

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 45
November 17, 2019



Ancient City in Arabia photo by: VIVIAN NEREIM/BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES

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The Book of Isaiah
Message Forty-Five
JUDGMENT ON ARABIA
November 17, 2019
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Isaiah 21:13–17

¹³The burden upon Arabia. In the forest in Arabia shall ye lodge, O ye caravans of Dedanites. ¹⁴Unto him that was thirsty they brought water; the inhabitants of the land of Tema did meet the fugitives with their bread. ¹⁵For they fled away from the swords, from the drawn sword, and from the bent bow, and from the grievousness of war. ¹⁶For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Within a year, according to the years of a hireling, all the glory of Kedar shall fail; ¹⁷and the residue of the number of the archers, the mighty men of the children of Kedar, shall be few; for Jehovah, the God of Israel, hath spoken it (ASV, 1901).

This is a prophecy concerning Arabia. This is a harsh prophecy concerning the people of Arabia; namely, the descendants of Ishmael's son Kedar (Genesis 25:13) Famous for its archers (*the archers, the mighty men of the children of Kedar*).

Arabia was a large country, that lay eastward and southward of the land of Canaan. Much of it was possessed by the non-Israelite descendants of Abraham. The Dedanim, here mentioned (v. 13), descended from Dedan, Abraham's grandson by Keturah. The inhabitants of Tema and Kedar descended from Ishmael, (Genesis 25:3, 13, 15). The Arabians generally lived in tents, and kept cattle, were a hardy people, and accustomed to hard labor.



Map of Ishmaelite Migration from http://www.brotherpete.com/12_sons_tribes_ishmael.htm

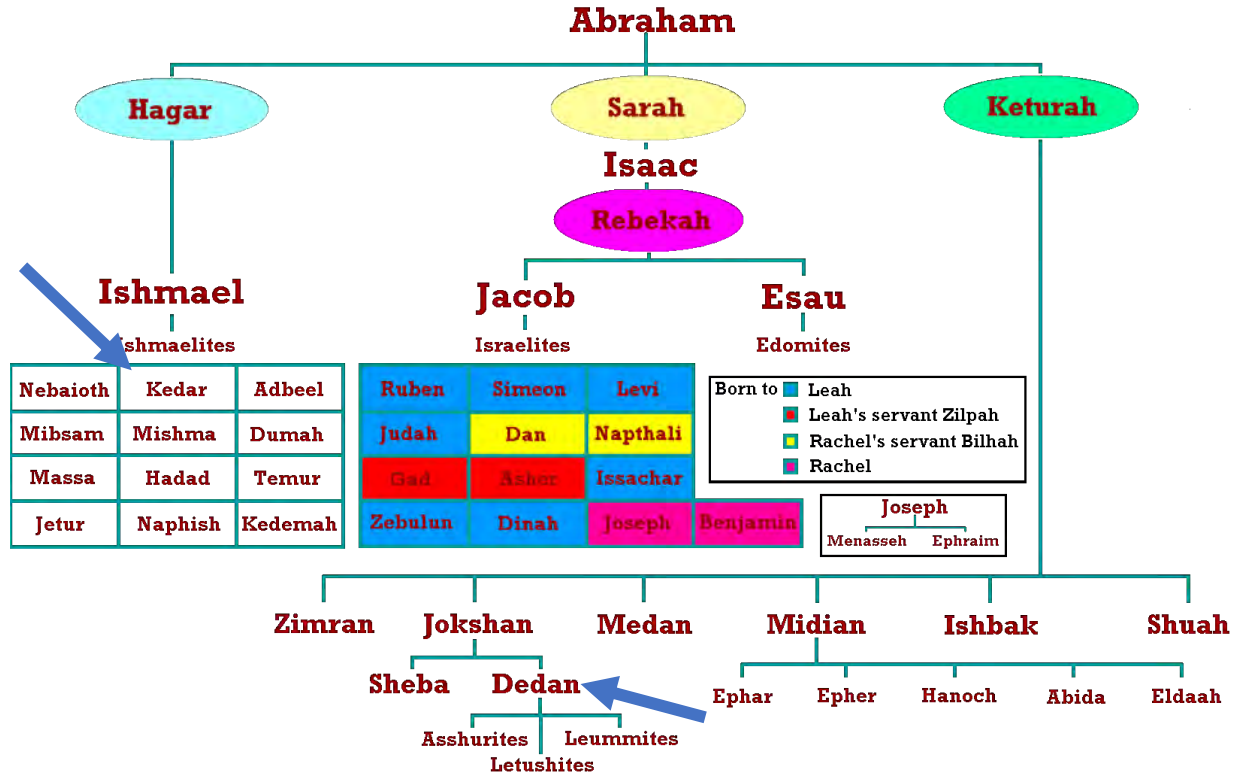
Genesis 25: 1–4

“¹And Abraham took another wife, and her name was Keturah. ²And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. ³And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim. ⁴And the sons of Midian: Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.” (ASV, 1901)

Abraham lived for 175 years in total, and was 137 years old when Sarah died. Abraham would live another thirty–eight years from the time Sarah died. During that time, he married Keturah (whose name means “perfume”), and had six sons with her. All the sons of Keturah would become future Arabian tribes, and settled in Northwest Arabia and the Sinai.

Of the sons of Jokshan, “*Sheba*” was probably connected with the Sabaeans, who are associated in Job 6:19 with “*Tema*”, and are mentioned in Job 1:14–15 as having stolen Job’s oxen and donkeys. They were neighbors of the Nabataeans in the vicinity of Syria. “*Dedan*” was probably the trading people mentioned in Jeremiah 25:23, along with “*Tema*” here in Isaiah 21:13–14; and also, in Jeremiah 49:8. Kedar appears as a wealthy merchant tribe in Jeremiah 49:28-29. King David describes them as a barbarous people when he exclaims, *Woe is me that I sojourn in Meshech., that I dwell the tents of Kedar* (Psalms 120:5).

The Genealogy of Abraham



Ishmael and Keturah’s descendants from www.truthinlove.com

ARABIA WILL BE DESTROYED

Isaiah 21:13

¹³The burden upon Arabia. In the forest in Arabia shall ye lodge, O ye caravans of Dedanites (ASV, 1901).

The prophet foretells that Arabia will be destroyed because they had mistreated Israel when Assyria sent the Northern ten tribes in 722 B.C. and into exile and led them away in captivity. *In the forest in Arabia shall you lodge, you caravans of Dedanites.*

Dedan is mentioned among the sons of Keturah whose descendants were known to be caravan drivers, tent dwellers, and island dwellers. They were nomads. The prophet is informing the Dedanites who were accustomed to travel through the desert that they will no longer find settlements in which to lodge because Arabia will have been destroyed. The Dedanites will therefore be forced to spend their nights in the forests. There must have been forests at that time in Arabia. The prophet is also reprimanding the Arabians for their lack of hospitality to the Dedanites.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE WATER

Isaiah 21:14

¹⁴Unto him that was thirsty they brought water; the inhabitants of the land of Tema did meet the fugitives with their bread (ASV, 1901).

The climate of Arabia is hot and dry and drinking water is therefore difficult to find, and the Arabians failed to provide water for the wandering Dedanites. At the destruction of the First Temple, when Nebuchadnezzar led Israel into exile, they were brought near the Arabs, the descendants of Ishmael. The thirsty Israelites begged their captors, the Babylonians, to lead them to their cousins, who they thought have pity on them. They begged for water but instead the Ishmaelites brought them salty meat and fish and water in skin flasks inflated with air. Thirsty and believing that these flasks were filled with water, as they began to drink, the air pressure quickly filled their stomachs and many were killed. Those who dwelled in the land of Tema greeted the wanderers with food. The Temites were a trading tribe who descended from Tema, one of Ishmael's sons (Genesis 25:15). The prophet instructs the inhabitants of the land of Tema to greet the Arabian prisoners by distributing much-needed bread to them. They distributed bread to those traveling through their country. Now that they have become wanderers themselves, others must be kind to them. The spiritual moral purpose of this prophecy is to admonish the Jewish people and others as well and to teach them that they should be as kind and benevolent to others as their Arab cousins had once been. The New Testament teaches us the we must be hospital to strangers.

Hebrews 13:1–3

¹Let love of the brethren continue. ²Forget not to show love unto strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; them that are ill-treated, as being yourselves also in the body (ASV, 1901).

RUNNING AWAY FROM THE ARMIES

Isaiah 21:15

¹⁵For they fled away from the swords, from the drawn sword, and from the bent bow, and from the grievousness of war (ASV, 1901).

For they will wander because of swords and wander in exile because of the battles and wars that are sweeping through their land. The prophet then specifies that this will take place with outstretched sword and drawn bow because some armies attack with swords and the drawn bow because some armies attack with swords and spears while others attack with arrows.

And because of the grievousness (severity) of war says the enemy will besiege the land and cause its people to suffer with hunger and famine and ultimately cause the people to flee the land. This verse will also be fulfilled with events that will take place during “the End of Days,” before the coming of the Messiah. According to Isaac ben Judah Abarbanel a medieval Jewish Rabbi, at that time, the descendants of Ishmael will start wars against Edom.¹ One will be fought in the fields, as it says, because of the drawn bow. One of the wars will be fought in the forest of Arabia, as it says, because of the outstretched sword. One will be fought at the sea, as it says, because of the bent bow. The Messiah the son of David will emerge and will witness the destruction of these two nations. From there he will come to the Land of Israel, as the Lord says: through the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 63:1–4

¹Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. ²Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winevat? ³I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the peoples there was no man with me: yea, I trod them in mine anger, and trampled them in my wrath; and their lifeblood is sprinkled upon my garments, and I have stained all my raiment. ⁴For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redeemed is come (ASV, 1901).

The Jewish commentators were nearly accurate, but the book of Revelation refines their limited understanding of the Campaign of Armageddon.

The campaign of Armageddon involves eight stages. They are as follows:

1. The Assembling of the Allies of the Antichrist.
2. The Destruction of Babylon.
3. The Fall of Jerusalem.
4. The Armies of the Antichrist at Bozrah (Petra).
5. The National Regeneration of Israel (Zechariah 12)
6. The Second Coming of the Messiah.
 - a. The Place of the Second coming.
 - b. The Manner of the Second Coming.

¹ Scherman , Rabbi Nosson editor, *Isaiah* published by Mesorah Publications Brooklyn, NY 11232, page 161.

7. The Battle from Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.
8. The Victory Ascent Up the Mount of Olives.

The fighting will continue from Bozrah all the way back to Jerusalem and end in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. These nations that came against Christ will find themselves being trodden down by the King of the Jews.

Revelation 14: 19-20

And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs (KJV).

The city is Jerusalem and the winepress metaphor is the battle in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. From here the armies leave for Bozrah and then return here ending the conflict. The blood stretches for 1,600 furlongs or 200 miles. Jeremiah best describes this:

Jeremiah 49:20-22

Therefore hear ye the counsel of Jehovah, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely they shall drag them away, even the little ones of the flock; surely he shall make their habitation desolate over them. The earth trembleth at the noise of their fall; there is a cry, the noise whereof is heard in the Red Sea. Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread out his wings against Bozrah: and the heart of the mighty men of Edom at that day shall be as the heart of a woman in her pangs (ASV, 1901).

The massive bloodletting that began at Bozrah moves to the south down the Arabah until it empties into the Red Sea at the present-day cities of Eilat and Akaba. The distance to Jerusalem is about 200 miles. The level of the blood is about four feet high. The battle finally comes to an end in the Valley of Jehoshaphat ending the seventh stage of the campaign of Armageddon.



The fighting will continue all the way back to Jerusalem and end in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. These nations that came against Christ will find themselves being trodden down by the King of the Jews.

When Jesus, the Messiah returns it is first to Bozrah/Petra (Micah 2:12) and then He conducts the battle from there to Jerusalem. The apostle describes His appearance due to the angel's bloodletting.

Revelation 19:11–13

¹¹And I saw the heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and he that sat thereon called Faithful and True; and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹²And his eyes are a flame of fire, and upon his head are many diadems; and he hath a name written which no one knoweth but he himself. ¹³And he is arrayed in a garment sprinkled with blood: and his name is called The Word of God (ASV, 1901).

KEDAR WILL FAIL

Isaiah 21:16–17

¹⁶For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Within a year, according to the years of a hireling, all the glory of Kedar shall fail; ¹⁷and the residue of the number of the archers, the mighty men of the children of Kedar, shall be few; for Jehovah, the God of Israel, hath spoken it (ASV, 1901).

In one more year, like the years of a wage earner the destruction of Arabia and exile of its people will take place in one year. The timing will be exact. Just as a wage earner does not work a moment longer than he is required, so too will the destruction of Arabia not be delayed for even one moment.

All the glory of Kedar will be ended. Kedar, Arabia, will be destroyed because its people had mistreated Israel as she went into exile. And the remainder of the number of archers, the mighty heroes of the sons of Kedar, will be diminished. The small remnant of Arabian archers will soon dwindle until none will remain. The Arabians were punished because its people did not exhibit any kindness toward the Dedanites and Temites.

THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE ARABS

The eventual outcome of all the Arabian's sins against Israel is their total destruction and dispersion. This is clearly described by God through the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah 49:28–33.

²⁸ Of Kedar, and of the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon smote. Thus saith Jehovah: Arise ye, go up to Kedar, and destroy the children of the east. ²⁹ Their tents and their flocks shall they take; they shall carry away for themselves their curtains, and all their vessels, and their camels; and they shall cry unto them, Terror on every side! ³⁰ Flee ye, wander far off, dwell in the depths, O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith Jehovah; for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you. ³¹ Arise, get you up unto a nation that is at ease, that dwelleth without care, saith Jehovah; that have neither gates nor bars, that dwell

alone. ³² And their camels shall be a booty, and the multitude of their cattle a spoil: and I will scatter unto all winds them that have the corners of their hair cut off; and I will bring their calamity from every side of them, saith Jehovah. ³³ And Hazor shall be a dwelling-place of jackals, a desolation for ever: no man shall dwell there, neither shall any son of man sojourn therein (ASV, 1901).

This passage clearly describes the total devastation of Saudi Arabia by war until the inhabitants are scattered and dispersed all over the world. As for the land itself,

Jeremiah 49:33

³³And Hazor shall be a dwelling-place of jackals, a desolation for ever: no man shall dwell there, neither shall any son of man sojourn therein (ASV, 1901).

The land of Saudi Arabia will be a perpetual desolation throughout the Messianic Kingdom, and the residents will be dispersed everywhere. Ezekiel 29:1–16 describe Egypt's desolation and dispersion only lasting forty years, for Saudi Arabia it will last for all of the one thousand years. Saudi Arabia will be destroyed.

NEXT MESSAGE: WOE TO JERUSALEM

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