

# Isaiah 22 - Proclamation Against the Valley of Vision (Jerusalem)

## I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1–35:10)

### (2) Condemnation of the nations (Is 13:1–23:18)

#### (K) Jerusalem (22:1-15)

(a) Inappropriate rejoicing (22:1-4)

(b) Jerusalemites trust in everything except God (22:5-11)

(c) Unrepentance (22:12-14)

(d) Shebna disposed for building a monument to himself in the day of calamity and replaced by Eliakim (22:15)

## Isaiah 22

### (K) Jerusalem (22:1-15)

(a) Inappropriate rejoicing (22:1-4)

1 The pronouncement concerning the valley of vision: What is the matter with you now, that you have all gone up to the housetops?

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

1 A message concerning the Valley of Vision. "What troubles you, now that you've all gone up to the rooftops,

1 The burden of the valley of vision. What aileth thee now, that thou art wholly gone up to the housetops?

2 You who were full of noise, You tumultuous town, you jubilant city; Your dead were not killed with the sword, Nor did they die in battle.

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.

2 you who are full of commotion, you passionate city, you rollicking town? Your slain weren't killed by the sword, nor are they dead in battle.

2 Thou that art full of stirs, a tumultuous city, a joyous city: thy slain men are not slain with the sword, nor dead 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.

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.*

3 All your leaders have fled together; she is captured without using bows. All of you who were caught were captured together, although they had fled while the enemy was still far away.

3 All thy rulers are fled together, they are bound by the archers: all that are found in thee are bound together, which have fled from far.

4 Therefore I say, "Look away from me, Let me weep bitterly, Do not try to comfort me concerning the **destruction** of the daughter of my people."

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."

4 Therefore I said: "Look away from me; and let me weep bitter tears; don't try to console me over the destruction of the daughter of my people."

4 Therefore said I, Look away from me; I will weep bitterly, labour not to comfort me, because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people.

- "...destruction" - to Sennacherib, 70 gold, 800 talents of silver (2 Kings 18:15-16)

(b) Jerusalemites trust in everything except God (22:5-11)

5 For the Lord GOD of armies has a day of panic, subjugation, and confusion In the valley of vision, A breaking down of walls And a crying to the mountain.

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.

5 For to the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies belongs the day of tumult, trampling, and confusion in the Valley of Vision, and the pulling down of his Temple on its mountain.

5 For it is a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity by the Lord GOD of hosts in the valley of vision, breaking down the walls, and of crying to the mountains.

6 Elam picked up the quiver, With the chariots, infantry, *and* horsemen; And Kir uncovered the shield.

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

6 Elam takes up the quiver with chariots and cavalry, while Kir unsheathes the shield.

6 And Elam bare the quiver with chariots of men and horsemen, and Kir uncovered the shield.

7 Then your choicest valleys were full of chariots, And the horsemen took positions at the gate.

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

7 And it will come about that your choicest valleys will be filled with chariots, and horsemen will take their positions at the gates.

7 And it shall come to pass, that thy choicest valleys shall be full of chariots, and the horsemen shall set themselves in array at the gate.

### **Delayed Attempt for Defense**

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

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

8 He has uncovered the defenses of Judah." At that time, you looked at the arsenal of the Palace of the Forest,

8 And he discovered the covering of Judah, and thou didst look in that day to the armour 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.

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.

9 and saw that there were many breaches in the City of David. So you stored up water from the Lower Pool,

9 Ye have seen also the breaches of the city of David, that they are many: and ye gathered together the waters of the lower pool.

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

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

10 counted the houses of Jerusalem, tore down certain houses to strengthen the wall,

10 And ye have numbered the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses have ye broken down to fortify the wall.

### **Hezekiah's Tunnel**

- A reservoir was dug underneath the City of David before 701 BC preparing Jerusalem for the impending siege by the Assyrians (2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chr 32:4).

- A 1750-foot (530m) tunnel carved during the reign of Hezekiah to bring water from one side of the city to the other, Hezekiah's Tunnel considered one of the greatest works of water engineering technology in the pre-Classical period. (Had it followed a straight line, the length would have been 1070ft (335m) or 40% shorter.)

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.

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.

11 and built a reservoir between the walls to store water from the Old Pool. But you did not look at the One who did it, nor did you see the One who planned it long ago.

11 Ye made also a ditch between the two walls for the water of the old pool: but ye have not looked unto the maker thereof, neither had respect unto him that fashioned it long ago.

(c) Unrepentance (22:12-14)

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

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

12 On that day the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies called for weeping and mourning, for shaving heads and wearing sackcloth.

12 And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth:

- "...Fallen, fallen is Babylon" - prohibited to priest (Lev 21:5; Cf. Ezek 44:20; Job 1:20)  
 - Hezekiah's heart was right but the people's hearts were not, despite the grave danger they faced

13 Instead, there is joy and jubilation, Killing of cattle and slaughtering of sheep, Eating of meat and drinking of wine: "Let's eat and drink, for tomorrow we may die."

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."

13 But look! There is joy and festivity, slaughtering of cattle and killing of sheep, eating meat and drinking wine. "Let us eat and drink, you say, because we die tomorrow."

13 And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die.

14 But the LORD of armies revealed Himself to me: "Certainly this wrongdoing will not be forgiven you Until you die," says the Lord GOD of armies.

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.

14 "Nevertheless, the LORD of the Heavenly Armies has revealed himself to my hearing: "Surely because of you this iniquity will not be forgiven you until you die,' says the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies."

14 And it was revealed in mine ears by the LORD of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

- Paul quotes this (the Epicurean poets Aratus and Cleanthes) in 1 Cor 15:32

- While professing to be saved in Christ, they denied the resurrection, which leaves them hopeless!

— Why not then take the ground of the Epicurean poets Aratus and Cleanthes thus quoted? A Kingdom perspective should alter our priorities!!!

### **The Lord Rebukes Shebna**

The last ten verses of this chapter should be read carefully. They furnish a striking foreshadowment of the end times. Shebna was holding some office over Israel (note "government" in v21). Apparently he was a usurper. God announced that he should be set aside in shame, and the man of His choice—Eliakim—should take his place. These historical figures merge into prophetic characters.

In v22 we read that God says, "And the key of the house of David will lay upon His shoulder, so He shall open, and none shall shut; and He shall shut, and none shall open." As we know from Rev 3:7 this refers to none other than the Lord Jesus, and of Him it is here said, "And I will fasten Him as a Nail in a sure place; and He shall be for a glorious throne to His father's house" (v23).

Then, in the closing verse of the chapter we read, "In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, shall the Nail that is fastened in a sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall." Just as Eliakim foreshadowed Christ, so Shebna pointed forward to the Antichrist; and just as in v23 we have a prophecy announcing the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom, so in v25 we have foretold the overthrow of the false messiah's kingdom.

(d) Shebna disposed for building a monument to himself in the day of calamity and replaced by Eliakim (22:15)

15 This is what the Lord GOD of armies says: "Come, go to this steward, To **Shebna** who is in charge of the *royal* household,

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

15 This is what the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies says: "Come, go to this steward, to Shebna who is in charge of the household, and ask him:

15 Thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, Go, get thee unto this treasurer, even unto Shebna, which is over the house, and say,

- Now the scene shifts to two men who held positions of trust in Hezekiah's government: Shebna and Eliakim (v20)

- "...Shebna" - Prime minister and Sec'y of Treasury (Cf. Is 36-37)

— Shebna had caused a grand mausoleum to be built for himself, carved out of Limestone rock where the kings of Judah were buried. However, he would be removed and carried into captivity...

— Shebna was a foreigner and a man of considerable influence, displaced by Eliakim (v20-25); later he apparently became Hezekiah's scribe (Is 36:3; 37:2)

16 'What right do you have here, And whom do you have here, That you have cut out a tomb for yourself here, You who cut out a tomb on the height, You who carve a resting place for yourself in the rock?

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?

16 'What are you doing here, and who are your relatives here that you could carve out a grave for yourself here—cutting out a tomb at the choicest location, chiseling out a resting place for yourself out of solid rock?

16 What hast thou here? and whom hast thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here, as he that heweth him out a sepulchre on high, and that graveth an habitation for himself in a rock?

17 'Behold, the LORD is about to hurl you violently, you strong man. And He is about to grasp you firmly

17 'Behold, the LORD is about to hurl you headlong, O man. And He is about to grasp you firmly

17 Look Out! The LORD is about to hurl you away violently, my strong fellow! He will fold you up completely,

17 Behold, the LORD will carry thee away with a mighty captivity, and will surely cover thee.

18 *And wrap you up tightly like a ball, To bedriven into a vast country; There you will die, And there your splendid chariots will be, You shame of your master's house!*

18 And roll you tightly like a ball, To becast into a vast country; There you will die And there your splendid chariots will be, You shame of your master's house.'

18 rolling you up tightly like a ball and throwing you into a large country. There you will die, and there your splendid chariots will lie. You're a disgrace to your master's house!

18 He will surely violently turn and toss thee like a ball into a large country: there shalt thou die, and there the chariots of thy glory shall be the shame of thy lord's house.

19 "I will depose you from your office, And I will pull you down from your position.

19 "I will depose you from your office, And I will pull you down from your station.

19 I will depose you from your office, ousting you from your position.

19 And I will drive thee from thy station, and from thy state shall he pull thee down.

### **Eliakim: The Faithful Steward**

20 "Then it will come about on that day, That I will summon My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah,

20 "Then it will come about in that day, That I will summon My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah,

20 "At that time, I'll call for my servant, Hilkiah's son Eliakim,

20 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah:

21 And I will clothe him with your tunic And tie your sash securely around him. I will hand your authority over to him, And he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.

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.

21 and I'll clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him. I'll transfer your authority to him, and he'll be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.

21 And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.

22 "Then I will put the **key** of the house of David on his shoulder; When he opens, no one will shut, When he shuts, no one will open.

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.

22 "I'll place on his shoulder the key to the house of David—what he opens, no one will shut, and what he shuts, no one will open.

22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

- "...key" - identifies the significance of the "key" that is referred to in the letter to Philadelphia (Cf. Rev 3:7)

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.

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.

23 I'll set him like a peg into a secure place; he will become a throne of honor to his father's house.

23 And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.

- Here the prophecy looks forward to Christ (Rev 3:7)

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

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.

24 The entire reputation of his father's house will hang on him: its offspring and offshoots—all its smaller vessels, from the cups to all the jars.

**24** And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons.

### **The Fall of Shebna**

25 On that day," declares the LORD of armies, "the **peg** driven into a firm place will give way; it will even break off and fall, and the load that is *hanging* on it will be cut off, for the LORD has spoken."

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."

25 At that time," declares the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, "the peg that was driven into a secure place will give way; it will be sheared and will fall, and the load hanging on it will be cut down."

The LORD has spoken.

25 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for the LORD hath spoken it.

- "...peg" - an OT allusion to the Antichrist. See note at the beginning of this section; see [Allusions to the Antichrist](#).