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The Oracle Concerning Assyria

14: 24-27

The oracle concerning Assyria DIG: Where was Assyria defeated? What qualities of God are stressed here? How does God's planning and counsel stand against the whole world? Can anyone change His plans?

REFLECT: In view of this, how should Judah respond to God? How should the whole world? How then do you? What promises has God made to you that you can count on? Can anyone thwart those promises?

Here the previous taunt song is applied to Judah's immediate enemy, **Assyria**. **Isaiah** deals very briefly with **Assyria**, because **he** already dealt with it extensively in the Book of Immanuel (**7:1** to **12:6**). These verses serve as a transition from the general and symbolic to the specific and literal. **The Assyrian** power, symbolized by Babylon, represents the power and glory of this world against **ADONAI** who has promised to redeem **His** people. The superiority of **the LORD** to Babylon has been shown. But what about **Assyria**? Do these truths apply to the literal as well as the symbolic? The answer is a reverberating yes!

ADONAI-Tzva'ot has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand (14:24). When **YHVH** makes an oath, and swears by **Himself** as **He** does here, **He** does so because **He** can swear by nothing higher (**Hebrews 6:13**). It points to the fact that whatever **He** pronounces is certain to come to pass and cannot be undone. **He** often swears by **Himself** as a confirmation of the oath **He** makes (**Isaiah 62:8; Jeremiah 51:14; Amos 4:2**). And just to confirm what **He** has just said, **God** reemphasizes: **Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand (14:24b).**



In **the near historical future**, **God** declares that **He** will **crush the Assyrian** army. **I will crush the Assyrian in My Land; on My mountains I will trample him down (14:25a)**. The **Assyria** that **He** will **crush** will not be in the land of **Assyria**, but outside the walls of Jerusalem (**to see link click [Gw](#) - Then the Angel of the LORD Put To Death a Hundred and Eighty Five Thousand Men in the Assyrian Camp**). The instrument in **God's** hand is in accordance with **10:5: woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath. The rod of God's anger will be wielded by the Angel of the LORD. God's yoke will be taken from His people, and His burden removed from their shoulders (14:25b)**. The result of the breaking of **the Assyrian** is that the **yoke** will be **removed from the shoulders** of **God's people**.

This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched over all nations (14:26). These last two verses serve as a summary to **the Oracle Concerning Babylon (13:1 to 14:23)**. The statement of the purpose is that **ADONAI** has a plan determined for **the whole world**. But **God's** plan determined for **the whole world** will begin with **Assyria**. **God's hand is stretched out over all the nations** and is ready to strike, but the nation **He** will strike first, is **Assyria**.

For the LORD of heaven's angelic armies has purposed, and who can thwart Him (41:13, Psalm 33:6-11; Proverbs 19:21)? His hand is stretched out and who can turn it back (14:27)? Here **God** shows the impossibility of reversing **His** decision. This is **God's** purpose; who can cancel it? **Who can turn it back?** The rhetorical answer is *no one*. **ADONAI** is in complete control!