

SotFPS

101

LESSON

7

The Uprooted Forest

A DREAM-VISION

NOTES & PROMPTS

Key Thoughts

ALEXANDER'S TAKEAWAYS

- Baruch's dream-vision involving the great cedar tree harmonizes beautifully with Isaiah 10 and Ezekiel 31. Even Daniel 4, with its similar comparison of King Nebuchadnezzar to a giant tree, lends support to 2 Baruch 36.
- Rome survives even now. From YHVH's perspective it dwindled, and places of power shifted, but Rome never died.
- It's fruitless to conjecture about modern political figures being the Man of Perdition. None of them previously ruled the nations and have since gone down to Sheol.
- YHVH will never again flood the whole earth, but his end-times wrath will cause a flood of devastation. He will only do it because he must; Elohiym would much rather send us streams of peaceful, living water.

YOUR THOUGHTS

Visions sometimes come to prophets when they are awake, but oftentimes they come during sleep. Do you think there is a reason for that?

Why will Y'shua try the ruler of the Fourth Kingdom at the end of the Age? What is the purpose? Why not slay him on the battlefield?

Lecture

I. THE CEDAR AND THE VINE

1. The water that proceeds from the vine is _____ at first but becomes a _____ that levels the forest.
2. All of the trees of the forest are entirely _____, and the surrounding _____ are brought low.
3. T or F. The great cedar is cut up by order of the vine.

II. WAKING UP WITH QUESTIONS

1. Baruch asks YHVH to _____ the dream for him. He understands that Elohiym _____ to _____ his saints.

III. THE INTERPRETATION

1. In the dream-vision, the plain is the _____. The forest represents the powerful _____ and _____ of the Fourth Kingdom.
2. T or F. One of the kings of Neo-Babylon also received a prophecy about four kingdoms.

THE APOCALYPSE OF BARUCH COURSE

3. In Daniel 8:8-9, the horns of the he-goat are the four Greek kings who inherited and quartered Alexander the Great's realm when he unexpectedly died. A little horn springs from one of those four new realms. That little horn is the Anti-christ, and it grows exceedingly great. What does that tell you about the connection between ancient empires and modern ones?
4. T or F. After the Last Battle, the False Messiah will be brought before the True Vine on Mt. Zion.
5. The Man of Perdition will be injured by the _____ that comes out of the _____ of Y'shua (Rev. 19:15). Isaiah 31 says that it is not an instrument of mortals.
6. When the vine tells the cedar that he will come again and proceed into additional torment, it is a reference to the Second _____. It will occur after the _____ Age.

IV. THE FIRE OF GEHENNA

1. The lake that burns with fire and sulfur does not yet _____. It will be kindled by the _____ of YHVH (the Son) when he return.
2. T or F. The Beast and his followers will burn in Topheth.

THE APOCALYPSE OF BARUCH COURSE

3. The bodies assigned to the Valley of _____ will burn but not be consumed. Visitors to the Temple will see the wicked in the lake of fire. These transgressors will be _____ to all mankind.

V. THE FOUR KINGDOMS

1. List the four metals that comprised the figure in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and the names of the corresponding empires.
2. The Fourth Kingdom is the strongest and most _____.
3. Power transferred from the government of Rome to which two organizations?

VI. THE LOFTY MOUNTAINS

1. The fallen immortal rulers of our world are Satan and the _____ of the Divine Council.

VII. THE FOUNTAIN OF THE VINE

2. In contrast to the kingdom of Israel, which became unfaithful, Messiah Y'shua remains faithful and thus fulfills Israel's _____ to be the _____ of Elohiym.
3. The _____ of wrath will overtake the Beast kingdom in a variety of ways, including earthquakes, hailstorms, confusion, fire, and hosts.

VIII. THE EIGHTH KING

1. T or F. Asshur; the Man of Lawlessness; the Man of Perdition; and the Little Horn are all monikers for the False Messiah.
2. In your own words, why do so few Bible students know that the Antichrist is called *Asshur*?
3. YHVH will use Asshur, as he did Assyria and Babylon in the distant past, to bring _____ upon non-Messianic Jews.
4. What connects Isaiah ch. 10 to 2 Baruch ch .36?
5. T or F. The Jews will not repent of their covenant with Asshur.
6. Asshur is _____ his time in _____.
What verse in Revelation speaks of his release?
7. In the second half of the 3rd century, St. _____ of Poetovio argued from Micah 5:6 that Asshur is the Antichrist.

THE APOCALYPSE OF BARUCH COURSE

8. Which two passages in Revelation assure us that the Man of Perdition already lived and reigned in the ancient world, and will return to reprise his role?

9. The seven heads of the beast from the _____ are seven kings spaced throughout history, each having ruled an iteration of Babel. The eighth king is _____ the seven.

10. The narrative of Revelation moves back and forth between the Beast system and the Beast king in a way that is very _____ to track.

11. The head that was fatally wounded by the sword but healed (i.e., Asshur) will come up out of the Abyss and enter _____ (Rev. 13:3, 14; 17:8, 11).

IX. EZEKIEL'S LOFTY CEDAR

1. Ezekiel chapter _____ - _____ is the key element connecting our knowledge of Asshur with the lofty cedar of Baruch 36.

2. Asshur was a cedar in _____. All of the nations were _____ its canopy, meaning Asshur ruled the world not long after Babel.

3. What two context clues let us know that Ezekiel's dream about Asshur concerns an individual, not a nation?

THE APOCALYPSE OF BARUCH COURSE

4. The lofty cedar became so arrogant and wicked that YHVH sent “the terrible [ones] of the nations” to _____ him _____ with the _____.

5. T or F. The hub of Asshur’s world empire was located in Egypt.

6. The logographic characters of Asshur’s name are identical to those of the Egyptian demigod of resurrection, _____. What are those two word-pictures?

7. Every Egyptian Pharaoh was magically imbued with the _____ of the demigod on _____ day. Thus it made perfect sense for YHVH to compare Pharaoh with Asshur, because the Egyptians already considered Pharaoh to be the _____ of Asshur.

X. ENQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

1. What does it mean to you to forsake vanity and flee to Elohiym?

2. YHVH clarifies for Baruch in ch. 41 that salvation is one or zero: you’re in or you’re out. Why, then, do some Bible verses tell us that men will have to account for every individual word and deed?

3. What do you make of 41:4-6?

XI. THE COMING DEPARTURE

1. In chapter 43, YHVH instructs Baruch to meditate on what he's learned. Why might he need to have a firm grasp of eschatology?
2. Baruch is promised eternal consolations after he leaves this mortal coil. The original Hebrew word translated as "eternal" was perhaps the common word _____, which means age-_____.

Additional Thoughts

First-century Greek historian Diodorus Siculus wrote that it was the giants who slew Osiris/Asshur: "The Agyptians in their myths about Priapos say that in ancient times the Titanes formed a conspiracy against Osiris and slew him" (*Library of History*, 4.6.1).

In Ezekiel 31, there are other rulers symbolized by trees. Some of these are called Trees of Eden, and they asked YHVH to punish Asshur for his arrogance. They were driven to jealousy because of multitude of his branches (Ezek. 31:9). These were not earthly authorities, for we read that they were "in the garden of God." Therefore these Trees of Eden must be spiritual principalities—the Kosmokraters (a.k.a. b'nai Elohiym).

Ba'al was a deified form of the ancient king, Asshur. (Molech, meaning "king," was probably above him in the pantheon.) Bask for a moment in the poetic justice of the fact that Ba'al will burn in the very place where babies were previously immolated because of him.