

Isaiah 24:21-23

Daily Bible
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Isaiah 13-27

Jeremiah 46-51

Ezekiel 25-32

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Major Prophets

12-23% addressed to
nations outside of Israel

Minor Prophets

100% addressed to
nations outside of Israel

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The King Of The Nations

Why Do The Old Testament Prophets Prophecy To The Nations?

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A proper understanding of why God addresses the nations begins back in Deuteronomy 32.

Song of Moses — Deuteronomy 32:1-43 (Peter J. Gentry)

Stanza 1 (vv.1-6) — God is faithful to a faithless people.

Stanza 2 (vv.7-14) — Examination of the history between the two sides will show God as always being loving and faithful towards Israel.

Stanza 3 (vv.15-25) — Israel is accused of forgetting God and for this they will be judged by the nations around them.

Stanza 4 (vv.26-38) — Moses challenges the earthly perception that the nations were simply more powerful than God and able to defeat Israel/Judah.

Stanza 5 (vv.39-43) — God's vengeance & vindication are seen.

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The Prophets continue these warnings of sin and punishment against the nations of the earth based upon their continued rebellion against God and harm against His people.

Assyria — *“But when the Lord finishes all his work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, he will say, “I will punish the king of Assyria for his arrogant acts and the proud look in his eyes.” (Isaiah 10:12)*

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Babylon — *“I will punish the world for its evil, and wicked people for their iniquities. I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant and humiliate the insolence of tyrants.”* (Isaiah 13:11)

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Babylonian King — *“Shining morning star, how you have fallen from the heavens! You destroyer of nations, you have been cut down to the ground. You said to yourself, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will set up my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of the gods’ assembly, in the remotest parts of the North. I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you will be brought down to Sheol into the deepest regions of the Pit.”* (Isaiah 14:12-15)

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Moab — *“We have heard of Moab’s pride— how very proud he is— his haughtiness, his pride, his arrogance, and his empty boasting. Therefore let Moab wail; let every one of them wail for Moab. You who are completely devastated, mourn for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth.”* (Isaiah 16:6,7)

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Those warnings and punishments are followed with words of hope for the future even for the rebellious nations of the world.

Egypt & Assyria (Isaiah 19:16-25) — *“On that day Israel will form a triple alliance with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing within the land. The Lord of Armies will bless them, saying, “Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance are blessed.” (Isaiah 19:24,25)*

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The Whole Earth — *“The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face and remove his people’s disgrace from the whole earth, for the Lord has spoken.”*

(Isaiah 25:8)

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The New Testament shows us that the hope for the nations (us!) is found through faith in Jesus.

The King
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