

# Firestarter: Isaiah

## Scripture: Isaiah 13-14

Before you read

1. Gather a pen, paper, and highlighters (for marking in your Bible) if you don't want to mark in your Bible. Print off this sheet and mark it here.
2. Pray, asking God for wisdom and understanding of the words you are about to read.
3. Read the section more than one time.
  - First, read to understand.
  - Second, read to notice.
  - Third, read for questions. Record your questions as you read and see if you can answer them. Then choose three questions from the observation section and find answers to them.
  - Fourth, In chapter 13, mark words about **judgment**; in chapter 14, mark anything positive.

### READ: Isaiah 13-14

#### OBSERVATION:

Beginning in chapter 13, what kind of message does God have for the nations, and what does this indicate about the accountability that people groups and countries—not just individuals—have to God? (See 13:1—23:18 note.)

How did God use Babylon? Why would He overthrow it, and where are its ruins located? (See 13:1 note.)

God will punish the world for what actions and attitudes (13:11)?

What will happen to the Israelites following God's judgment, both in Old Testament times and in the future (14:1-4)?

What will eventually happen to all world leaders who defy God and oppose the values and principles of His kingdom (14:4-11)? (See 14:4-21 note.)

What is the attitude that led to the downfall described in chapter 14:13-15?

What happens with all of the Lord's plans and purposes (14:24)?

## **APPLICATION:**

How do you feel when you fail?

Not good? No one likes to fail. And yet, we learn valuable lessons through our failure. But some people are unwilling to learn from their mistakes. They aim to succeed at any cost—or at least give the impression of success—allowing pride to take control. Ironically, the more people promote their priorities, plans, and purposes, the more they set themselves up for failure.

God will not tolerate selfish pride. In Isaiah's time, many leaders discovered that no one could stand against God's plans. Those who disregard and defy God's desires are destined for downfall and destruction, while those who continually depend on God will enjoy His peace, provision, and purpose in their lives.

**Action Step:** Are you doing anything out of selfish pride or with an arrogant attitude? If so, ask God to forgive you and apologize to anyone you may have hurt or offended. Then demonstrate greater humility and gratitude toward God and others.

## **PRAY:**

Pray for your country and its government leaders. Ask God to give them guidance and wisdom to make decisions that fit His plans and purposes. Praise God for His perfect justice.