

Triumph Over Strongholds

Study 4 - The Stronghold of Babylon - The Freedom of Repentance

Prophecy of the Stronghold - Jeremiah 25:1-13

Because of gross sin, Babylon was used by God as a stronghold of captivity for the two southern tribes of Judah.

One hundred twenty years earlier, because of gross sin, Assyria was used by God as a stronghold of captivity and worldwide dispersion for the ten northern tribes of Israel.

Judah's propensity for national sin and idolatry was remedied after seventy years, which, with God, is a number of completion. Judah had been humbled to the point of repentance and turning back to God.

Did Judah realize that God simply used the stronghold of Babylon to show them the greater stronghold of their sin; that it was the cause of the distance between them and God and the loss of His blessings on them? And did they make the connection that it was their repentance that brought both freedom from the stronghold of sin and the stronghold of Babylon, when God sent Persia to overthrow Babylon and restore Judah to their homeland?

Prophecy of God's Destruction of the Stronghold of Babylon - Isaiah 13 - 14:11, 22-23

1. God raises up the Medes and Persians as an army of His bidding.
2. God moves them against Babylon, and shows them how to divert the Euphrates river to enter the city of Babylon without breaching its 70 ft. thick, 300 ft. high walls and gates.
3. Babylon and its people are utterly destroyed and made desolate like Sodom & Gomorrah.
4. God goes to great lengths to free penitent people from the stronghold of sin.
5. Eventually, Judah's Priests and Elders again lapse into gross sin. In the days of Jesus, Christ calls them the blind children of Satan. They are blocked from salvation until the fulness of the Gentiles comes into the kingdom of God. At the end of time God returns to Israel and brings salvation to them through Jesus, which they graciously and wholeheartedly receive.

Prophecy of God's Destruction of the Stronghold of Satan - Isaiah 14:12-21; Ezek. 28

There is a comparison between the king of Babylon and Satan, and between the king of Tyre and Satan, Ezek. 28. Whenever there is an available opportunity to persecute the people of God, Satan seizes upon it. But God eventually retaliates by tearing down the stronghold of Satan and sin, and freeing His penitent people.