in whatever context it applies). But the statement essentially says, “Now that I can see how things turned out, I may’ve done a few things differently.” Well, guess what? God’s telling you how things turn out. Now you & I have the opportunity to make decisions & lead our lives accordingly.

Satan’s days are numbered. The day is coming, his oppression will cease, the Lord will break the staff of the wicked, the scepter of the rulers. There are times we can get so discouraged by Satan’s unrelenting oppression/attacks. We wonder if it’ll ever end! Listen, one of the reasons he works so hard is because he *knows his time is short!* Be strong in the Lord! In the power of *His* might, root down, dig in, his time is coming.

Truth be told, the diligence of the devil is inspiring! Would to God that we worked as hard to see souls saved as he works to see them destroyed!

But the day is coming, he’ll be on the receiving end of persecution & the whole earth will be at rest & quiet. There will be rejoicing & singing. – Even the trees will rejoice... The literal king of Babylon would deforest entire regions for fuel & lumber. But in a spiritual sense, the Bible tells us that creation itself groans being under the bondage of corruption (Rom 8:21). However, the day of deliverance is coming.

#### Vs 9-11

Over the next several Vs I’m going to limit my comments (pretty much) exclusively to the spiritual application w/regard to Satan, what’s coming for him & why. On the physical/historical side, we see the pride of a monarch bringing him low.

\*Death is the great leveler. Listen, the statistics are in. 1 out of every 1 people will die (outside of the rapture ☺). Death comes for us all. & It doesn’t matter who you are on this earth, like the morning star swallowed up by the rising sun, your glory won’t last long. So, the question shouldn’t really be, “How can I live longer?” It’s, “How can I be prepared to die?” Existence in this world is temporary. What happens when you die is forever. – This is why a funeral is such a rich environment in which to share the gospel! Did you realize that the Bible says that it’s better for you to go to a funeral than to a feast? Listen to this, “*Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the end of all men; And the living will take it to heart.*”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ec 7:2]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

In a festive environment we tend to disregard reality. At a funeral we sober right up to it, we think about it... the brevity/frailty of life, the finality of death. The fact that we're going to stand before God... & that's good for us. Because it softens our heart to the good news of salvation by grace through faith in J.C. (Believe on the Lord J.C. & you will be saved).\*

\*But let's look at what this says, "Hell from beneath is excited about you, to meet you at your coming; it stirs up the dead for you..." Can I tell you something? Satan is not the lord of hell. He's not the king of hell (as Hollywood or mythology would like to depict him). He's the chief prisoner! Hell is excited to receive him... *Do you realize Satan is not in hell? Nor has he (up to this point) ever been to hell. – He roams the earth, he enjoys access to heaven! Read the book of Job, he's the accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10). He accuses you day & night before God. –*

But hell can't wait to be the place of torture/torment for the one who himself has tortured/tormented so many... Guys, Satan is not a winner, he's a loser! He's not hell's overseer, he's hell's victim & hell will be happy to receive him just that way. & *When he's exposed for who he truly is, all those whom he's tortured, everyone who's gone to hell before him will stand in amazement that he's so weak & powerless to affect his destiny no different than they... They'll mock him as a mere created being.*

Too often people are guilty of exaggerating Satan's status. God is light, Satan is darkness. God is hot, Satan is cold. Yin & Yang, equal polarizing opposites. Believe me, Satan *wishes* he were God's opposite, he's not. & *God takes measure to make that painstakingly clear. God is the Creator, Satan is a fallen created angelic being. Perhaps opposite to Michael the archangel. But ladies & gentlemen, God has no equal. He alone is worthy of all power, all praise, all glory, all blessing, all strength & all honor.*

\*Satan's end will be disgusting & degrading. "Your pomp is brought down to Sheol... the maggot is spread under you, & worms cover you." Maggots are your bed, worms serve as your blanket... Why would anyone serve this creature or his cause (even for a minute) knowing his disgusting/degrading, torturous/tormented end?

But if I could strike a sense of urgency in you, light a fire under you to be bold in your sharing of the gospel... ladies & gentlemen, a torturous/torment awaits all who reject J.C. Jesus said of those in hell, *"Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched."*<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mk 9:44). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

God isn't seeking to send people *to* hell, (contrary to what some may believe). He's seeking to save people *from* hell. That's why Jesus came! – But that's not where it ends. Jesus coming *for you* won't help you at all if you won't come *to Him*. Someone can extend their hand to save you from falling off that cliff all they want, but if you won't respond to that invitation... you won't be saved. Come to J.C.\*

We also know that Satan was associated w/music before his fall. Ezekiel 28:13 affirms that for us. Here we see the sound of his stringed instruments will be brought down w/him. (I think we all know Satan has used [& still uses] music to influence countless souls for evil/ungodliness/carnality, that will come to an end. Not music itself, but the way he uses/manipulates it for ungodliness).

### Vs 12-15

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!” This is where people get the idea that Satan's name is Lucifer. & It may very well be. Others think it's a title (& it may very well be). It means, “morning star” or “light bearer”. & **Even in this we see that Satan isn't an originator, he's an imitator. On some level he seeks to imitate Jesus, who is “the Bright & Morning star” (Rev 22:16). He wants to be like the Most High, but far from being exalted, he'll be brought low, to the lowest depths of the pit...** Listen, whether God is dealing w/men, w/kings or w/angels, Prov 16:18 still stands. **“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”<sup>6</sup>**

“How you are fallen from heaven...” I don't know of any man (king) who's fallen from heaven. But as for Satan, what did Jesus say? He said, **“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”<sup>7</sup>** He can still access heaven currently, but the day is coming that he'll be cut off permanently.

& Again, I want you to notice that he's associated w/light. “Son of the morning.” Allow me to expound just a bit more on the person/character of Satan. He's not at all depicted in scripture as Hollywood likes to portray him (as some disgusting, grotesque, horrific looking creature [horns, tail, forked tongue or whatever] who would strike absolute terror in your heart if he appeared to you in his true form). In fact, he's quite the opposite (Ezek 28:11-19). Created w/pipes, precious jewels, perfect in wisdom/beauty. He comes to you as light, as something good, something alluring, something attractive...

<sup>6</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Pr 16:18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>7</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Lk 10:18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



Sure demonic creatures can take on the form of personified evil, but more than not they come as angels of light, deceptive, appealing, tempting & misleading (2 Cor 11:13-15).

& We see again the power behind the thrones (you who weakened the nations). The bible is pretty clear on the fact that it's not uncommon for there to be spiritual powers & principalities connected w/& bringing influence over political powers around the world. (Here, Daniel 10, Ezek 28 etc.)

\*“For you have said in your heart...” I say it over & over, God is always looking to the heart. You don't have to say something out loud for it to be established in your heart. - & These are the 5, “I will” statements of Satan. The “why” behind “what” happened & what will happen to him. & Really, it's here that we find sin in its “embryo/seed” form. — Sin is rooted in the will.

& Anytime I set *my will* over, or above, or against *God's will* I'm entering into sin. It's where sin is rooted. Isa 53:6, “*All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way* (his own will); *And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*”<sup>8</sup> & This is now the “natural state” of man (going our own way). We can't obey God on our own, we need to be “born again” as by the Spirit of God... But anytime I'm putting my will (“I will”) *above God's, I'm placing myself in the place of God.* Jesus said, “*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*”<sup>9</sup> What did Jesus say when facing the cross? “*Not My will* but Yours (Father) be done.” That's why I titled the message, “My will or Thy will”, what's the emphasis of your heart? – Selfish ambition will destroy your life. \*

“I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars (or angels) of God.” Be careful of always promoting yourself. He wanted to be recognized as above or being superior to his peers. A cut above the rest, deserving of special recognition.

“I will sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest side of the north.” (Establishing himself in that place of glory/honor & recognition). “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.” (More of the same, rising higher & higher). “I will be like the Most High”. Again, not *above* God, but *like* God. He wants worship, recognition & praise... Remember he sought to get *Jesus* to worship him... (Matt 4:8-10)

<sup>8</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Is 53:6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.  
<sup>9</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Mt 16:24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The heart of Satan is pride, desire for recognition, praise & exaltation above his peers. He wants to be like God. It's like that person who's so talented, so gifted in so many arenas... Rather than allowing God's grace toward them to humble them, they allow it to cause them to think they deserve more. More power, more praise, higher status than anyone else... What a contrast to the heart of Jesus.

What's the heart of Jesus? Though being God, in every way equal *with* God, Phil 2, *"...but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*<sup>10</sup>

Listen, what's the take home? Satan sought exaltation. Resulting in condemnation. Jesus willingly chose humiliation. Resulting in *exaltation* to the highest degree (Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess). To be 1<sup>st</sup> is to be last. To be great is to be the servant of all...

#### Vs 16-17

Never showed mercy, came only to rob, kill & destroy. Can I give you a quick application? Sometimes you have to release the captives. This king would take prisoners, but never let them go when their time was up. Now, hell will hold him forever... What am I saying? We can hold people in the prison of unforgiveness & never release them, never show mercy to them. & It can backfire to leave us is a prison of anger/bitterness.

I'm not saying that justice shouldn't be served. I'm saying that we need to learn forgiveness. Write it down, read it later, Luke 6:36-38. God holds us accountable to the standard we hold others to. As for me, I desire mercy.

#### Vs 18-23

When's the last time you had a conversation w/a Babylonian? God promises total annihilation. The finality of this phrase is striking, "I will sweep it w/the broom of destruction," says the Lord of hosts.

#### Vs 24-27

What a frightening, yet fantastic Vs. **Vs 24 (read)**. God doesn't even need to utter a word, if He even thinks it, it will come to pass. If He purposes it, it will stand. Here's the beauty. "I know the thoughts I think toward you," says the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> *The New King James Version*, (1982). [Php 2:7-8]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



“Thoughts of peace & not of evil, to give you a future & a hope.” (Jer 29:11). Phil 1:6 tells us that God has begun a good work in you, & having purposed that good work, He’ll be faithful to complete it.

But the point here is that God’s plan, God’s purpose will never & can never be frustrated. His purpose will always come to pass. That’s why it so important to seek God’s plan for your life. Not *my* will, *Thy* will. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works when He has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

But judgment is coming, against the whole earth, & no one can stop it.

### Vs 28-31 (Close)

If you know your bible history, you know that the Philistines were always at war w/Israel. Now that Israel/Judah are being humbled, God says, “Don’t glory in it Philistia, judgment is coming your way as well.”

### Vs 32

In the midst of the judgment of the nations, what’s founded on the Lord will be made evident. That’s where surety/security lies. Not in riches or military might but being founded on the rock-solid foundation of J.C.

### Prayer Points:

God, that’s our prayer. Not *our* will, but Yours be done. We want to be found *in* Christ & established upon the solid foundation *of* Christ. Father, help us to crucify the flesh & to walk in the Spirit. May we emulate the humility and servant’s heart of Jesus & may You be glorified in our lives.

We talked about the difference between “my will” & “Thy will”. That begins w/God’s will for you to be saved, to come to repentance & believe upon the Lord J.C. Don’t try to do things your way, come *His* way. Jesus is the way the truth & the life & no one comes to the Father except through Him.