

## Isaiah 22

- ✓ Valley of Vision or decision is a fairly common phrase in the Old Testament as in Joel 3:9-17 this is definitely not the best place to be! In Isaiah 22:1-2 he is implying a siege, note, we have no concept of this kind of thing, but it was the real weapon of war in ancient days. A city would build large walls and moat so that invaders couldn't get in, but those same walls became a barrier through which no one could get out either, there was no way to run for groceries or water. In this situation you would be sealed off and starved out, the Romans were willing to sit for decades if need be to let you run out of supplies. The results were starvation, disease and cannibalism, see Deuteronomy 28:53-55 and Lamentations 2:19-20. They prepared for a coming siege by tunneling underneath the city of David from Gihon spring to feed into a pool within their walls, Isaiah 22:3-11. King Hezekiah commissions this, over 700-foot-wide, tunnel. Good word on our endeavors, however well thought out they may be, it is God who provides, protects, leads us and not any of our own efforts, Isaiah 22:12-13. Paul quotes these verses in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:32, "If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."" In Isaiah 22<sup>nd</sup> 14 he says, "The LORD Almighty has revealed this in my hearing: "Till your dying day this sin will not be atoned for," says the Lord, the LORD Almighty."
  - ✓ In Isaiah 22:15-25 a guy named Shebna, a court official, is being replaced by a guy named Eliakim. It was a local issue of king's court, but it has implications beyond that particular incident. The tone is that Shebna has made himself out to be something he's not. "I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. Isaiah 22:22", Sound familiar? ""To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. Revelation 3:7". This allusion in Isaiah was not incidental, nothing in the Bible is, but it is key to understanding other points the Holy Spirit makes later on. Remember this is prophet we are hearing from, and, through him, God will reveal and hide things at the same time. It's there but you will have to dig and if you think this is easy or has no need for God to reveal it to you, then it will be gibberish to you, Isaiah 22:23-25.
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## Isaiah 23

- ✓ Tyre was the chief city of Phoenicia. The Phoenicians were very skilled seamen, they traded by sea with the entire known world. If you wanted something shipped over the ocean or wanted to travel by sea to a distant land, the Phoenicians were your "go to" people. Tarshish is an enigmatic place of sorts because no one is sure where it exactly was; it was a place well known for many things especially tin, and, since bronze was made of copper and tin and was one of the harder metals that could be refined, it put Tarshish on the map, Isaiah 23:1-6. Tarshish is thought to either refer to Spain or possibly England, Britannia means "source of tin", we do know that the Phoenicians traded with Britain by the archeological evidence. When God called Jonah to go to Nineveh, he set sail on a Phoenician ship to Tarshish, probably because that is the place that was furthest from where he was supposed to go, the same idea as "a slow boat to China." The city of Tyre was a major power because that was where the money flowed through, Isaiah 23:7-18. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, laid siege to Tyre for 13 years and got nowhere because they still had access to the sea. Tyre moved itself, during that time, offshore one mile to an island that had previously been part of their harbor system. Babylon fell to the Persians 100 years later, the Persians fell to Greeks; the leader of the Greeks, Alexander the Great, made his name by conquering Tyre, he had his engineers build a causeway out to the island city and took it over. Ezekiel predicted this specifically, Ezekiel 26:1-6.
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## Isaiah 24

- ✓ Up until this point, Isaiah has been going from nation to nation talking about what would happen to them. For the next four chapters, Isaiah is going to prophesy about the world, not just a group of nations, being turned upside down. Some scholars call this section the little apocalypse. What will it look like after the Tribulation?, Isaiah 24:1. This is the picture very simply, what a picture!, Isaiah 24:2-6. Plan accordingly! God is owner of it all and we are renters and tenants, He's coming to evict because we have broken our lease now for 7 thousand years. He doesn't just throw words around; He says what He means and means what He says. Of the two modes of cleansing that God employs is, one is water, has God cleansed the earth with water? The flood of Noah. The other is fire, fire kills all the bugs and destroys all the rot. Everything is awaiting this cleansing, note 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:10, Matthew 3:12, Malachi 4:1, Isaiah 66:24, Jeremiah 7:20, Matthew 13:41-42 and Mark 9:43-48. Isaiah 24:7-13 doesn't leave much to the imagination!
- ✓ Finally, justice is prevailing and will be a cause for celebration, Isaiah 24:14-15. "The pit" probably referring to the bottomless one that the Revelation speaks of, at the center of the earth, Isaiah 24:16-18. Does someone crawl out of the bottomless pit in the Bible? The beast does! The beast has two origins: physically from the Gentiles but spiritually from the pit, Revelation 11:7; 13:1. The "inhabitant of the earth" Revelation calls them "earth dwellers," Isaiah 24:17. These people, the Bible says, are headed for destruction. Are you an earth dweller?, note Revelation 3:10, 6:10, 11:10 and 13:14. An "earth dweller" in these cases is someone whose real home is here and not heaven, their heart is here, their lives are here. Isaiah 24:18-20 is very bad news for those who have their hearts set on this place. What in the world? Are there any hosts in heaven who need to be punished?, Isaiah 24:21-23 with Revelation 12:3-4. Revelation 12:7-9 has the key phrase "in heaven". The Bible maintains that a Jewish man who is also God will one day rule the world from Jerusalem, Isaiah 24:23.

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