

ISAIAH – Chapter 22

Vs. 1 The oracle concerning the “valley of vision” – Jerusalem, vs. 9-10 (Ps. 125:1-2; Jer. 21:11-14). Also, the Kidron Valley runs between 2 hills directly east of the city, Ezk. 37:1-14 (there are several other valleys that run through the city).

All of Jerusalem has gone up to “the housetops.” Matt. 24:17

Assyria is gathering outside the city of Jerusalem. God has already declared that its inhabitants will not be taken by Assyria. Isa. 10:20, 23-34 It is time for Judah to trust in the Lord their God and see His deliverance. Instead, they will trust in their own efforts, vs. 9-11.

The question – “What is the matter with you?”!

Vs. 2 Judah was “living the life.” They had been cared for by their God! Unlike so many of the cities round about them who perished because of the sword of Assyria, they had been providentially spared.

Vs. 3 Rather than believe – the leaders had run, and were captured by the Assyrians.

How far away does one have to run to exceed the reach of the Lord?

Vs. 4 Therefore, Isaiah says – don’t watch me for I am about to weep for my people – if only they would listen and obey. Rom 9:1-5

Vs. 5 For the Lord will not always strive with Judah. Even though He will spare them this day with the Assyrians, He has appointed a day when He will use the Babylonians to carry out His judgment against this very people.

Vs. 6 Elam – Jer. 49:34-39 (mentioned 29 times in the O.T.)
Kir – a place to which Tiglath-Pileser carried the Syrians captive after he had taken the city of Damascus. 2 Kings 16:9

Vs. 7 Jerusalem was unable to defend herself, but she never turned to the Lord.

Vs. 8-10 It was the Lord who had removed Judah’s defenses and rather than turning to the Lord, Judah had depended on:

- 1) The weapons of the house of the forest. 1 Kings 7:2; 10:17
- 2) The waters of the lower pool. 2 Chron. 32:1-5, 30
- 3) Refortification of the city walls.

NOTE: A 1,777-foot tunnel has been found which was carved out of solid rock connecting the Gihon Spring with the pool of Siloam bringing a water supply inside the city walls of Jerusalem. It was cut out during the reign of Hezekiah.

Vs. 11 The digging of this water tunnel was truly an amazing feat, but again Judah planned to rely upon that which their hands could accomplish rather than the God who made the water and who decreed from long ago that it would be there for His people.

Vs. 12-13 When the people saw the coming situation, a fast should have been proclaimed. They should have been pulling out their hair (Ezra 9:3-4) and putting on sackcloth. Instead, they had decided to “eat, drink, and be merry.”

Vs. 14 God revealed Himself to Isaiah (Judah) – the curses of the Mosaic Law would come upon the nation. Lev. 26:14-39; Deut. 27:15-26; 28:15-68

Vs. 15-19 Shebna was a high court official involved in the negotiations with Sennacherib, when he besieged Jerusalem. 2 Kings 18:18-37; 19:2-ff; Isa. 36:3-22; 37:2 He had apparently decided to make a lasting name for himself by cutting out a tomb in the rock. God had revealed through Isaiah that God was going to deliver and Shebna, second only to the king, was spending his time digging himself a tomb.

God’s plans for Shebna – depose him from his office and pull him down from his station.

Vs. 20-21 Eliakim, the palace administrator, would fill Shebna’s position.

Vs. 22 The “key of the House of David” will pass to Eliakim.

Vs. 23 He will become like a peg in a firm place. A peg on which Judah can be hung and he will not fall.

A throne of glory to his father’s house.

Vs. 24 Eliakim will have hung upon him the glory and possessions of his father’s house.

Vs. 25 In the short run, with all of the above being true:

God will yet bless Judah.

But,

In the end, the peg will give way and everything that is hung upon it will be lost.

The Lord has spoken.