

A Trek Through Isaiah 18 - 22:1-25

Bruce Pike

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Oracle of the Valley of Vision 22:1-25

Fourth oracle in the second series

	One-world Government	Davidic Monarchy	Collective Security and Self-sufficiency	The People of God	Triumphant End
2	21:1-10 Oracle of the wilderness of the sea	21:11-12 Oracle of silence	21:13-17 Oracle of Arabia	22:1-25 Oracle of the valley of vision	23:1-18 Oracle of Tyre

Isaiah's question: Where is true security?

God's people are choosing self-reliance rather than trusting in Yahweh.

Structure

- Self-reliant city 22:1-14
- Self-reliant person 22:15-19
- Self-reliant family 22:20-25

Self-reliant city 22:1-14

- No agreement on the historical setting
- In general:
 - an initial deliverance from judgment which provoked revelry and blind dependence on armaments rather than repentance and turning to Yahweh
 - The prophet lamenting a new and more devastating judgment which is coming.

The city: Jerusalem 22:1a

Isaiah 22:1a (LSB)

1The oracle concerning the valley of vision...

- V1 valley of vision.
 - Jerusalem (re v2, 4b, 9).
 - Maybe called a valley as viewed from the Mount of Olives or as enclosed by mountains.
 - Vision refers to God's revelation given here. Also satire: the people described in the oracle think they see but are blind.

Wrongful celebration 22:1b-2a

Isaiah 22:1b–2 (LSB)

1...What is the matter with you now, that you have all gone up to the housetops?

2You who were full of noise, You roaring city, you exultant town...

- Speaking to the city personified.
- V1 What is the matter with you now?
 - Confronting them: What are you doing?
- V2 to the housetops, ... full of noise, you roaring city, you exultant town
 - Lively celebration when impending doom is averted. As at the first lifting of the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem
 - But they should have been in prayer and repentance.

Coming defeat 22:2b-3

Isaiah 22:2–3 (LSB)

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

3All your rulers have fled together, And have been captured without the bow; All of you who were found were captured together, Though they had fled far away.

- The prophet looks forward to the devastation to come.
- Description of the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon. (2 Ki 25)
- V2 not slain with the sword.
 - Slain by famine.
- V3 your leaders have fled together, and have been captured.
 - Flight of Zedekiah and his army from Jerusalem.
 - Their capture by the Chaldeans.

The prophet's lament 22:4

Isaiah 22:4 (LSB)

4Therefore I say, "Turn your gaze away from me, Let me weep bitterly, Do not insist on comforting me concerning the destruction of the daughter of my people."

- The prophet refuses to be comforted as he laments the destruction of the city.
- Therefore.
 - Because of what he had seen.
- I say, "Turn your gaze away from me."
 - Past tense. Isaiah had been outwardly grieving.
- Let me weep bitterly
 - Identifying with the pain that he can see coming.
- Do not insist on comforting me
 - Not a time for rejoicing.
- the daughter of my people.
 - Personifying the nation as a beloved daughter..

Coming occupation 22:5-8

Isaiah 22:5–8a (LSB)

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

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

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

8And He revealed the defense of Judah...

- V5 Destruction of the city.
 - a day of confusion, oppression, and panic. The fall of Jerusalem.
 - Breaking down of walls. The city wall is breached.
 - Crying to the mountain
 - Mountain is singular.
 - Calling to God on the temple mount.
- V6 Invading army
 - Elam took up the quiver...Kir uncovered the shield
 - Allies joining the Assyrians
 - chariots, infantry, and horsemen
 - Complete army of that day.
- V7-8 Jerusalem overcome
 - choicest valleys were full of chariots, and the horsemen took up fixed positions at the gate.
 - The city completely occupied.
 - He revealed the defense of Judah.
 - Revealed the defense. Removed the covering.
 - May refer to the removal of Yahweh's protection.
 - May refer to the removal of Judah's ignorance of her weakness.
 - May be a picture of a woman's covering being removed, exposing her to shame.

The city's preparations 22:8b-11

Isaiah 22:8b–14 (LSB)

8...In that day you looked to the weapons of the house of the forest,

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

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

11And you made a reservoir between the two walls For the waters of the old pool. But you did not look to Him who made it, Nor did you see Him who formed it long ago.

- The Assyrian threat revealed the heart of Jerusalem.
- V8b-11a What they did: self-sufficient preparations
 - you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest.
 - Building up armaments.
 - An armory built by Solomon of cedars of Lebanon.
 - you saw that the breaches in the wall of the city of David were many
 - Assessment of defenses
 - You collected the waters of the lower pool...you tore down houses to fortify the wall ...You made a reservoir
 - Building up the defenses: (1) ensuring the water supply (2) repairing the wall
- V8b What they did not do: look to Yahweh.
 - you did not look to Him who made it, Nor did you see Him who formed it long ago.
 - Self-sufficiency
 - No dependence on Yahweh who oversees history.
 - Does not mean that preparations are bad. Their heart was wrong.

The city's heart 22:12-13

Isaiah 22:12–13 (LSB)

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

13Instead, behold, there is joy 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."

- V12 Yahweh calls the people to sorrow
 - called you to weeping, to wailing, To shaving the head, and to wearing sackcloth
 - Godly sorrow expressed outwardly.
- V13 They respond with denial and indulgence
 - Joy and gladness. Revelry out of denial.
 - Eating and drinking. Indulgence in present pleasure.
 - Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. No hope.
- Isaiah's summary of their heart.
 - Lack of faith > lack of hope
 - Response is indulgence today and denial of tomorrow

Judgment 22:14

Isaiah 22:14 (LSB)

14But Yahweh of hosts revealed Himself in my ears, "Surely this iniquity shall not be atoned for you Until you die," says Lord Yahweh of hosts.

- No forgiveness without death
- But with death of self, there is forgiveness. Here is the gospel

Self-reliant person: the example of Shebna 22:15-19

Isaiah 22:15–19 (LSB)

15Thus says Lord Yahweh 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 dwelling place for yourself in the cliff?

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

18And He will surely roll you tightly like a ball, To be cast into a vast country; There you will die, And there your glorious chariots will be, You disgrace of your master's house.'

19"I will push you out of your office, And I will pull you down from your station.

- Here is the example of Shebna
- Prominent, powerful, well-to-do
 - V15 in charge of the royal household.
 - Common office in mid-east kingdoms. As Joseph in Egypt.
 - David created only two offices for the theocracy: the Scribe to write records, and the Speaker to speak for the king.
 - The office of Head of the Household appeared later and became prominent over the other offices.
 - Here is self-exaltation through politics.
 - V18 glorious chariots
 - Seeking to exalt himself
 - V16 hewn a tomb for yourself
 - Seeking to be buried with the kings.
 - Here is his heart: seeking self-exaltation rather than the good of the city.
- No lineage given.
 - Contrast v20 Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah
 - May have been a foreigner.
- Isaiah confronts him directly
 - V16 What right do you have here
 - V18 you disgrace of your master's house
- The coming judgment from Yahweh
 - V17 hurl you headlong
 - V18 cast you into a vast country. Into Babylon.
 - V18 There you will die
 - V19 I will push you out of your office. What he valued so much.

Self-reliant family: The example of Eliakim: dependence on a person 22:20-25

Isaiah 22:20–25 (LSB)

20“Then it will be in that day, That I will summon My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah,

21And I will clothe him with your tunic And tie your sash securely about him. I will give your authority into his hand, 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 Yahweh 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 Yahweh has spoken.”

- Here is the example of Eliakim, who followed Shebna.
 - Is 36:3 And Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to him.
 - Officials sent out to meet the Assyrian Rabshakeh.
 - Eliakim has replaced Shebna as head of the household but Shebna is still prominent.
- A sincere follower of Yahweh.
 - V20 My servant.
- A true shepherd of his people
 - v21 he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.
 - Tenderness and compassion, concern for his people
 - A true shepherd, as David.
- Established in his position by Yahweh
 - V21 I will clothe him with your tunic, and will tie your sash securely about him
 - Given the visible badges of office
 - V21 ...and will give your authority into his hand...V22 I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder
 - Given real authority
 - Where Shebna had taken authority not rightfully his, Eliakim was granted his authority from Yahweh.
 - V23 I will drive him like a peg in a secure place
 - Made secure in his position
 - V23 he will become a throne of glory to his father’s house
 - Given honor

- Warning against idolatry
 - V24 so they will hang on him all the glory of his father's house
 - Should be read conditionally (if)
 - Picture of a load being hung from a peg.
 - His family will look to him for glory and security
 - V24 offspring and issue, all the least of vessels, from bowls to all the jars.
 - Family represented as dishes.
 - Not prominent.
 - V25 the peg driven in a firm place will give way; it will even break off and fall
 - The man Hilkiyah will fall.
 - Give way. Failure from internal causes.
 - Break off. Failure from external causes.
 - V25 the load that was on it will be cut off
 - Those who depend on Hilkiyah will fall
 - V25 for Yahweh has spoken
 - A certainty.

Application: Always best to confess

Look at 22:1-2. Jerusalem trusted in alliances for security, then rejoiced when their actions seemed to achieve their goals. But they had denied Yahweh. They should have been lamenting over their sin. The result would be a worse judgment: the city would be destroyed.

Like David in 2 Sam 11-12

- He took Uriah's wife Bathsheba, then had Uriah killed to cover up what he had done.
- Everything looked ok. 2 Sam 11:26-27 Then the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband had died, so she lamented over her husband. Then the time of mourning passed by, and David sent and gathered her to his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of Yahweh.
 - The cover-up seemed to work with men. But Yahweh saw.
 - No confession of sin by David. How did he feel? Ps 32:3-4: When I kept silent about my sin, my bones wasted away Through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the heat of summer. Selah.
 - Before confession
 - wasting away: losing weight, not eating
 - groaning all day long: depression
 - God's hand heavy upon him day and night: feelings of guilt, trouble sleeping
 - vitality drained away: constant fatigue
 - His ailments may not have seemed connected to his sin
- Months later the judgment came (2 Sam 12)
 - Nathan came to David and confronted him.
 - Consequences: continual family problems, child would die
 - David finally confessed his sin and received forgiveness.
 - Ps 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not cover up; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to Yahweh;" And You forgave the iniquity of my sin...10-11 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in Yahweh, lovingkindness shall surround him. Be glad in Yahweh and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.
 - After confession: forgiveness, lovingkindness, joy
 - In spite of the consequences

Principles

- Immediate good results may not indicate that our Lord is pleased with us.
 - What is the real criteria? To obey. Jn 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him.
 - How do we know if we are obeying? Well-trained conscience. Eph 5:8, 10 ...walk as children of light...trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
- Sooner or later, God disciplines His children for their sins. Heb 12:10 ...He disciplines us for our benefit, so that we may share His holiness.
 - God is jealous for His children.
 - Discipline for our good, to share His holiness.
- Always best to confess sin. 1 Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - Confession brings forgiveness and cleansing.

In today's world, how might one sin and get immediate results that seem to be good? Abortion, non-Christian significant other, gossip, seeking approval of men, showing partiality

- References

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