

**Isaiah 13:1-8**  
Are You Ready For  
The Day of The Lord?

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**Big Picture**

**Chapters 13-23 (10 Oracles)**

1. Babylon 13:1	1. Babylon 21:1
2. Philistia 14:28	2. Edom 21:11
3. Moab 15:1	3. Arabia 21:13
4. Damascus 17:1	4. Jerusalem 22:1
5. Egypt 19:1	5. Tyre 23:1

**The Little Apocalypse (24-27)**  
Jerusalem vs. Babylon

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**The Significance of Babylon**

The Babylonian god Marduk (Heb. Merodach) wears a royal crown and holds the rod and ring, symbols of authority. He is here depicted on his symbol, a composite creature (mušruššu) whose body was a serpent. Drawn from a carved cylinder found at Babylon. (NBD p. 762)



**Isaiah 27:1** In that day the Lord will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, With His fierce and great and mighty sword, Even Leviathan the twisted serpent; And He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.

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### The Significance of Babylon

13:1-16 "Far Term" World wide judgment  
13:17-22 "Near Term" Destruction of Babylon

Isaiah 13:1 The oracle concerning Babylon  
which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw:

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### The Lord Gathers The Nations

Isaiah 13:2-3 Lift up a standard on the bare hill,  
raise your voice to them, wave the hand that  
they may enter the doors of the nobles. I have  
commanded My consecrated ones, I have  
even called My mighty warriors, My proudly  
exulting ones, to execute My anger.

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### The Lord Gathers The Nations

Joel 3:2 I will gather all the nations and bring  
them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat.

Zechariah 14:2 For I will gather all the nations  
against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will  
be captured...

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### The Nations Are God's Tools

Isaiah 13:4-5 A sound of tumult on the mountains, Like that of many people! A sound of the uproar of kingdoms, of nations gathered together! The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle. They are coming from a far country, from the farthest horizons, the LORD and His instruments of indignation, to destroy the whole **land**.

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### The Nations Are God's Tools

Matthew 24:6 You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.

Revelation 6:4 And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, **it was granted** to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword **was given** to him.

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### The Day of The LORD Is Near?

Isaiah 13:6-7 Wail, **for the day of the LORD** is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will fall limp, and every man's heart will melt.

Qarove: "It speaks not of necessary proximity in time or necessary tarrying but of the total preparedness of that day to dawn whenever the Lord declares that the time has come."

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### We Are In The Last Days

Daniel 2:28b... He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar the things which must take place in the **last days**.

Hebrews 1:2a ...in these **last days** has spoken to us in His Son...

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must take place **soon**...

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### The D.O.L. Comes Like Birth Pangs

Isaiah 13:8 They will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of them; they will writhe like a **woman in labor**, they will look at one another in astonishment, their faces aflame.

Matthew 24:7-8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

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### The Labor Pains Concept

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a **thief in the night**. While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

	"Labor Pains"		
"Pregnant"	7 years	Messianic Age	

— Last Days —→ Day of The Lord —→

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### The D.O.L. And The Rapture

- The Day of the Lord: Like a thief (1 Thess 5:2)
- Jesus' coming: Like a thief (Matt 24:43)

"Were either the Rapture or the day of the Lord to precede the other, one or the other would cease to be an imminent prospect to which the 'thief in the night' and related expressions are appropriate" (Thomas).

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### What Is Imminence?

**Definition of Imminence:** "To hang over one's head."

#### IMPLICATIONS:

1. No certain amount of time needs to elapse.
2. No certain limiting time frame exists.
3. No certain date can be fixed.

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### Imminence In The New Testament

James 5:7-9 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord **is near**. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

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### Imminence In The New Testament

#### Commenting on James 5:7-9:

"His return *is at hand*. It has been so from the day of the apostles. James was not mistaken even though he lived over 1,000 years ago. The return of the Lord was then at hand; the return of the Lord is now at hand. We live in the last days, the days of the imminent return" (J. Alec Motyer, *The Tests of Faith*, p.107).

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### Imminence In The New Testament

1 Corinthians 1:7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ...

"...such a concern is ever present with the apostle himself, since salvation for Paul was primarily an eschatological reality, begun with Christ's coming and to be consummated by his imminent return" (G. Fee, NICNT, 42).

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### Imminence In The New Testament

Matthew 24:38-39 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; **so** will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household...

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### How Then Shall We Live?

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that **the day** would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

IMPLICATION: We know **that** He is coming – not **when** He is coming!

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### How Then Shall We Live?

2 Peter 3:10-12a But **the day of the Lord** will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...

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