

Isaiah 22



May 3, 2023

Isaiah 22:1-3 NKJV

The burden against the Valley of Vision. What ails you now, that you have all gone up to the housetops, [2] You who are full of noise, A tumultuous city, a joyous city? Your slain men are not slain with the sword, Nor dead in battle. [3] All your rulers have fled together; They are captured by the archers. All who are found in you are bound together; They have fled from afar.

Isaiah 22:4-7 NKJV

Therefore I said, "Look away from me, I will weep bitterly; Do not labor to comfort me Because of the plundering of the daughter of my people." [5] For it is a day of trouble and treading down and perplexity By the Lord GOD of hosts In the Valley of Vision- Breaking down the walls And of crying to the mountain. [6] Elam bore the quiver With chariots of men and horsemen, And Kir uncovered the shield. [7] It shall come to pass that your choicest valleys Shall be full of chariots, And the horsemen shall set themselves in array at the gate.

- ❖ (V1) Judea was home to many of the prophets
- ❖ Surrounded by hills
- ❖ Many of the prophets visions were received there
- ❖ Refers specifically to Jerusalem
 - ❖ (last remaining stronghold of Judah when Babylon took them captive)
 - ❖ Many of the other large cities had already been conquered by foreign powers

❖(V 2, 3) You were defiantly celebrating your alliances

❖Now you are on the rooftops expecting invasion

❖Battle deaths are the least of your worries

❖They would be besieged (starved)

❖(V 4, 5) Isaiah can't bear to see what it is going to happen to the city

❖(destruction)

❖Judgment from the Lord

❖(V 6, 7) Elam= Persia

❖Known for archers and horses

❖The valley of the vision will be full of horses and chariots

❖At the gates= besieging the city

Isaiah 22:8-11 NKJV

He removed the protection of Judah. You looked in that day to the armor of the House of the Forest; [9] You also saw the damage to the city of David, That it was great; And you gathered together the waters of the lower pool.

[10] You numbered the houses of Jerusalem, And the houses you broke down To fortify the wall. [11] You also made a reservoir between the two walls For the water of the old pool. But you did not look to its Maker, Nor did you have respect for Him who fashioned it long ago.

- ❖ (V 8) reveals the hand of the Lord is upon this invasion (judgment)
- ❖ They put their faith in military plans and armaments
- ❖ (V 7) seems to indicate their armory had been overtaken by Kir
- ❖ (v 9) they were then determined to dig and tap into water supplies hoping to wait it out
 - ❖ Instead of repentance
 - ❖ Instead of returning to God
 - ❖ They trusted in their own strength

❖ They tore down houses for materials to fortify the walls of the city

❖ (V 11) tells the problem

❖ They tried to tunnel the springs and reservoirs

❖ But they didn't look to the Maker of those waters

❖ Nor respect HIM

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Inscription from Hezekiah's Tunnel

Hezekiah, king of Judah, fortified Jerusalem at the end of the 8th century BC, just before the invasion of Sennacherib. As part of his building project, Hezekiah brought water into the city of Jerusalem through a tunnel carved from over half a kilometer of bedrock (2 Kgs 20:20). A six percent gradient was designed into the excavation to allow water to flow from the Gihon spring into the pool of Siloam (compare John 9:7).

The inscription describes how two teams of workers hewed out the tunnel, simultaneously starting from both ends. With the rudimentary surveying equipment of the time, this would have been a very difficult engineering project, and it presumably would have been done only because of a coming invasion.



Isaiah 22:12-14 NKJV

And in that day the Lord GOD of hosts Called for weeping and for mourning, For baldness and for girding with sackcloth. [13] But instead, joy and gladness, Slaying oxen and killing sheep, Eating meat and drinking wine: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" [14] Then it was revealed in my hearing by the LORD of hosts, "Surely for this iniquity there will be no atonement for you, Even to your death," says the Lord GOD of hosts.

- ❖ (Vv 12, 13) They should have been seeking repentance
- ❖ Instead they were going to go out in a blaze of glory
 - ❖ Feasting
 - ❖ Epicurean “Eat and drink for tomorrow we die”
- ❖ (V 14) The curses of the Mosaic covenant would be unleashed

Isaiah 22:15-19 NKJV

Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: "Go, proceed to this steward, To Shebna, who is over the house, and say: [16] 'What have you here, and whom have you here, That you have hewn a sepulcher here, As he who hews himself a sepulcher on high, Who carves a tomb for himself in a rock? [17] Indeed, the LORD will throw you away violently, O mighty man, And will surely seize you. [18] He will surely turn violently and toss you like a ball Into a large country; There you shall die, and there your glorious chariots Shall be the shame of your master's house. [19] So I will drive you out of your office, And from your position he will pull you down.

❖ Who is Shebna?

- ❖ A steward seems to indicate that he served a similar role to the one Joseph served in the OT.
- ❖ Many commentators believed him to be second in command (Prime Minister like role)
- ❖ He is the only individual prophesied against in Isaiah
- ❖ He was part of the negotiations with Assyria in 2 Kings 18
- ❖ Many commentators believe that he was a transplant or foreigner

- ❖ The sin of pride seems to be a problem for Shebna
- ❖ He sought to make a name for himself
- ❖ Carving a tomb that was generally reserved kings (archaeologists believe they have found an inscription of this tomb)
- ❖ Undoubtedly giving advice to the king that left God out of the equation.
- ❖ The judgment begins with the fact that he will be removed and God will appoint his replacement (Eliakim)

Isaiah 22:20-25 NKJV

'Then it shall be in that day, That I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah; [21] I will clothe him with your robe And strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And to the house of Judah. [22]

The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.

[23] I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house. [24] 'They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers. [25] In that day,' says the

LORD of hosts, 'the peg that is fastened in the secure place will be removed and be cut down and fall, and the burden that was on it will be cut off; for the **LORD** has spoken.'"

- ❖ Eliakim will give Godly advice to the king and be a father figure to the people
- ❖ Shebna seems to have been demoted to scribe and then removed altogether
 - ❖ It mentions that Shebna will be rolled up and tossed like a ball
 - ❖ It also mentions something about horses
 - ❖ It is interesting that Jewish tradition holds that he was tied to the tails of enemy horses and dragged off (they say he conspired to betray Jerusalem because he thought they were mocking him)

- ❖ All respect and honor and authority will be placed upon Eliakim
- ❖ He will be faithful
- ❖ Yet, when judgment has been decreed, he will not be able to save Jerusalem.
- ❖ (V 25) GOD IS SOVEREIGN