

Isaiah 21

New King James Version (NKJV)

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The Fall of Babylon Proclaimed

1 The 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 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 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 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 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.”

