



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

**Stop Hanging Your Everything on Even the Best of Humanity... Hang Only on the Lord**

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## **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Texts:** Isaiah 22:15-25; Is. 22:1-14; 9:6-7; 11:1-5, 36-37; Rev. 3:7-8; Jer. 17:5-8; Ps. 146:3-5

In Isaiah 22:1-14, Jerusalem—the people meant to be God’s “mountain of the sign”—is instead called the Valley of Vision. A place that should’ve been lifted high, pointing all nations to the character of God, had become blind in the valley—misreading everything, celebrating instead of repenting, trusting their own perspective instead of the word of the Lord. They mistook **God’s mercy for His approval** and misread the delay of judgment as “everything must be fine.”

Isaiah wept bitterly because he could see where their blindness was leading, while they partied on the rooftops. God was calling for brokenness and repentance, but they answered with indulgence and distraction. That sets the stage for today’s passage. Because in verses **15-25**, God moves from addressing the people generally... to addressing the **leadership specifically**. If the people have become blind in the valley, God now turns to the ones responsible for guiding them—and exposes something crucial for us to see: **When the people of God hang their everything on human leaders, even the best of them, collapse is inevitable.**

### **1. GOD EXPOSES THE DANGER OF HUMAN SELF-EXALTATION (vv. 15-19)**

God sends Isaiah to confront a man named Shebna, the palace steward—the one who literally “held the keys” to the house of the king. Shebna had risen in influence, prestige, and power. But instead of using his position to reflect God’s heart or serve His people, he used it to **exalt himself**. He carved out a lavish tomb for himself—something only kings did. He saw himself as secure, untouchable, worthy of honor now and remembered glory later. But God says: *“Who do you think you are? What right do you have here?”* (v.16) *“Behold, Adonai will hurl you away violently... He will roll you up tightly like a ball and throw you into a wide land.”* (vv.17-18 TLV).

In other words: “You think you climbed this high by your own hand? I can remove you in a moment.” Shebna represents every human leader—religious, political, spiritual—who begins to trust their position, their gifts, their reputation, or their influence. And God says clearly: **Stop hanging your everything on people who love their own glory**. Even the best of people cannot carry what only God can sustain. Anytime a leader’s ego grows bigger than their calling, the people suffer.

### **2. EVEN GOOD LEADERS CAN ONLY CARRY US SO FAR (vv. 20-24)**

After removing Shebna, God raises up **Eliakim son of Hilkiah**—a humble, trustworthy servant. God dresses him with authority, places the robe of stewardship on him, and says: *“I will place the key of the house of David upon his shoulder. What he opens, no one will shut. What he shuts, no one will open.”* (v.22 TLV) This should sound familiar—it’s directly quoted about **Yeshua** in Revelation 3. Eliakim is a picture of a faithful leader: (1) He will be a **father** to Jerusalem. (2) He will be a **peg** firmly set in a secure place. (3) He will bear honor, authority, and stability. (4) He will carry the weight of responsibility with integrity. This is the kind of leader God raises up—one who reflects His heart.

But here’s the twist. Even this faithful leader, this righteous peg, this godly man... **cannot carry everything**. Verse 24 says all the weight of the people, all the vessels, all the burdens of the nation were hung on this peg. And then verse 25 says something shocking: *“In that day... the peg driven in a firm place will give way; it will be cut down and fall, and the burden that was on it will*

*be cut off.”* Why? Not because Eliakim sinned. Not because he failed morally. Not because he became proud. Simply because **no human being—no matter how righteous—was designed to carry the weight of what only God can bear.** Eliakim is a righteous peg, but he is not the Messiah. He is a signpost pointing forward to the One who can carry the full weight—the One whose shoulders hold the government (Isaiah 9).

### **3. ONLY THE LORD CAN HOLD THE FULL WEIGHT OF OUR HOPE (v. 25)**

When God says the peg will fall, He is teaching Israel—and us—a sobering truth: **If you hang your everything on a human, even a godly one, they will eventually collapse under weight they were never meant to hold.** Human leaders can guide us, but not save us. They can serve us, but not sustain us. They can offer wisdom, but not carry the full weight of our future.

Eliakim points to the One who truly holds the key, the One who truly opens and shuts, the One who can never be bent, broken, or pulled from His place. That One is **Yeshua**. He is the true Peg in a firm place. He is the unshakeable Rock. He is the only One who can bear the full weight of our hopes, fears, past, future, and salvation. So the message is clear: **Stop hanging your everything on even the best of humanity. Hang your everything on the Lord.**

### **CONCLUSION**

Isaiah 22 ends with a painful truth but a hopeful invitation. God is faithful to expose self-exalting leaders like Shebna. God is faithful to raise up righteous leaders like Eliakim. But God also reminds us: **Even the best human leaders will eventually give way under the weight only Messiah can bear.** Where are you hanging your everything on a person? A leader? A spouse? A mentor? A child? Yourself? Where have you placed weight on a peg that is beginning to crack? Today, the Lord calls you to shift the full weight of your trust—your hope, your future, your identity—onto Him alone. **Yeshua never bends. He never breaks. He never gives way.** Re-hang your hope on the One who can actually hold it.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What are the dangers of placing too much trust in charismatic or gifted leaders?
2. How do we discern the difference between a leader who serves themselves and one who serves the Lord?
3. What qualities make someone a trustworthy spiritual leader today? How can we honor godly leadership without placing on them responsibilities only God can bear?
4. Verse 24 describes all the burdens of the people being hung on Eliakim until the peg eventually gives way. Where do you see this pattern happening in your own relationships—placing too much emotional or spiritual weight on another person?
5. What does it practically look like to shift your trust from people to Messiah? Where do you sense the Lord inviting you to “re-hang” your hope onto Him alone?

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Abba, we thank You for Your Word that speaks with clarity, conviction, and compassion. We confess that we often place our hope, our expectations, and our weight on people—sometimes on leaders, sometimes on loved ones, and sometimes even on ourselves. Forgive us for hanging our everything on human strength. Teach us to discern the difference between leaders who exalt themselves and those who reflect Your heart. Yeshua, You are the true Peg in a firm place. You are the One who holds the key of David. You open and no one shuts; You shut and no one opens. Today we choose to hang our fears, our hopes, our future, our identity—all of it—upon You alone. Strengthen us, steady us, and redirect our trust where it belongs: firmly in You. In Your mighty name, amen.