**“Insights Into Isaiah”—Chapters 20-22—Burdens Against Egypt, Ethiopia, Babylon and Jerusalem**

**Chapter 20—the Sign Against Egypt and Ethiopia**

**By way of review, Isaiah, the largest of the Major Prophets (five major prophetical books, 12 minor prophetical books), has 66 chapters, generally divided into two parts. He has the largest vocabulary of any of the others, articulate and beautiful. Isaiah is affirmed in John 12:39-41, where he quotes from Isaiah 6 and 53, “that same Isaiah.” The heart of Isaiah…..the integrity of the entire scripture, weaving the entire Bible together…40 authors who penned 66 Bible books….a message system, which is unified. Isaiah changes pace from Chapter 40 on, and shifts his style of writing, where he becomes more Messianic. The first 35 chapters are pretty heavy, judgment chapters! Four chapters separate the two halves, 36-39, a historical group….these are about Hezekiah and an Assyrian invasion. Review--Chapters 1-39, judgment and condemnation…..with grace. Chapters 13-23, judgments on the nations around Jerusalem, and Jerusalem.**

**The historical back-drop: Egypt was preparing for an attack by Assyria. This served as a reminder to Judah not to put her trust in Egypt. At this time, Sargon II, who may have actually been Shalmanezer or Sennarachib, was the King of Assyria. In 711 B.C., Assyria marched its troops towards Egypt. Three years earlier, 711 B.C., the city of Ashdod, a Philistine city, had rebelled against Assyria. It king, Azuri, had been removed and replaced by his brother, Achimit. The people hated him and deposed him; he was then replaced by Jaman. In Ashdod’s revolt, several other Philistine cities had taken up arms with them. Edom, Moab, and Judah were invited to join the alliance against Assyria. Isaiah continued to warn Judah not to get involved! It seems as though Judah heeded his warning, because history shows that Assyria, at this point in time, did not attack Judah. Jaman, the newest king of Ashdod, actually fled to Egypt for asylum, but was treacherously turned over to the Assyrian army by the Pharaoh of that time, who was actually an Ethiopian. Intrigue and espionage surrounded this point in history.**

1. **Chapters 1-35, judgment and the righteous government of God.**
2. **1-6, Judah**
3. **7-12, Israel**
4. **13-23, eight nations**
5. **24-27, “The Day of the Lord” or “The Little Apocalypse”**
6. **28-33, The six woes of Jerusalem**
7. **Chapters 36-39, parenthetical section, the historical interlude where Assyria encompassed Jerusalem; similar to 2 Kings18 and 2 Chronicles 32**
8. **Chapters 40-66, the grace of God, the glory, and the suffering to follow**
9. **In verse 1, “Tartan” means “commander in chief.” See 2 Kings 18. Discuss.** This describes the time when the army of Assyria conquered the Philistine city of **Assyria**. Isaiah’s sign is a response to this victory of Assyria. This invasion has a concrete marking point in history: 711 B.C. The Philistines were both neighbors and thorns to Israel, and the fall of **Ashdod** would certainly make Israel think, “We’re next. We need protection.” Title—commander of the armies of the Assyrians
10. **What is Ashdod?** One of the five Philistine cities in a confederacy with Ethiopia and with Egypt….but this did not save them from the Assyrians. Ashdod, one of the major cities of the Philistines, which is now a seaport city in Israel.
11. **Who is Isaiah’s father, according to verse 1? Why does this reference appear again?**
12. **What does God call Isaiah to do in verses 2-4? Why the reference to clothes, shoes? naked**--rather, "uncovered"; he merely put off the outer sackcloth, retaining still the tunic or inner vest ( [1 Samuel 19:24](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-samuel/19-24.html) , [Amos 2:16](http://www.biblestudytools.com/amos/2-16.html) , [John 21:7](http://www.biblestudytools.com/john/21-7.html) ); an emblem to show that Egypt should be stripped of its possessions; the very dress of Isaiah was a silent exhortation to repentance. **How many years? Why? God told Isaiah to act out a sign.** Remove sackcloth and sandals, walk naked? Perhaps down to his loin cloth….three years…naked buttocks was a sign for judgment coming.
	1. **Compare this to what was asked of Ezekiel in Ezekiel** 4:**9.** Ezekiel told to lay on his side.
	2. **Also see Hosea 1:2-3. What difficult task does God ask Hosea to do?** Marry a harlot and have children with her.
	3. **See also Ezekiel 24:16-24 where Ezekiel’s wife died.**
	4. **How do all of these examples illustrate truths for Israel?** Go into detail.
13. **Is there a “barefoot” symbolism elsewhere in the Bible? Refer to 2 Samuel 15:30, Exodus 3:5, Joshua 5:15,**…..holy ground, **Micah 1:8**….lamenting,Verse 3-- **This is the only instance of a strictly symbolical act performed by Isaiah.**
	1. **Why three years? What does “three” stand for in the scripture? Examine Noah had three sons (****Gen 6:10****) and Job had three daughters (****Job 1:2****; cf. 42:13)****;** [**20**](https://bible.org/seriespage/3-use-three-bible#P51_28114) **The Ark of the Covenant contained three sacred objects ‘The gold jar of manna, Aaron’s staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant” (****Heb. 9:4****). Solomon’s Palace of the Forest of Lebanon was designed with windows “placed high in sets of three facing each other. All the doorways had rectangular frames; they were in the front part in sets of three, facing each other” (****1 Kgs 7:4-5****).****[21](https://bible.org/seriespage/3-use-three-bible%22%20%5Cl%20%22P52_29664) Likewise, in John’s vision a triple entrance way marked all four sides of the city of the New Jerusalem (****Rev 21:13****). David “bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground” (****1 Sam 20:41****) and Daniel regularly prayed three times a day giving thanks to God (****Dan 6:10, 13****). Israelite men were required to appear before the Lord three times in a year: “Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles” (****Deut 16:16****). Jesus answered Satan’s threefold temptation by citing three scriptural passages** **Matt 4:1-11****). Paul experienced three shipwrecks (****2 Cor 11:28****) and prayed three times to the Lord for the removal of his “thorn in the flesh” (****2 Cor 12:7-8****).**
	2. **What is the meaning of Isaiah’s outward appearance? Is this a sign from God”** The sign announces the judgment and humiliation of Egypt. .Then the LORD said, “Just as My servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot three years *for* a sign and a wonder against Egypt and Ethiopia, so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians as prisoners and the Ethiopians as captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.”
	3. **“Buttocks uncovered” in verse 4 was used as a means of humiliation. Why? Reference** Belzoni says that captives are found represented thus on Egyptian monuments [**Isaiah 47:2**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/47-2.html)[**Isaiah 47:3**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/47-3.html) **,** [**Nahum 3:5**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nahum/3-5.html)[**Nahum 3:8**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nahum/3-8.html)[**Nahum 3:9**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nahum/3-9.html)), whereas here, Egypt and Ethiopia are mentioned as in alliance.
14. **When God judges Ethiopia and Egypt, in verses 5-6, how does He reveal Judah’s foolish reliance on them for protection from Assyria? Why do they seem to ignore *Isaiah’s warning*? they**--the Philistine allies of Egypt who trusted in it for help against Assyria. A warning to the party among the Jews, who, though Judah was then the subordinate ally of Assyria, were looking to Egypt as a preferable ally ([Isaiah 30:7](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/30-7.html) ). Ethiopia was their "expectation"; for Palestine had not yet obtained, but hoped for alliance with it. Egypt was their "glory," that is, boast ([Isaiah 13:19](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/13-19.html) ); for the alliance with it was completed.
	1. **How will they be “afraid and ashamed?”** There is no place of security for the people of God, other than that to be found in the rule of God. All expectation not centered in God, is doomed to disappointment and discomfiture.”
15. **Why does Isaiah prophecy against Israel?** To foreshadow what is going to happen to Judah….do not make an alliance with Egypt, who will be taken away, too.
16. **What year was the northern kingdom taken captive**? 722 B.C. **The southern kingdom?** 606 B.C.
17. **What means of escape would there be for Judah from Assyria?**  The LORD allowed Judah to be backed into a corner, caught between two mighty Empires (Egypt and Assyria), without being able to trust either one. There was no **escape** - except in the LORD.
18. **Sum-up Chapter 20’s message. Can it apply to today’s world?**

**Chapter 21—the Burden of the Desert of the Sea, Babylon, Edom, and Arabia**

This is about seven years before this happens for Isaiah in703 B.C. He is predicting these before they happen. Around 710 B.C. Isaiah writes this.

1. **Who is this burden against? Who is the “Wilderness of the Sea?” Isaiah refers to the area of southern** Babylon. At this point, it is not a world power….it will take two hundred years for this to happen.: Babylon is called the **Wilderness of the Sea** because the great plain of Babylon was divided with lakes and marshes, so it was referred to as a “sea.”
2. **What are “whirlwinds in the South pass?”** This simile draws from the quickness of the storm winds which come from the Negev (desert in S. Israel) and sweep through the land of Israel……this is how quick Babylon will be overthrown.
3. **Discuss Isaiah’s phrase, “a treacherous dealer which dealeth treacherously,” which he uses more than once.**
4. **In verse 2, who is Elam? Media? Examine Genesis 10:22.** (Elam is the tribal name for Persia and Modern-day Iran) Medes and Persians, 539 B. C. tribal labels of the Medes and Persians…..Genesis 10—geneology of Shem, Ham and Japheth, and Genesis 7-9 flood….at the time Isaiah said this, Medes and Persia were not united, even before the Babylonian empire existed. Elam **and Medes are part of the Persian army that defeated Babylon in 539 B. C.** . . So the Persians were afterwards in like sort punished by the Macedonians, the Macedonians by the Romans, those Romans by the Huns, Vandals, Lombards, Saracens, Turks; all whom Christ shall destroy at his last coming. a province of Persia, the original place of their settlement ( [Genesis 10:22](http://www.biblestudytools.com/genesis/10-22.html) ), east of the Euphrates. The name "Persia" was not in use until the captivity; it means a "horseman"; Cyrus first trained the Persians in horsemanship. It is a mark of authenticity that the name is not found before Daniel and Ezekiel [BOCHART].
5. **In verse 3, why the use of the word “therefore?”** Isaiah’s set-up for the judgment coming.
	1. **Discuss Isaiah’s reaction in verse 3.** His response is pain, pangs, distressed, dismayed, fearfulness when he saw this outcome. This impacted him powerfully. He did not take pleasure in the punishment of the wicked.
	2. **Describe Isaiah’s distress.** Isaiah is dismayed.
	3. **In your own words, explain why Isaiah is distressed, dismayed and, according to verse 4, “my heart wavered.”**
	4. **See 2 Kings 20:12-21. Explain…..Hezekiah is in power and is looking for help from Babylon, to God’s dismay. Around 703 B.C. This is when Hezekiah showed all his treasures and this is the downfall of Hezekiah and Judah. …HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD. THIS IS FULFILLED IN 586 B.C.**
6. **Discuss Daniel, Matthew 24:8 and Revelation 12:2 and their use of the terms “pangs of childbirth” with the end times?** The day of the Lord…increase in frequency and intensity. **See also John 16:21, Micah 5:3, Isaiah 13:8, Psalm 48:6, and Jeremiah 13:21.**
7. **Review Daniel 5, where Belshazzar hosts the “fateful feast.” Compare the similarities of these two stories.** This part of Isaiah’s oracle recalled Belshazzar’s feast in Daniel. 5 when amid the drunkenness and celebration came the call to fight the approaching Persian army which had invaded the city. **Be sensitive to Isaiah’s sarcasm…..Compare Daniel 5’s story of Belshazzar….handwriting on the wall…..Uburu, the Persian general, sent troops to take Babylon captive without a fight…….**
8. **Describe what Isaiah sees in verse 6.** Isaiah is warning Judah that in the future they should be ready……war is coming….turn to God.
	1. **Discuss the word “go” in verse 6.** This is a command and not an option. **Compare with Mark 16:15**
	2. **What is a “watchman” in the Bible? Refer to Ezekiel 3:17, 33:6, 1-33; Isaiah 52:8, 62:6, and Jeremiah 31:6, 51:12.** A watchman listens carefully for the message to warn the community of danger.
	3. **Look at Lamentations 2:19 and Judges 7:19; discuss “night watches” as it compares with verse 6.**
	4. **What does Verse 7’s, “he saw a chariot” mean? What did the watchmen see in verse 7?** Bad translation, “there is a troop coming two by two.”
	5. **Compare this warning by Isaiah to the modern church?**
9. **How does the watchman’s “cry like a “lion”” in verse 8 parallel to Daniel’s “beast vision” in Daniel 7:4?** “as a lion”—allusion to the “lion,” the lion here seems like Daniel chapter 7…God shows Daniel beasts, the first beast is Babylon, this idiom. Isaiah ties to Daniel by the Holy Spirit….watchmen is diligent here…..**See also Psalm 1:1-2.**
10. **Isaiah, in verse 9, seems to be echoing John in Revelation 14:8, 18:2, 9-20 and Jeremiah 50: 2, 51:8, 49. Explain.** “Babylon is fallen” in verse 9—compare to Revelation 17-18. ([Revelation 18:9-19](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+18:9-19&t1=en_nas)). But God’s people rejoice over the fall of Babylon ([Revelation 18:20](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Revelation+18:20&t1=en_nas)). The false gods have fallen. Babylonianism is false gospel, denies that Jesus is the only way.
	1. **Compare Acts 4:12 with the “watching for the truth” in this section**.—“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
11. **Discuss “and all the carved images” in verse 9. Why would God mention these in relationship to the destruction of Babylon?—**when Cyrus entered Babylon, he did not destroy the idols….he honored their religion. So, this phrase seems to imply that this reference was to end times. Babylon fell to the Persians in 539 B.C., and then the Greeks used it like a capital……Isaiah 13-14, Jeremiah 50-51, Revelation 17-18. Literal Babylon, pride of the Chaldeans…Babylon is going to be a major world power in the end times….Cyrus did not destroy its idols….this is far future.
	1. **See Revelation 18:1-10; is John quoting from Isaiah?** Compare this to the watchmen, with a strong voice.
	2. **Parallel Judah’s fall, as prophesied by Isaiah, with the tribulation period’s “Babylon.**”
12. **Discuss the subtlety in the concept “of thrashing” and the tribulation period, verse 10. Review Ruth, chapter 3.** Tribulation period…Ruth, chapter 3, Boaz, the kinsman redeemer…..Ruth is at the feet of Boaz….Ruth is the church. Ruth, the gentile bride of the kinsman redeemer….Naomi—Israel….the ministry of Isaiah, the prophet, was to declare what God had said to the people
	1. **Discuss the symbolism of the grain and the chaff.** The grain is the good; the chaff will be destroyed. **Compare John the Baptist’s words about this same image in Matthew 3:11-13.**

**\*\*\*\*\*This next session is Arabia.**

1. **What is Dumah in verse 11? Is he a son of Ishmael?**
	1. **Who is Ishmael? Refer to Genesis 25:12.** This is an oasis in northern Arabia which stood at the intersection of two important routes, one E-W from the Persian Gulf to Petra, and the other N-S between the Red Sea and Tadmor—about 300 m. south of Jerusalem. Verse 11-12—burden of Dumah…..play of words, “Edom.” **Dumah** was another ancient name for the kingdom of *Edom*, in the mountainous region of **Seir**. The Edomites descended from Esau, the brother of Jacob (Israel). They settled in the land to the south-east of Israel, and were the sometimes enemies of Israel. Historically, Sennarcherib’s king of Assyria, annals reports this destruction.
	2. **Explain how this section points to “fortune telling.”** “What of the night” means, “What do you see?” Or, “what’s coming?”
	3. **Why do we see the reappearance of the “watchman?”**
2. **What is Seir?** Located south of the Dead Sea, and home of Esau’s descendants. Also means “Dumb”….Seir is in Edom. This might be sarcasm. The principal mountain in Idumea, south of the Dead Sea, in Arabia-Petræa.
	1. **Who is Esau? Review his story in Genesis 25.**  Jacob’s twin brother…Isaac and Rebekeh’s son.
3. **Does “night” refer to calamity?** Night" means calamity ( [Job 35:10](http://www.biblestudytools.com/job/35-10.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) , [Micah 3:6](http://www.biblestudytools.com/micah/3-6.html) ).
	1. **See John 9:4, 11:9-10, Genesis 15:12, Job 4:13. Do these seem to imply that “night” often brings toil and trial?**
4. **In verse 12, explain the phrase, “the morning comes and also the night.”** Using a powerful dramatic scene of a cry to a watchman in the night, Isaiah paints the picture of the judgment and terror that will come upon Edom. On the burden against Edom: “What he may be saying is that the long night of Assyrian oppression is almost over, and the night of Babylonian rule would follow a brief ‘morning’ of respite
	1. **Discuss “if you will inquire, inquire.” See similar language in** [**Genesis 43:14**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/genesis/43-14.html)**,** [**2 Kings 7:4**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/2-kings/7-4.html) **and** [**Esther 4:16**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/esther/4-16.html)**.**
	2. **Discuss the phrase, “Return! Come back!” Is God calling Arabia to Him?**
		1. **Is God inviting Arabia/Esau to repentance?**
	3. **Verse 12 is considered evangelistic. Why?** If you will inquire, God will show you.
5. **Who is Arabia in verse 13-15?**
	1. **Who are the sons of Ishmael? Examine Genesis 25:12.**
	2. **Who are the Dedanites?** Sheba and Dedan were sons of Keturah….Abraham. Abraham’s wife after Sarah. **They settled in Arabia.** Dedan (traveling nomads) was on the route to the Red Sea about 290 miles SE of Dumah, in the N.W. part of the Arabian Desert. **Dedanites in Jeremiah 49:7-9, Dedanites were chief traders.** They are **traveling companies of Dedanites**; they are **thirsty**, and they need **bread**, because they **fled from the swords** and from the **bent bow, and from the distress of war. Tema was an Oasis in Arabia.**
	3. **Why were the Dedanites fleeing?** Marduk (Merodach)-Baladan, usurped the throne in721 B.C. and wanted to be king of Babylon in 703 B.C. He was helped by the Dedanites and Kedarites against Assyria. This made Sennacherib very mad. They fled south away from Assyria. Also known as Merodach-Baladan **II,** Babylonian Marduk-apal-iddina Ii (“Marduk Has Given Me an Heir”)    (died c. 694 b.c), king of Babylonia 721–710 and for nine months in 703, who maintained Babylonian independence in the face of Assyrian military supremacy for more than a decade. Commencing in 728 the king of [Assyria](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/39555/Assyria) also officially held the title of king of Babylonia. During that time Merodach-Baladan, a member of the Yakin tribe, was a district ruler in [Chaldea](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/104666/Chaldea). During the unrest surrounding the accession of [Sargon II](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/524298/Sargon-II) of Assyria in 722, Merodach-Baladan entered Babylon and claimed the Babylonian throne, which had belonged to his forebear Eriba-Marduk. An attack by the Elamites two years later so weakened the Assyrians—though both sides claimed victory—that, as king of Babylonia, Merodach-Baladan remained unmolested by Assyria for the next 10 years. Sargon’s inscriptions portray Merodach-Baladan as a usurper who oppressed Babylonia and relied on Elamite military power. On the other hand, Merodach-Baladan claimed to be the legitimate heir who had driven the Assyrians from Babylonia. Contemporary Babylonian documents indicate that temples were repaired, irrigation projects were carried out, and life was normal during his reign. According to Assyrian accounts, Sargon marched south against Babylonia in 710. After defeating the Elamites and Merodach-Baladan’s other allies, he turned toward Babylon. Merodach-Baladan fled, and the leading citizens of Babylon brought Sargon unopposed into the city, where he officially became king of Babylonia. The next year Sargon captured and destroyed Merodach-Baladan’s capital, Dur-Yakin. Sometime after the death (705) of Sargon, Merodach-Baladan sent an embassy to Hezekiah of Judah in an attempt to foment unrest against the new Assyrian monarch, [Sennacherib](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/534613/Sennacherib). In 703 he again seized the Babylonian throne. Before the end of the year, however, Sennacherib marched south and defeated the Babylonian forces. In 700 Sennacherib marched to Bit-Yakin in pursuit of Merodach-Baladan, who again fled, this time to southern [Elam](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/181902/Elam), where he died sometime before 694.
	4. **Who are the inhabitants of Tema?** Tema an oasis and was on the Red Sea route about 200 miles SE of Dumah, in the N.W. part of the Arabian Desert. Verse 13—Arabia, Dedan, Tema…….Arabia: tribes of Dedan, Keir, and Tema. See Genesis 25:13, Modern day Saudi Arabia….In 716 B.C. Assyrians conquered Arabia.
6. **Discuss the reference to the word “year.”** (Verse 16) Like a contract. Tribes of Sheba and Dedan.
	1. **Why is God so specific?**
	2. **What does the expression mean, “according to the year of the hireling?”** This refers to a contract….it is specifically that long, like a specific contrast
7. **What is Kedar in verse 16? See Genesis 25:12.** The second son of Ishmael, whose mother was, Hagar, the handmaid; Abraham’s first son. Kedar is second son of Ishmael, settled in an area of Kuwait….***Sadam Hussein is from this lineage, also Mohammed came from this…..the modern day Islam…modern day Saudi Arabia.*** ***Kedar covers the area of the N.W. part of the Arabian Desert.*** Descendants of Abraham.
8. **Discuss the use of Isaiah’s words, “The Lord God of Israel.”**
9. **In your own words, re-think the message of Chapter 21. Why does God specify these particular peoples?**

***Chapter 22—Burden Against Jerusalem***

***The burden against the Valley of Vision***: (Isaiah is making a word play, because the Valley of the Vision (word in Hebrew, means darkness) rhymes with the Kidron Valley….Kidron means darkness, and Vision means Revelation—a word play by Isaiah.) “No longer darkness, but the valley of Revelation.” This is Jerusalem, a city on a hill but surrounded by still higher hill, and in the midst of three valleys. Since Jerusalem was a center for the worship of God and some of the prophets of God (including Isaiah), it is called **the Valley of Vision.** “It is strange to find a prophecy against Judah and Jerusalem in a section that deals with the Gentile nations. But since Judah had chosen to behave like her neighbors and to desert the Lord, she deserved to be judged.” **. . . valley of vision**--rather, "respecting the valley of visions"; namely, Jerusalem, the seat of divine revelations and visions, "the nursery of prophets" [JEROME], ( [Isaiah 2:3](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/2-3.html) , [29:1](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/29-1.html) , [Ezekiel 23:4](http://www.biblestudytools.com/ezekiel/23-4.html) , Margin; [Luke 13:33](http://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/13-33.html) ). It lay in a "valley" surrounded by hills higher than Zion and Moriah ([Psalms 125:2](http://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/125-2.html) , [Jeremiah 21:13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/jeremiah/21-13.html) ).

1. **Explain how verses 1-2 imply a “siege” on Jerusalem.**
	1. **Describe the ancient battle tactic of “siege.”** Ancient armies surrounded cities and starved the people out……the army would sit there until the city was starved out. Seal the city and starve it out….no one went in, and no one went out….cannibalism occurred. Terror.
	2. **What does the reference to “housetops” mean? Could this be false worship or a vantage point to watch? Refer to the Matthew 24:16-21’s warning from Jesus.**
2. **In verse 2, why is Jerusalem celebrating?** There is a marked lack of vision of the upcoming doom and a total disrespect for the judgments warned about.
	1. **Explain how Jerusalem was taken in verse 2? Did the Jews fight valiantly? Your slain men are not slain with the sword**: When Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians, the men of Judah did not bravely die in battle. They died either being starved to death in the siege of the city, or as they fled in cowardly retreat. “Either by famine or pestilence in the siege, as many died, [Jeremiah 14:18](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jeremiah+14:18&t1=en_nas); [Jer. 38:2](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jer+38:2&t1=en_nas), or in their flight, as others were; both which were inglorious kinds of death.” **I will weep bitterly; do not labor to comfort me**: We usually think of Jeremiah as the “weeping prophet.” But Isaiah also said “**I will weep bitterly**” when he saw God’s judgment coming against God’s people.
		1. **“Not slain with the sword” is also seen in Lamentations 4:9, Isaiah 37:36 and 38:1.**--but with the famine and pestilence about to be caused by the coming siege ( [Lamentations 4:9](http://www.biblestudytools.com/lamentations/4-9.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) ). MAURER refers this to the plague by which he thinks Sennacherib's army was destroyed, and Hezekiah was made sick ( [Isaiah 37:36](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/37-36.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) , [38:1](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/38-1.html)).
	2. **Why is there unrest in this city?**
3. **The rulers fled in fear, verse 3. Is this alluded to in 2 Kings 25:4-7?** Isaiah is shifting further into the future. When Sennacherib invades Jerusalem in 701 B.C, the rulers do not flee, but in 586 B.C., the rulers do flee, Zedekiah and his cabinet, so this seems to point to the later incident. In 586 B.C., Zedekiah was captured, his eyes put out, and his children captured. The Assyrians do not defeat Jerusalem, but Nebuchadnezzar does.
4. **Compare verse 4 to 2 Kings 18.**
5. **In verse 4-5, describe Isaiah’s reaction to this vision.** He bursts into tears; bitter weeping.
6. **Where is the “Valley of Vision,” in verse 5?** This is generally understood to be Jerusalem, as being the home of the prophetic vision.
	1. **What is the “Day of the Lord?” Terror? Trouble?** The day of being trampled down…..future….tribulation.
7. **Discuss the destruction of Jerusalem in verse 7.** For it is a day of trouble: Isaiah sees an army full of arrows and chariots coming against Jerusalem. The prophesies about the attack and overthrow of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Elam bore the quiver: “Because Elam, Babylon’s neighbor to the east, had strongly supported the Babylonians and the Chaldeans in the struggle against Assyria, the Elamites were probably allies of the Babylonians.” Your choicest valleys shall be full of chariots, and the horsemen shall set themselves in array at the gate: Attacking armies will once again surround Jerusalem, and in that day the LORD will not deliver them.
	1. **Who is Elam, verse 6?** One of the sons of Shem, the son of Noah…now southern Iran. **See Genesis 14:8-11.** This area is south of Babylon, and was absorbed into Persia; modern day Iran. Helped Israel’s enemies. The country stretching east from the Lower Tigris, answering to what was afterwards called Persia Elam was a province of Persia ( [Ezra 4:9](http://www.biblestudytools.com/ezra/4-9.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) ). In Sennacherib's time, Elam was subject to Assyria ( [2 Kings 18:11](http://www.biblestudytools.com/2-kings/18-11.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) ), and so furnished a contingent to its invading armies. Famed for the bow ( [Isaiah 13:18](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/13-18.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) , [Jeremiah 49:35](http://www.biblestudytools.com/jeremiah/49-35.html) ), in which the Ethiopians alone excelled them.
	2. **Who is Kir?** One of the two main strongholds of Moab. A fortress mentioned by Amos. **Refer to Amos 9:7.** These tribes had representatives in the Assyrian army that eventually besieged Jerusalem. **Kir**--another people subject to Assyria ([2 Kings 16:9](http://www.biblestudytools.com/2-kings/16-9.html) ); the region about the river Kur, between the Caspian and Black Seas.
		1. **What does “uncovered the shield,” verse 6, allude to?** Uncovered--took off for the battle the leather covering of the shield, intended to protect the embossed figures on it from dust or injury during the march. "The quiver" and "the shield" express two classes--light and heavy armed troops.
		2. **Verse 7 points to Rabshakeh in Isaiah 36:11-13. Elaborate.** In array at the gate--Rabshakeh stood at the upper pool close to the city ([Isaiah 36:11-13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Isaiah+36:11-13niv) ).
	3. **What is the “House of the Forest” in verse 8? Examine I Kings 7:2-6, 10:17, 2 Chronicles 9:20, Nehemiah 3:19 and** Constructed by Solomon out of cedars, this house held weaponry and other valuables…**Isaiah 39:2.** The house of armory built of cedar from the forest of Lebanon by Solomon, on a slope of Zion called Ophel ([1 Kings 7:2](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/7-2.html) , [10:17](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/10-17.html) , [Nehemiah 3:19](http://www.biblestudytools.com/nehemiah/3-19.html) ). Isaiah says ( [Isaiah 22:8-13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Isaiah+22:8-13niv" \t "_blank) ) his countrymen will look to their own strength to defend themselves, while others of them will drown their sorrows as to their country in feasting, but none will look to Jehovah.
	4. **Is Keir a capital city in Moab?** Modern day Jordan.
8. **In verse 8, discuss how “God’s covering” is removed from Judah**? Spiritual blindness takes root and God removes His protection. God is saying, “Wake up!”
	1. **Compare this with modern**-**day America. Do we see “distance” from God?**
	2. **Discuss the reference to weaponry and protection**? **Modern day America?**
	3. **What is forest reference**? This is what Solomon had build--House of Lebanon, **where they stored the best weapons of that day.**
9. **In verses 9-10, why is the wall fortified? Is it successful?**
10. **Is Isaiah talking to King Hezekiah about the coming King? What is the warning here? T**he water supply came from the lower spring, Gihon Spring to go under the walls of Jerusalem.….so Isaiah is telling Hezekiah to supply water……source 1750 foot long tunnel, through solid rock..Running 3 feet full of water….of water was outside the wall… Isaiah is speaking to Hezekiah…to prepare for this siege. But, why are you not seeking the God of Israel?
11. **Verse 11 speaks of “forsaking the Lord.” What happens to nations that forsake God?** Israel failed to go to God for help.
12. **In verse 12-14, God tells His people what they needed to do, the counsel for help. Explain. God calls to weeping, mourning, repentance…..**
	1. **What does the phrase about baldness seem to show? See I Corinthians 15:32-34, Job 1:20 and Micah 1:16. baldness**--emblem of grief
	2. **How is God calling for repentance?**
13. **Discuss the sarcasm of verse 13, and compare to Paul’s sarcasm in I Cor. 15:52, Ecclesiastes 2:3-11 and Luke 12:19**.—Paul….eat, drink, and tomorrow you die.

***Shebna is singled out as the subject of prophecy (the only instance of an individual being so in Isaiah.)***

1. **Who is Shebna? Who is Eliakim? Local and immediate understanding**
2. **According to Verse 15, what is “this treasure?” Read I Kings 4:5, 18:3, I Chronicles 27:33, and Exodus 32:1.** "Him who dwells in the tabernacle" [JEROME]; namely, in a room of the temple set apart for the treasurer. Rather, "the king's friend," or "principal officer of the court" ([1 Kings 4:5](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/4-5.html) , [18:3](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/18-3.html) , [1 Chronicles 27:33](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-chronicles/27-33.html) , "the king's counselor") [MAURER]. "This" is prefixed contemptuously ([Exodus 32:1](http://www.biblestudytools.com/exodus/32-1.html) ). Shebna set up a sepulcher above his station.
3. **Isaiah’s imagery in verse 18 implies a violent “tossing.**” Discuss. **violently turn and toss**--literally, "whirling He will whirl thee," that is, He will, without intermission, whirl thee [MAURER]. "He will whirl thee round and round, and (then) cast thee away," as a stone in a sling is first whirled round repeatedly, before the string is let go [LOWTH].
**large country**--perhaps Assyria.
	1. **Compare this with David slinging the rock at Goliath in I Samuel 17**:**45-48.**
4. **According to Verse 20, who is Eliakim? Refer to I Chronicles 6:13.** Supposed by KIMCHI to be the same as Azariah, son of Hilkiah, who perhaps had two names, and who was "over the household" in Hezekiah's time ([1 Chronicles 6:13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-chronicles/6-13.html)). Shebna gets replaced.
5. **The belt/girdle in ancient clothing, meant what? girdle**--in which the purse was carried, and to it was attached the sword; often adorned with gold and jewels. **What is this implying about Shebna and Eliakim?**
6. **The tone shifts in Verse 22 to Revelation 3:7 language. Compare….**key of David, open and shut **Epistles in the N. T. –21 total; 14 that Paul wrote, counting Hebrews, 7 others, general, plus the seven that Jesus wrote in Rev. 2 and 3**
	1. **How is this also an idiom of the Messiah? Reference Isaiah 9:6, Revelation 3:7, and Job 12:14.** So keys are carried sometimes in the East, hanging from the kerchief on the shoulder. But the phrase is rather figurative for sustaining the government on one's shoulders. Eliakim, as his name implies, is here plainly a type of the God-man Christ, the son of "David," of whom Isaiah ( [Isaiah 9:6](http://www.biblestudytools.com/isaiah/9-6.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) ) uses the same language as the former clause of this verse. In [Revelation 3:7](http://www.biblestudytools.com/revelation/3-7.html) , the same language as the latter clause is found (compare [Job 12:14](http://www.biblestudytools.com/job/12-14.html) ).
7. **Is Jesus being referred to in verse 23 as a “nail?” See Zechariah 10:4, Ezra 9:8…like a peg on a post….can also mean “prince.”** Large nails or pegs stood in ancient houses on which were suspended the ornaments of the family. The sense is: all that is valuable to the nation shall rest securely on him. In [Ezra 9:8](http://www.biblestudytools.com/ezra/9-8.html) "nail" is used of the large spike driven into the ground to fasten the cords of the tent to.
	1. **Refer to “father’s house?”**
8. **Discuss the idiom of Jesus Christ in verses 20-24.** “Cut down” and fall—death and the grave…picture of Jesus.
9. **Re-visit the story of Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18: 17-37.** "Rabshakeh brought a letter to Hezekiah to bring fear from Sennarachib Isaiah and Hezekiah prayed to God, went to the temple, and fortified the city and made a tunnel for water. From Gihon spring to pool of Siloam, Hezekiah dug an underground 1777 feet in bedrock….get water inside the city into the pool of Siloam.
10. **What did the people forget to do for help? See verse 12. They forgot to look to God.** All that were dependent on Shebna, all his emoluments and rank will fail, as when a peg is suddenly "cut down," the ornaments on it fall with it. Sin reaches in its effects even to the family of the guilty ( [Exodus 20:5](http://www.biblestudytools.com/exodus/20-5.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) ).
	1. **What is the consequence of Judah’s action?**
11. **How does Chapter 22 apply to America today? Elaborate.**
12. **Who was Shebna? Check out I Kings 18:18 and Isaiah 37:1.** Shebna, one of King Hezekiah’s chief assistants, had a high and honorable office, yet he used it to glorify himself. A foreigner in the time of Hezekiah who had been stealing from the treasury. He had been making himself a fantastic sepulcher….but God sees this and destroys him…..Shebna focused on a fancy tomb for himself, but the Lord made certain that he never even got buried around Jerusalem….but died in exile instead.
	1. **Describe Shebna’s personal flaws; see Luke 12:16-21.** It appears that Shebna started out following the Lord, but something happened to his pride, and he started seeking glory for himself. This government official was seeking desire for fame and glory.
	2. **In verse 16, talk about the questions that God/Isaiah has for Shebna?**
		1. **Apply Galatians 5:26 to this passage.**
	3. **What happens to Shebna?** God “hurls” him into a foreign country. God throws him like a “schoolyard” ball!! Beautiful language from Isaiah…..chariots refer to his military power that is also unsecure.
		1. **Compare this to Jesus driving out the money changers in the temple in Mathew 21:12 and John 2:14-16.**
13. **In verses 20-24, who is Eliakim? Describe him.** He is the son of Hilkiah and is not the puppet king established by Pharaoh in 2 Kings 23:34, the son of Josiah. What a glorious title for Eliakim! Both Shebna and Eliakim were servants of Hezekiah, but Shebna’s heart was directed towards selfish ambition and glory, and Eliakim’s heart was turned towards the LORD. This is an obscure, non-descript person, but God looked at his heart.
	* 1. **Examine I Kings 18:18, 37, and Isaiah 36:3, 22**
		2. **“God looks at the heart”—refer to I Samuel 16:7.**
		3. **In verse 20, who does God set up as a Godly man instead of Shebna?** Eliakim
		4. **Why does God have such a glowing report about Eliakim?**
14. **What does “in that day” always refer to in Isaiah’s writing?**
15. **In verse 21, discuss the “clothing with robe” for Eliakim and how that applies to “a righteous servant.” See Romans 13:14, Job 29:14, and Revelation 19:8.**
16. **Does Isaiah shift to Jesus? Verses 22-23 Refer to Revelation, church of Philadelphia ….open and shut, fastened as a peg**
17. **In Revelation 3:7, there is an “open and shut” reference. Does this become a foreshadowing of the Lord Jesus Christ? Eliakim becomes a picture of a loving father, tender warrior, who ministers over the affairs of His family….a model of Christ’s loving authority.**
	1. **How does this passage shift to Revelation 1:8, where Jesus is the one who has all authority both in heaven and on earth?**
	2. **See also Matthew 16:19.** Jesus delegates this authority as it pleases Him.
	3. **Tie in this passage with Romans 8:38.**
	4. **I Cor. 15:20 is where Jesus used His power to show mercy. Examine.**
18. **“A peg in a sure place,” verse 23, pictures what in the Jewish household?** In those days, houses didn’t really have cupboards or storage closets as we think of them. Things were stored on *pegs* set up all around the room. If something was on its peg, it was safe and secure, stored properly and ready for use at the appropriate time. They will hang on him all the glory of his father’s house, the offspring and the issue: The godly Eliakim was a secure peg, and could spiritually support his father’s house and his offspring. Since Eliakim is a picture of Jesus, we also see in this the believer’s total dependence on Jesus**.**
19. **Explain, verse 24, the phrase, “Glory of His father’s house.”**
20. **In verse 24, how is Eliakim exalted to heading up his father’s house? How does this also refer to Jesus?**
21. **In verse 25, discuss how Eliakim, a man, is not the one to look to, but the idea shifts to Jesus Christ.**
22. **To conclude this chapter, consider this: “Are you a Shebna or are you an Eliakim? What is your call? What is your duty to the Lord?” Elaborate.**

***Here are the Promises…***

**I Peter 4:11, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”**

**Psalm 37:2-10, “Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. 2For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.3Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.4Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.5Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.6And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.7Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. 8Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. 9For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. 10For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.”**

**Hebrews 2:1-4, “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him,* 4God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”**