

## **PROPHECIES CONCERNING SEVERAL GENTILE NATIONS (Isa. 13-23) – Part 4**

### **Ch. 22 – JERUSALEM INCLUDED AMONG THE NATIONS**

*God holds all world power accountable for national righteousness.*

#### **I. THE CITY REBUKED (22:1-14)**

- A. The city of Jerusalem will be besieged by the Assyrians, but also there will be an ultimate judgment by the Babylonians.
  - 1. It is difficult to know to which event Isaiah refers.
  - 2. The principle, though, is clear: The Southern Kingdom, Judah, was not what it should have been. For a short period, during Hezekiah's and Josiah's good reigns, things were better, but this was only temporary (cf. 2 Kings 18).
- B. 22:4 – Isaiah sees the real spiritual condition of the people, and the city's inevitable fall that is coming.
- C. 22:5-7 – Assyria was assisted in its conquer by confederates from Elam (21:1) and Kir (2 Kings 16:9; Amos 1:5), who, with their chariots and horsemen, marched through the valleys and came to the very gate of Jerusalem (vv. 6-7).
- D. 22:9-11 – Repairs and Military Preparations for the Expected Assyrian Attack:
  - 1. They repaired the breaches in the city walls (22:9).
  - 2. Hezekiah channeled water from the Gihon spring outside the city to the Pool of Siloam by means of a marvelously engineered tunnel (22:9; 2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chron. 32:30).
  - 3. Houses were torn down to fortify the walls (22:10).
  - 4. A reservoir was constructed between the two walls to hold a water supply
  - 5. In all of this, Israel did not look to God, nor did they realize that it was He who had brought all of this upon them (22:11).
- E. 22:14 – “Unbelieving and impenitent, unconcerned and indifferent, the people had passed beyond the limits of divine grace and pardon. This is the most pessimistic note sounded by Isaiah concerning Judah” (Woods, 96).

#### **II. A LEADER REBUKED (22:15-25)**

- A. Shebna was the “steward ... over the house” (22:15), an office instituted by Solomon (1 Kings 4:6). He was an official in Hezekiah's court.
  - 1. The palace administrator evidently grew in scope and stature until it represented one of the highest positions in Judah.
  - 2. Maybe it was comparable to Joseph's role in Egypt (Gen. 45:8).
  - 3. This is Isaiah's only rebuke to a named individual.
  - 4. He was likely a member of that Jewish faction that favored an alliance with Egypt as protection against Assyria.
  - 5. What is believed to be a graven intel of Shebna's tomb has been found and contains “the third longest monumental inscription in archaic Hebrew” (Hailey). It is on display at the British Museum.
- B. “Key of the house of David” (22:22) – “A heavy wooden key carried in a sling upon the shoulder gave the royal steward principal control of access to the

palace and to the king'd presence. Thus, the key is symbolic of the royal authority of the Davidic dynasty which Eliakim would administer. The language provides illuminating background for New Testament portrayals of the authority of the apostles (Mat. 16:19; 18:18) and of Christ (Rev. 3:7-8)" (Woods, 97).

## **Ch. 23 – THE DESTRUCTION & RESTORATION OF TYRE**

### **I. THE DESTRUCTION OF TYRE (23:1-12)**

- A. Tyre and Sidon were cities of Phoenicia on the Mediterranean coast northwest of Palestine.
  - 1. Tyre was actually two communities. One was an island city just off the coast, and the other was a town on the mainland.
  - 2. Tyre was one of antiquity's most important commercial centers.
  - 3. The peoples of Tyre and Sidon (23:2, 4, 12) developed the ancient world's first maritime power with colonies across the Mediterranean in Sicily, Sardinia, Spain and North Africa.
- B. General Outline of this Chapter:
  - 1. Tyre – Desolate, Forgotten, and Mourned (23:1-5)
  - 2. Tyre – Ancient Homeland Doomed to Punishment (23:6-9)
  - 3. Ill Fortune for Phoenicia & Her Colonies (23:10-14)
  - 4. Restoration After 70 Years (23:15-18)
- C. 23:4 – "Tyre has never borne children. When finally slain or destroyed, she will leave nothing permanent; she has provided nothing of a lasting nature, for the gain of commerce itself is of the world and passes away" (Hailey 191).

### **II. THE RESTORATION OF TYRE (23:13-18)**

- A. 23:16 – Tyre is likened to "an old harlot that has been forgotten" and who now goes about the streets playing and singing in an attempt "to revive her business by enticing her former customers" (Hailey 194). This is the pitiable picture of a once-great nation of trade that exalted the material over the spiritual.
  - 1. After Babylon's fall, Tyre did prosper under the dominion of the Persians.
- B. 23:18 – "[T]he vision implicitly anticipates the voluntary conversion of Phoenicians, and in this detail, the verse is Messianic, combining a glimpse of Tyre's ultimate hope with a picture of her nearer future prospect of economic renewal. As to fulfillment, Acts 21:4-6 describes Paul's visit with the Lord's church at Tyre" (Woods, 101).
  - 1. "In the fourth century A.D., Jerome declared that there were many churches in Tyre and that they were quite generous in the support of the gospel" (Jackson, 41).

### **DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:**

- 1. "Sin is a reproach [shame / disgrace] to any people" (Prov. 14:34).
  - a. Sometimes it was the leaders who were sinful, which affected the nation.
  - b. Other times, it was the nation that was sinful while the leaders tried to change.