

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

I. God’s *Denunciation* of Judah (1:1-12:6)

II. God’s *Denunciations* against other Nations (13:1-23:18)

- A. The *Judgment* against Babylon (13:1-22)
- B. The *Judgment* of the King of Babylon (14:1-23)
- C. The *Judgment* against Assyria (14:24-27)
- D. The *Judgment* against Philistia (14:28-32)
- E. The *Judgment* against Moab (15:1-16:14)
- F. The *Judgment* against Aram (Syria) and Her Ally Ephraim (Israel) (17:1-14)
- G. The *Judgment* against Ethiopia (18:1-7)
- H. The *Judgment* against Egypt (19:1-20:6)

- I. The *Judgment* against Babylon (21:1-10)
- J. The *Judgment* against Edom (21:11-12)
- K. The *Judgment* against Arabia (21:13-17)

L. The *Judgment* against Jerusalem (22:1-25)

1. A *Dire Condition* (22:1-7)

22 The **oracle** concerning the valley of vision.
What is the matter with you now, that you have
all **gone up** to the **housetops**?

² You who were full of **noise**, you **boisterous town**, you **exultant city**;
Your **slain** were **not slain** with the **sword**, **nor** did they die in **battle**.

³ **All** your **rulers** have **fled together**,
and have been **captured** without the bow;
All of you who were found were **taken captive together**,
though they had **fled far away**.

⁴ Therefore **I say**, “Turn your eyes **away** from me,
Let me **weep bitterly**, do **not** try to **comfort me** concerning
the **destruction** of the **daughter** of my people.”

⁵ For the **Lord GOD** of hosts has a **day of panic**,
subjugation and **confusion** in the **valley of vision**,
a breaking down of **walls** and a **crying** to the **mountain**.

⁶ **Elam** took up the **quiver** with the **chariots, infantry and horsemen**; and **Kir** uncovered the **shield**.

⁷ Then your **choicest valleys** were full of **chariots**, and the **horsemen** took up **fixed positions** at the **gate**.

2. A *Desperate* “last minute” Defense (22:8-11)

⁸ And **He removed** the defense of **Judah**. In **that day** you **depended** on the **weapons** of the **house** of the **forest**,

⁹ and you saw that the **breaches** in the **wall** of the **city of David** were **many**; and you **collected** the **waters** of the **lower pool**.

¹⁰ Then you counted the **houses** of **Jerusalem** and **tore down** houses to fortify the **wall**.

¹¹ And you made a reservoir between the **two walls** for the **waters** of the **old pool**.

But you **did not depend** on Him who **made it**, nor did you take into **consideration** Him who **planned it** long ago.

3. A *Detached* Response (22:12-14)

¹² **Therefore** in **that day** the **Lord GOD of hosts** called *you* to **weeping**, to **wailing**, to **shaving the head** and to **wearing sackcloth**.

¹³ Instead, there is **gaiety** and **gladness**,
killing of **cattle** and slaughtering of **sheep**,
eating of **meat** and drinking of **wine**:

“Let us eat and drink, for **tomorrow we may die**.”

¹⁴ But the **LORD of hosts** **revealed Himself** to me,
“Surely this **iniquity** shall not be **forgiven** you **until you die**,”
says the **Lord GOD of hosts**.

4. A *Deposing* of the self-centered Shebna (22:15-19)

¹⁵ Thus says the **Lord GOD of hosts**,
“Come, go to this steward,
to Shebna, who is **in charge** of the **royal household**,

¹⁶ ‘What **right** do you have **here**, and **whom** do you have **here**,
that you have **hewn a tomb** for yourself here,
you who **hew a tomb** on the **height**,
you who **carve a resting place** for yourself in the **rock**?’

¹⁷ ‘Behold, **the LORD** is about to **hurl you** headlong, O man, and **He** is about to grasp you firmly *and roll you tightly* like a ball, *to be cast* into a **vast country**; *there* you will **die** and there your **splendid chariots** will be, you **shame** of **your master’s house**.’

¹⁹ “I will **depose you** from **your office**, and I will **pull you down** from **your station**.”

5. A *Divine* elevating of the servant **Eliakim** (22:20-25)

²⁰ “Then it will come about in *that day*, that I will summon **My servant Eliakim** the son of **Hilkiah**,
²¹ and I will clothe *him* with **your tunic** and tie **your sash** securely about *him*.

I will **entrust him** with **your authority**, and he will become *a father* to the inhabitants of **Jerusalem** and to the **house of Judah**.

²² “Then I will set the **key** of the **house of David** on his **shoulder**, when **he opens no one** will **shut**, when **he shuts no one** will **open**.”

²³ “I will **drive him** *like a peg* in a **firm place**, and **he** will become a **throne of glory** to his **father’s house**.”

²⁴ So they will **hang on him** all the **glory** of his **father’s house**, **offspring** and **issue**, all the **least** of **vessels**, from **bowls** to all the **jars**.

²⁵ In *that day*,” declares the **LORD of hosts**, “the **peg** driven in a **firm place** will **give way**; it will even **break off** and **fall**, and the **load hanging** on it will be **cut off**, for the **LORD** has **spoken**.”

Personal Application

1. Our chapter begins by describing the *dire condition* of **Jerusalem** at this time. The city that was once “**boisterous**” and “**exultant**,” was now facing **destruction** as they were under **siege** from the mighty **army of Assyria**. **Isaiah** was so **distressed** that he **wept** “**bitterly**,” and **refused** to be **comforted** (22:4). He was **greatly troubled** because:
 - a. Their **rulers** had **fled**, and were **captured** even **without a fight** (22:3)
 - b. Their **choicest valleys** were “**full of (Assyrian) chariots**,” and **horsemen** had taken up **fixed positions** at the **gate** (22:7)
 - c. The **Lord** had **removed** the **defense of Judah** (22:8a)

- d. Though they had **weapons**, the **wall** of the city contained **many breaches**, and their **water supply** was **low**. They had to **tear down houses for materials** to **fortify** the **wall**, and had to make a **reservoir for water** (22:8b-11a)
- e. They **failed** to **depend** upon the **Lord** who had **planned** and **provided** for them from **long ago** (22:11b)

***Personal Application** → As **believers**, we too are under **siege** from an **enemy** that seeks to “**breach our walls**,” and bring about **our destruction**. We too face **strong enemies**, whether they be from the **world**, our own **fleshly lusts**, or from our **long-time adversary**, the **devil** (I John 2:16, I Peter 5:8). However, we can “be **strong in the Lord** and in the **power of His might**, and **put on His “spiritual” armor**, that we may be able to “**resist** in the **evil day**, and having done everything, to **stand firm**.” (Ephesians 6:10-18)

2. **Isaiah** wrote that the **inhabitants of Jerusalem**, while facing **impending destruction** from this **siege** of their city, **did not turn to God** in **repentance** and **mourning**. Instead, they turned to **gaiety** and **partying**, **carelessly accepting** what they felt was **their fate** without realizing that they would be **held accountable** for their **iniquity** (22:12-14).

***Personal Application** → As **believers**, we are **warned** about having this kind of **hopelessness** and **fatalism** when facing **hardship** and **perilous times**. **Rabbi Paul** even quoted *these words in Isaiah* (22:13), as he **encouraged believers** to **maintain their hope** in the **resurrection** from the **dead** (I Cor. 15:32). When **hardships come**, instead of turning to **careless revelry** as does the **world**, let us:

Prepare our minds for action, and keep **sober in spirit**,
fixing our hope completely on the **grace** to be brought to us
at the **revelation of Jesus the Messiah**. (I Peter 1:13)

3. In **our text** tonight **Isaiah** introduces us to two men, **Shebna** and **Eliakim**. **Shebna** was a **steward** who was in charge of the **royal household**, a **high position** right **next** to the **king**. However, **God** was **displeased** with **Shebna** because he sought to **exalt** his **future status**, and brought “**shame**” on his **master’s house**. Because of this, **Shebna** was **deposed** from **his office**, and would **die** in **captivity** (22:15-19).

Eliakim, the son of **Hilkiah**, was then **elevated** to take the place of **Shebna**. He was a **godly man** who was **entrusted** with **great authority**, having the “**key of the house of David**” on his shoulders. **He** would become a “**father**” to the inhabitants of **Jerusalem**. The **Lord** would **drive him** like “**a peg in a firm place**,” and on **this peg** would “**hang**” all the **glory** of his **father’s house**. (22:20-24)

***Personal Application** → **May God drive** each of **us** as “**a peg in a firm place**.” **May we**, like **Shebna**, be **faithful** and **steadfast** in that which **He** has **entrusted us**, and may **God** “**hang on us**” that which will be to the **praise** of **His glory**.