

A Trek Through Isaiah 25 - Is 22:1-25

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Prayer

Introduction

For today

- 22:1-25 Oracle of the valley of vision

(9:35)

The righteous shall live by faith.

Ro 1:17 ...“The righteous shall live by faith.”

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

- He exists: He is **sovereign** over all.
 - Exercise of His supremacy.
 - Ps 115:3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases
 - Greatest display of His sovereignty is election.
 - On the basis of His election, we are secure. But in our security, are we fulfilling the apostle’s prayer?
 - Col 1:9-12 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
 - V12 The Father has qualified us.
 - V9 We are to be filled with knowledge
 - V10-12 So that we can
 - walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
 - Be fully pleasing to him
 - Bear fruit in every good work
 - Increase in the knowledge of God
 - Be strengthened with all power
 - Have endurance and patience with joy
 - Give thanks
 - Where does true knowledge come from? His word.
 - Will we take advantage of our opportunity?

(9:40)

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 the LORD.

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

The city: Jerusalem 22:1a

1 The 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.

Wrongful celebration 22:1b-2a

1 ...What do you mean that you have gone up, all of you, to the housetops, 2 you who are full of shoutings, tumultuous city, exultant town?

- Speaking to the city personified.
- V1 What do you mean?
 - Confronting them.
- V2 to the housetops, ...shoutings, tumultuous city, exultant
 - Lively celebration when impending doom is averted.
 - Perhaps upon the first lifting of the Assyrian siege.

Coming **defeat** 22:2b-3

2...Your slain are not slain with the sword or dead in battle. 3 All your leaders have fled together; without the bow they were captured. All of you who were found were captured, 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...they were captured.
 - Flight of Zedekiah and his army from Jerusalem.
 - Their capture by the Chaldeans.

The prophet's **lament** 22:4

4 Therefore I said: "Look away from me; let me weep bitter tears; do not labor to comfort 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 said, "look away...."
 - Past tense. Isaiah had been outwardly grieving.
- do not labor to comfort me
 - Not a time for rejoicing.
- the daughter of my people.
 - Personifying the nation as a beloved daughter..

Coming **occupation** 22:5-8

5 For the Lord God of hosts has a day of tumult and trampling and confusion in the valley of vision, a battering down of walls and a shouting to the mountains. 6 And Elam bore the quiver with chariots and horsemen, and Kir uncovered the shield. 7 Your choicest valleys were full of chariots, and the horsemen took their stand at the gates. 8 He has taken away the covering of Judah.

- V5 Destruction of the city.
 - a day of tumult and trampling and confusion.
 - The fall of Jerusalem.
 - battering down of walls
 - As 2 Ki 25
 - shouting to the mountains
 - Mountain is singular.
 - Calling to God on the temple mount.
- V6 Invading army
 - Elam...Kir
 - Nations in the Assyrian army
 - quiver with chariots and horsemen,
 - Completely equipped.
- V7-8 Jerusalem overcome
 - choicest valleys were full of chariots, and the horsemen took their stand at the gates.
 - The city completely occupied.
 - He has taken away the covering of Judah.
 - Covering. Curtain or veil.
 - May refer to the removal of the LORD'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-14

8 ...In that day you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest, 9 and you saw that the breaches of the city of David were many. You collected the waters of the lower pool, 10 and you counted the houses of Jerusalem, and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall. 11 You made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to him who did it, or see him who planned 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 of the city of David were many
 - Assessment of defenses
 - You collected the waters of the lower pool
 - you broke down the 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 the LORD.
 - you did not look to him who did it, or see him who planned it long ago.
 - Self-sufficiency
 - No dependence on the LORD who oversees history.
- Does not mean that preparations are bad. Their heart was wrong.

The city's **heart** 22:12-14

12 In that day the Lord GOD of hosts called for weeping and mourning, for baldness and wearing sackcloth; 13 and behold, joy and gladness, killing oxen and slaughtering sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine. "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." 14 The LORD of hosts has revealed himself in my ears: "Surely this iniquity will not be atoned for you until you die," says the Lord GOD of hosts.

- The LORD calls for repentance
 - V12 weeping and mourning, for baldness and wearing sackcloth
 - Godly sorrow expressed outwardly.
- The people respond with denial and indulgence
 - V13 Joy and gladness. Revelry out of denial.
 - V13 Eating and drinking. Indulgence in present pleasure.
 - V 13 Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.
 - Isaiah's summary of their heart.
 - Lack of faith > lack of hope
 - Response is present indulgence.
- Judgment
 - V14 Surely this iniquity will not be atoned for you until you die
 - No forgiveness without death
 - But with death of self, there is forgiveness. Here is the gospel

Self-reliant people 22:15-19

The example of Shebna: self-reliance and self-exaltation 22:15-19

15 Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, "Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: 16 What have you to do here, and whom have you here, that you have cut out here a tomb for yourself, you who cut out a tomb on the height and carve a dwelling for yourself in the rock? 17 Behold, the LORD will hurl you away violently, O you strong man. He will seize firm hold on you 18 and whirl you around and around, and throw you like a ball into a wide land. There you shall die, and there shall be your glorious chariots, you shame of your master's house. 19 I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station.

- Here is the example of Shebna
- Prominent, powerful, well-to-do
 - V15 steward...over the 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.
 - V17 strong man. As seen by himself and others.
 - V18 glorious chariots
- Seeking to exalt himself
 - V16 cut out a tomb on the height
 - 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 have you to do here, and whom have you here
 - V18 you shame of your master's house
- The coming judgment from the LORD
 - V17 hurl you away violently
 - V18 throw you ... into a wide land. Into Babylon.
 - V18 There you shall die
 - V19 you will be pulled down from your station. What he valued so much.
- Application
 - True security is not found in personal self-sufficiency and self-exaltation.

Self-reliant family 22:20-25

The example of Eliakim: dependence on a **person** 22:20-25

20 In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, 21 and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. 22 And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. 23 And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his father's house. 24 And they will hang on him the whole honor of his father's house, the offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons. 25 In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in a secure place will give way, and it will be cut down and fall, and the load that was on it will be cut off, for the LORD has spoken."

- Here is the example of Eliakim, who followed Shebna.
 - Is 36:3 And there came out to him Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder
 - 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 the LORD.
 - V20 My servant.
- A true shepherd of his people
 - v21 he shall be 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 the LORD
 - V21 I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him
 - Given the visible badges of office
 - V21 ...and will commit your authority to his hand...V22 I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David
 - Given real authority
 - Where Shebna had taken authority not rightfully his, Eliakim was granted his authority from the LORD.
 - V23 I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place
 - Made secure in his position
 - V23 he will become a throne of honor to his father's house
 - Given honor

- Warning against idolatry
 - Should be read conditionally (if)
 - V24 they will hang on him the whole honor of his father's house
 - Picture of a load being hung from a peg.
 - His family will look to him for security
 - V24 the offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons.
 - Family represented as dishes.
 - Not prominent.
 - V25 the peg that was fastened in a secure place will give way, and it will be cut down and fall
 - The man Hilkiah will fall.
 - Give way. Failure from internal causes.
 - Cut down. Failure from external causes.
 - V25 the load that was on it will be cut off
 - Those who depend on Hilkiah will fall
 - V25 for the LORD has spoken
 - A certainty.
- Application
 - True security is not found in people.
 - Dependence on a person brings down both the person and those who depend on them.

(10:00)

Discussion

We will break into three groups to discuss today's passage. Here are the topics:

1. **22:13 Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.**
 - a. **Lack of faith**
 - b. **Lack of hope**
 - c. **Indulging the flesh**
2. **22:15-19 Shebna**
 - a. **Self-reliance**
 - b. **Self-exaltation**
3. **22:20-25 Eliakim**
 - a. **Dependence on a person**

Join the group with the topic that seems most significant. Must be at least three people in each group. Select one person to scribe. Each group will report to the class what they found.

In your group, discuss

- **See:** Something about God that you see in the passage
- **Know:** The effect that this view of God has upon you.
- **Respond:** A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.

For next week:

- Oracle of Tyre 23:1-18

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