

39 states that God revealed to Isaiah that the land of Judah would ultimately be conquered by Babylon rather than by Assyria. Babylon here stands for a symbol of all the great enemies of God. In chapter 14 some of the language seems to go far beyond what might properly be said of the actual King of Babylon.

The second burden, which has only five verses, is directed against Philistia. The Philistines are well known to all Bible students. Yet the average reader of the English Bible would be easily misled by the fact that in 14:29 and 31 the King James Version translates "Philistia" as "Palestina." Our English word Palestine is derived from the name of the Philistines, but has been extended to cover the land of Israel as well as that of Philistia. The Philistines are the subject of the "burden" and the American Standard Version rightly renders the word as "Philistia." The King James Version renders the word as "Palestina" in a few Scripture passages and as "Philistia" in a few others. The gentile of this word is always translated "Philistine."

The burden of Moab, although less than half as long as that of Babylon, is divided into two chapters. It contains more names of places than any other "burden". Chapter 17 declares God's wrath against Damascus, a theme of great interest in the early days of Isaiah's ministry, since Damascus was the capital of Aram (Syria). The sections that begin in chapter 7 and in chapter 28 both deal with the time of crisis when the king of Damascus and the king of Samaria united against Judah.

The fifth message does not contain the word "burden" at all, but is clearly a new section, since it deals with Ethiopia, a land in the opposite direction from Damascus. Since Isaiah 17:12 begins like 18:1, an argument might be made for starting the section there, but our present division is probably correct.

References to Ethiopia do not occur as frequently in Bible history as to the other nations mentioned. Ethiopia was especially important to the Israelites at the time of Isaiah because an Ethiopian became king of Egypt and the two nations were united for a time. Quite logically the denunciation of Ethiopia is followed by the burden of Egypt. Although this is confined to one