

Isaiah 18 - A Rebuke to Ethiopia (Cush); Ark of the Covenant

I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1–35:10)

(2) Condemnation of the nations (Is 13:1–23:18)

(F) Ethiopia (18:1-7)

- (a) Ethiopia warned of Assyria's coming (18:1-4)
- (b) Assyria to destroy Ethiopia (18:5-6)
- (c) Regeneration of Ethiopia (18:7)

Isaiah 18

(F) Ethiopia (18:1-7)

- (a) Ethiopia warned of Assyria's coming (18:1-4)

1 **Woe**, land of whirring wings Which lies beyond the rivers of Cush,

1 Alas, oh land of whirring wings Which lies beyond the rivers of Cush,

1 Woe to the land of whirring wings that is beyond the rivers of Cush,

1 Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia:

- "Woe" - is misleading: "Ho!" is more appropriate (Cf. Is 1:4; 55)

2 Which sends messengers by the sea, Even in papyrus vessels on the surface of the waters. Go, swift messengers, to a nation tall and smooth, To a people feared far and wide, A powerful and oppressive nation Whose land the rivers divide.

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2 which sends envoys by the sea, in papyrus boats over the water! Go, swift messengers, to a tall, smooth-skinned nation, to a people feared far and wide, a nation that metes out punishment and oppresses, whose land the rivers divide.

2 That sendeth ambassadors by the sea, even in vessels of bulrushes upon the waters, saying, Go, ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down, whose land the rivers have spoiled!

3 All you who inhabit the world, and live on earth, As soon as a flag is raised on the mountains, you will see it, And as soon as the trumpet is blown, you will hear it.

3 All you inhabitants of the world and dwellers on earth, As soon as a standard is raised on the mountains, you will see *it*, And as soon as the trumpet is blown, you will hear *it*.
3 All you inhabitants of the world, you who live on the earth, when a banner is raised on the mountains, you'll see it. When a trumpet sounds, you'll hear it!
3 All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.
- All the world will take notice...

The Judgment

4 For this is what the LORD has told me: "I will quietly look from My dwelling place Like dazzling heat in the sunshine, Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."
4 For thus the LORD has told me, "I will look from My dwelling place quietly Like dazzling heat in the sunshine, Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."
4 For this is what the LORD told me: "I will remain quiet and watch in my dwelling place like dazzling heat in sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."
4 For so the LORD said unto me, I will take my rest, and I will consider in my dwelling place like a clear heat upon herbs, and like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.
- Here is a place that the ISV repairs the quaint KJV. Note the provocative global role of the Ethiopians!

(b) Assyria to destroy Ethiopia (18:5-6)

5 For before the harvest, as soon as the bud blossoms And the flower becomes a ripening grape, He will cut off the shoots with pruning knives, And remove *and* tear away the spreading branches.
5 For before the harvest, as soon as the bud blossoms And the flower becomes a ripening grape, Then He will cut off the sprigs with pruning knives And remove *and* cut away the spreading branches.
5 For before the harvest, when the season of budding is over, and sour grapes ripen into mature grapes, he cuts off the shoots with pruning knives, clearing away the spreading branches as he lops them off.
5 For afore the harvest, when the bud is perfect, and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, he shall both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks, and take away and cut down the branches.

6 They will be left together for mountain birds of prey, And for the animals of the earth; And the birds of prey will spend the summer *feeding* on them, And all the animals of the earth will spend harvest time on them.

6 They will be left together for mountain birds of prey, And for the beasts of the earth; And the birds of prey will spend the summer *feeding* on them, And all the beasts of the earth will spend harvest time on them.

6 And they will all be left for birds of prey that live on the mountains⁹ and for wild animals. Birds of prey will pass the summer feeding on them, and all the wild animals will pass the winter feeding on them.

6 They shall be left together unto the fowls of the mountains, and to the beasts of the earth: and the fowls shall summer upon them, and all the beasts of the earth shall winter upon them.

(c) Regeneration of Ethiopia (18:7)

7 At that time **a gift of tribute** will be brought to the LORD of armies From a people tall and smooth, From a people feared far and wide, A powerful and oppressive nation, Whose land the rivers divide— To the place of the name of the LORD of armies, to Mount Zion.

7 At that time a gift of homage will be brought to the Lord of hosts From a people tall and smooth, Even from a people feared far and wide, A powerful and oppressive nation, Whose land the rivers divide— To the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, even Mount Zion.

7 At that time tribute will be brought to the LORD of the Heavenly Armies from a tall and smooth-skinned people, from a people feared far and wide, a nation that metes out punishment and oppresses, whose land the rivers divide, to Mount Zion, the place that bears the name of the LORD.

7 In that time **shall the present** be brought unto the LORD of hosts of a people scattered and peeled, and from a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden under foot, whose land the rivers have spoiled, to the place of the name of the LORD of hosts, the mount Zion.

— "...a gift of tribute" - *shay*, the gift, the present; a gift offered as homage

— A specific gift (or offering) is going to be given to the Lord when He is on Mt. Zion...

— Ethiopia appears as a representative of the whole world, doing homage to the true God: this tribute is brought to the place where the name of the Lord dwells...

See [Ark of the Covenant: A Relic with a Future?](#)