

VI. Egypt and Cush, in the Mean Time (20:1-6)

Introduction -- why 20:1-6?

- A. The historical setting (2 Kings 18:17-37)

- B. Ashdod had fallen at the hands of Assyria (1)

- C. The Word of the Lord comes to Isaiah (2-4)
 - 1. Remove the sackcloth (2)
 - 2. Remove your shoes (2)
 - 3. Naked and barefoot for three years (3)
 - 4. As a sign and token against Egypt and Cush (3)
 - 5. The reality behind the symbol: the defeat and shame of Egypt and Cush

Excursus: Symbolism and illustration in the prophets

- D. The people respond (5-6)
Addressed as “inhabitants of the coast”
 - 1. Dismayed
 - 2. Ashamed
 - 3. Cush their hope
 - 4. Egypt their boast
 - 5. Such is our hope
 - 6. How shall we escape?

God’s purpose is accomplished -- 2 Kgs. 19:1