

I. Introduction and Review.

A. Review: Facing the problem of evil. Isa. 10:5-7

B. A taunt song against Babylon. v. 6a Is. 14:4f Je. 50:13 Mt. 23:13f I Ki. 18:26f Ps. 2:4

- 1. Is it wrong to rejoice over the downfall of the wicked? Mt. 5:44 Ps. 139:21**
- 2. The Babylonians are used as an object lesson. Pr. 3:34**
- 3. Five stanzas of three verses each (*Woe!*): The charges and the punishment.**
- 4. In the midst of darkness and judgment there is hope: the LORD reigns. v. 14,20**

C. To whom does this taunt song apply?

- 1. Ancient Babylon as represented by her king. Daniel 5**
- 2. Babylon the great in the end times. v. 3ab Rev. 18:2f**
- 3. All who dare to oppose God in any age.**

II. God will destroy the arrogant evildoers. v. 6-20

A. The pillager will be pillaged. v. 6b-8

- 1. The charge: You have become wealthy through theft, injustice, and violence.**
- 2. The judgment: Suddenly your victims will bite back and collect with interest. Is. 33:1 29:5 Jer. 30:16 Pr. 6:15 29:1 Zeph. 2:9 Zech. 2:7-10**
- 3. Application. Gal. 6:7 Pr. 22:8**
 - a. Nations oppressing nations.**
 - b. Governments oppressing their own citizens.**
 - c. Individual oppression. Deut. 23:19-20 Neh. 5**

B. The proud dynasty builder will be frustrated. v. 9-11

- 1. The charge: You seek security and exaltation at the expense of others. v. 9-10a**
- 2. The judgment: Your house will fall in due time. v. 10b-11 Is. 14:13-15 Ob. 1:3-4 Jer. 49:16 Pr. 1:19 15:27 Lu. 19:40**
- 3. Applications.**
 - a. National security: Is it safe to be the world's lone superpower?**
 - b. Financial security. Jer. 22:13-17 Pr. 18:11**
 - c. Evil dynasties will fall.**

C. The city of the violent builders will be burned up. v. 12-14

- 1. The charge: You built an empire through the bloodshed of enslaved foes. v. 12 Jer. 22:13f**
- 2. The judgment: Your toil is in vain and your city will go up in smoke. v. 13 Je. 51:58 Ps. 2:1f Isa. 49:4 Gen. 11**
- 3. Application. II Pe. 3:11**
 - a. National empires.**
 - b. Business empires.**
 - c. Personal empires.**
 - d. Spiritual empires. I Co. 3**

D. The barbaric debaucher will be debauched. v. 15-17

- 1. The charge: You gained pleasure by humiliating others. v. 15,17 Ge. 9:20f**
- 2. The judgment: You will be disgraced when you are forced to drink the cup of God's wrath. Jer. 25:15-17 Na. 3:5 Hos. 4:7 Is. 51:22-23 14:8 Lam. 4:21 Eze. 23:31f Rev. 18:2-3,6**

3. Application.
 - a. Atrocities by governments (and terrorists).
 - b. Delighting in shameful things. Eph. 5:3-4
 - c. Bad stewardship of creation.

E. The idolater will be forsaken. v. 18-20

1. The charge: You are devoted to idols and seek guidance from them. v. 18-19 1:16
2. Your gods are dead and useless. v. 18-19 Is. 44:9-17 40:18f 42:8 IKi. 18:26-29
Ex. 20:4 Ps. 135:15-18 115:3-8 Je. 2:27-28 10:3-4,9,14 You become like your idols.
3. Application.
 - a. Idols of religion.
 - b. Idols of government. I Sa. 8
 - c. Idols of science and technology.
 - d. Idols of wealth. Col. 3:5 Pr. 11:4
 - e. Idols of people. Jer. 17:5-6

III. Our God reigns. v. 14,20

- A. God's kingdom will replace all earthly kingdoms. v. 14 Isa. 11:9 6:3 Dan. 2:35,44-45
Zech. 14:9
 1. All man-made empires will go up in smoke. Rev. 17-18
 2. Babylon fell and the exiles returned to the land, which was a type of the end.
 3. The glorious Messianic kingdom will fill the earth. Nu. 14:21 Ps. 72:19
 4. All will know the LORD. Jer. 31:33-34 Phil. 2:9f
- B. The LORD reigns now. v. 20 Mic. 1:2 Ps. 11:4 Deut. 32:31
 1. He lives, acts and speaks, in contrast to the Babylonian idols.
 2. Even when the earthly temple is destroyed, He indwells the heavenly temple.
 3. Application.
 - a. Worship God with reverence and awe.
 - b. Listen/seek guidance from Him. Pr. 3:5-6
 - c. Quietly submit to God. Zeph. 1:7 Zech. 2:13 Isa. 41:1 Ps. 46:10 115:3

IV. Concluding applications. Where is Christ in our passage? Ps. 2 Ro. 8:31f Lu. 22:42

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. What should our attitude be towards God's treatment of the wicked?
2. What are the five charges against Babylon?
3. What are the five punishments upon Babylon?
4. To whom do these warnings apply?
5. What is idolatry and why is it stupid?
6. What positive promises are in this passage? v. 14,20
7. Where is Christ in this passage?