

## Isaiah 21 New King James Version

### The Fall of Babylon Proclaimed

**21** The <sup>[a]</sup>burden against the Wilderness of the Sea.

- As whirlwinds in the South pass through,  
So it comes from the desert, from a terrible land.
- 2 A distressing vision is declared to me;  
The treacherous dealer deals treacherously,  
And the plunderer plunders.  
Go up, O Elam!  
Besiege, O Media!  
All its sighing I have made to cease.
- 3 Therefore my loins are filled with pain;  
Pangs have taken hold of me, like the pangs of a woman in labor.  
I was <sup>[b]</sup>distressed when I heard *it*;  
I was dismayed when I saw *it*.
- 4 My heart wavered, fearfulness frightened me;  
The night for which I longed He turned into fear for me.
- 5 Prepare the table,  
Set a watchman in the tower,  
Eat and drink.  
Arise, you princes,  
Anoint the shield!
- 6 For thus has the Lord said to me:  
"Go, set a watchman,  
Let him declare what he sees."
- 7 And he saw a chariot *with* a pair of horsemen,  
A chariot of donkeys, *and* a chariot of camels,  
And he listened earnestly with great care.
- 8 <sup>[c]</sup>Then he cried, "A lion, my Lord!  
I stand continually on the watchtower in the daytime;

- I have sat at my post every night.
- 9 And look, here comes a chariot of men *with* a pair of horsemen!"  
Then he answered and said,  
"Babylon is fallen, is fallen!  
And all the carved images of her gods  
He has broken to the ground."
- 10 Oh, my threshing and the grain of my floor!  
That which I have heard from the LORD of hosts,  
The God of Israel,  
I have declared to you.

### **Proclamation Against Edom**

- 11 The <sup>[d]</sup>burden against Dumah.

- He calls to me out of Seir,  
"Watchman, what of the night?  
Watchman, what of the night?"
- 12 The watchman said,  
"The morning comes, and also the night.  
If you will inquire, inquire;  
Return! Come back!"

### **Proclamation Against Arabia**

- 13 The <sup>[e]</sup>burden against Arabia.

- In the forest in Arabia you will lodge,  
O you traveling companies of Dedanites.
- 14 O inhabitants of the land of Tema,  
Bring water to him who is thirsty;  
With their bread they met him who fled.
- 15 For they fled from the swords, from the drawn sword,  
From the bent bow, and from the distress of war.

- 16 For thus the LORD has said to me: "Within a year, according to the year of a hired man, all the glory of Kedar will fail; 17 and the remainder of the number of archers, the mighty men of the people of Kedar, will be diminished; for the LORD God of Israel has spoken *it*."

## Footnotes

- a. [Isaiah 21:1](#) *oracle, prophecy*
- b. [Isaiah 21:3](#) Lit. *bowed*
- c. [Isaiah 21:8](#) DSS *Then the observer cried, "My Lord!"*
- d. [Isaiah 21:11](#) *oracle, prophecy*
- e. [Isaiah 21:13](#) *oracle, prophecy*

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