

Isaiah 21,22

8-26-04

“2 Nations & 2 Leaders!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Sherri Youngward -
- 1.2. Daniel Bollochowski – Russia Trip.
- 1.3. **Intro:** What more judgments? What did Habakkuk do with them?
 - 1.3.1. See Hab.3:2(ch.2 was 5 woes - He let them affect himself personally!)

2. **BABYLON! (21)**

- 2.1. **Babylon is Bounced!** (1-4)
- 2.2. (1) “**Wilderness/desert by the sea**” – Babylonian plain by the Tigris & Euphrates rivers.
- 2.3. (2) **Elam** = Ancient name for Persia.
 - 2.3.1. **Medes & Persians** would come against Babylon like a storm across the desert(1,2).
- 2.4. (3,4) Isaiah saw this & was filled with horror.
 - 2.4.1. I believe every man has been warned about relating “anything” to child birth! – And I highly respect that!
 - 2.4.1.1. And I believe Isaiah was **not** speaking in hyperbole here!
 - 2.4.1.2. I believe he was in that much trauma over this.
- 2.5. (4) Oh, for one calm evening!
- 2.6. **Banqueting Belshazzar!** (5-9)
- 2.7. (5) Isaiah has a vision of the sinful Banqueting Belshazzar in Dan.5.
- 2.8. (6) God instructed Isaiah to post a **watchman** on the city wall to watch for eastern invaders.
- 2.9. (7) The watchman saw the invading forces.
- 2.10. (8) He warns them of attack!
 - 2.10.1. Apply 8b to prayer!
 - 2.10.2. **Q:** Do you spare time to wait on God?
- 2.11. (9) Then he sees & says, “**Babylon is fallen, is fallen!**”
 - 2.11.1. Probably speaking both **historically & prophetically**.
 - 2.11.1.1. **Rev.14:8; 18:2.**

- 2.12. **Babylon is Threshed!** (10)
- 2.13. Not a pretty image!
- 2.14. **Edom!** (11,12)
- 2.15. **Edom** – South of the Dead Sea. Edom means “red” signifying the red sandstone of the Edomite desert.
- 2.16. **Seir** – A synonym for Edom. Means “*hairy*” & refers to the rugged mountain range rising in Edom.
- 2.17. **The question? How long will Edom suffer?**
- 2.17.1. **Answer?** The deliverance for **Israel** would come, but **Edom** would continue to suffer.
- 2.17.2. (11) – When will the day dawn & the shadows flee away?
- 2.17.3. The watchman looks for the **morning** to break but it is just again followed by nightfall(i.e. no change).
- 2.17.3.1. *Cat Stevens*(1972) captured this “new morning” thought when he sang, “**Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the word.**”
- 2.17.4. (12) Seems to indicate repentance! – “**Return! Come back!**”
- 2.18. **Arabia!** (13-17)
- 2.19. The Assyrians would also inflict punishment on the nomadic Arab tribes of the desert.
- 2.20. (13) **Dedanites** – came from *Abraham & Keturah*, who settled in Edom.
- 2.21. (14) **Tema** – an Oasis on the Arabian Peninsula.
- 2.22. (16) **The glory of Kedar** – south of Israel & East of Egypt.
- 2.22.1. They were known for their beautiful black tents.
- 2.23. (17) **History records:** In 715 **Sargon II** wrote that he had defeated a number of Arabian tribes & had then deported to Samaria.

3. **JERUSALEM! (22)**

- 3.1. **Jerusalem Devastated!** (1-14)
- 3.2. Jerusalem is surrounded by valleys on 3 sides(Tyropoeon, Kidron, Hinnom).
- 3.2.1. So this is addressed to the **Valley of Visions**.

- 3.3. Isaiah describes the **Babylonian invasion** & siege against **Jerusalem** led by Nebuchadnezzar in 588-586bc. (2 Kings 25)
- 3.4. (2) Jerusalem is **tumultuous**/boisterous because people from the surrounding villages/towns have sought refuge behind her walls.
- 3.5. (2b) Famine (2 Kings 25:3)
- 3.6. (3) The city is captured as King Zedekiah flees (2 Kings 25:5)
3.6.1. The inhabitants are captured.
- 3.7. (4) Isaiah was beyond comfort.
- 3.8. (6) **Elam**(Persia) & **Kir**(Aramean city) are now allied w/Babylon.
- 3.9. (7) Kidron Valley is filled w/chariots.
- 3.10. (8-11) **Depending on your defenses!**
3.10.1. **Their walls** are breached.
3.10.2. The people of Jerusalem attempt to preserve their **water supply**.
3.10.3. They also tried to **shore up the broken walls**. **Show Pic in Israel**.
3.10.3.1. But to no avail! – **Why?** They failed to trust the Lord(11b).
3.10.4. Sometimes when we encounter a problem we'll try **every conceivable way...except the right way**.
3.10.4.1. But when we're dealing with **sin**...there is only **one resolution!**
3.10.5. (11b) Ps.127:1 **"Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain."**
3.10.5.1. So many will spend big bucks in the building materials of a house, & forget to build the spiritual infrastructure of what makes that house a HOME!
3.10.6. **Q: Do you pray regularly for the public officials in your city?**
3.10.7. **Q: Do you for God's sovereign intervention in their leadership?**
3.10.7.1. President, Judges, Police, Fire, Building dept., Border patrol, Code Enforcement(Linda Mejia/They removed 200 tons of trash from our watershed areas), Vector Control(Mosquito problem), Mayor, City Council(*esp. w/this whole recall issue*), School Board?
3.10.7.2. **Just pray while you watch the news regarding different countries!**

- 3.10.8. Yes, **houses & cities**...but also...
 Unless the Lord builds your **company**...your sweat is pointless.
 Unless the Lord leads your **ministry**...your time is worthless.
 Unless the Lord has brought **her/him** into your life...that relationship is in vain.
 Unless the Lord builds our **church**...our work is fruitless.
 Unless the Lord builds our **families**...someone will breach our family's walls!
- 3.10.9. **Q: Are you fortifying your own walls?**
 3.10.9.1. Reminds me of the **commercial** of a man sweeping a hall next to the **shark aquarium**. The broom hits the tank, & it starts to crack. He quickly plasters himself against the enormous glass to stop the inevitable!
- 3.10.9.2. **Q: Are you fortifying your own walls?**
- 3.11. (12) **The only resolution? Repentance!**
 3.11.1. God called them to **repentance** & to exhibit it by shaving their heads & putting on sackcloth.
- 3.12. (13) **Instead they choose Revelry**...instead of **Repentance!**
 3.12.1. The people had adopted the **pagan philosophy** "eat, drink, & be merry for tomorrow we die anyways!!!"
 3.12.1.1. "Often in times of crisis there is a **dedication to pleasure at all costs** because of the **insecurity of the future**."¹
 3.12.1.2. It is either **despair** or **self-indulgence**.
- 3.12.2. **Isaiah** says regarding Israel's irresponsible leaders 56:12(NIV), "Come," each one cries, "let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better."
 3.12.3. **Jesus** giving a parable about a rich man used this, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; **eat, drink, and be merry.**" "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose'"
 3.12.4. **Paul** used this, "If the dead do not rise, "Let us **eat and drink**, for **tomorrow we die!**" (1 Cor.15:32)
 3.12.5. **James**(5:5) said it a little bit differently, "You have lived on the earth in **pleasure and luxury**; you have **fattened your hearts** as in a day of slaughter."
 3.12.6. Instead of calling for a **Fast** they decided to **Feast!**
 3.12.7. **Q: Isn't this same spirit prevailing today?**
 3.12.7.1. Fortify your own Walls! And, Life is a Party!

¹ Philip Hacking; Isaiah; Pg.63

- 3.13. (14) Their sin would **not** be forgiven!!!
 3.13.1. Wow what was happening w/Isaiah's heart NOW?
- 3.14. **Two Rulers!** (15-25)
 3.14.1. Not only is God in control of **nations** but **leaders** also!
- 3.15. (15-19) **Shebna** – a government official, 2nd only to the king.
 3.15.1. He was pro-Egyptian(sought their alliance)
 3.15.2. He used his office for personal gain! (**caution**)
 3.15.3. In taking inventory of **the city's resources**, somebody uncovered his deceit & exposed him.
 3.15.3.1. So, instead of enjoying retirement, security, & a fine burial; he experienced captivity, exile, & a lonely death.²
 3.15.4. He was replaced with Eliakim.
- 3.16. (20-25) **Eliakim** – a trusted man, who would care for the people in Judah.
 3.16.1. **Lovely Titles:**
 3.16.1.1. He was a **Servant!**(serve, not lord it over).
 3.16.1.2. He was like a **Father** to them(protect, provide, lead, love, release, trust).
 3.16.1.3. He could be **trusted** w/authority(**keys**)
 3.16.1.3.1. Of course this reminds us of our responsibility w/the keys we hold, given 1st to Peter, then generally to all disciples (**Mt.16:19; 18:18**).
 3.16.1.4. He was like a **strong peg** in which the nation could hang their burdens.
- 3.16.2. **These are the qualities a leader still needs today!**
 3.16.2.1. Mical & I saw a car in front of us the other day w/3 bumper stickers! [**Jesus was a Liberal – W.ho W.ould J.esus B.omb? – Vote for John Kerry**]
- 3.16.3. But even **Eliakim** would be brought down, because of the countries impending judgment.
- 3.16.4. **Q: So, what titles would be placed upon you? Upon your position?**
 3.16.4.1. Would they be considered “Lovely” or “Ludicrous”?

² Warren Wiersbe; pg.466