

"SHEBNA GUILLOTINED"

Isaiah 22 - 23

INTRODUCTION:

The "Live Issue" -- entitled the Burden invades the mind of the Prophet in reference to Jerusalem and Tyre.

Woman looked into troubled face. "Did you ever notice, that when the Lord told the discouraged fishermen to cast their nets again, it was right in the same old place where they had caught nothing?" We get discouraged -- if only we could get off to some new place! Be easier - if we could be somebody else. Same old net -- same pond! Try again -- Faith to press on. Chapters of Isaiah, seem dry but let net down again and catch precious truth.

- I. Shops Close For 70 Years - Chapter 23.
- II. Sorrow In The Valley - 22:1.
- III. Shebna's Guillotined - 22:15-25.

I. Shops Close For 70 Years - 23:1.

Outline 23 first.

Verse 1-14 - Tyre - Destruction by Nebuchadnezzar.

120 Years in advance of accomplishment.

Great prosperity - Babylon not doing so well at this time, therefore the event prophesied was highly improbable.

Sea port town.

Verse 5 - Egypt - Traded with - riches of the sea - Products from Nile - Become the mart of the nations.

Fall of any mercantile center cause for distress.

Merchant city - commerce - world glory.

Verse 9 - Why? Who purposed?

Pride - Jehovah.

Verse 15-17 - Resurrection in 70 years.

City of trade rebuilt.

Verse 18 - Ref. to early conversion of Tyre to Christianity.

Matt. 11:21.

Acts 21:3-4.

## II. Sorrow In The Valley - 22:1-14

Verse 1 - "Valley of Vision" - Desert and Sea. 21.

Jerusalem - Called valley - Mountains around.

Filled with activity, business, pleasure -- top of their houses to observe and watch enemy. (Roof - recreation, entertainment.)

Good view of the town.

Verse 2 - Why such fright?

Slain - fear - blockade - Die of privations.

Verse 3 - Flight of Rulers - Regard resistance as vain.

Verse 4 - Records his Feelings - Grief - Upon his heart.

Not want to proclaim his sorrow, bids those that are about him to look away.

Why this grief? He had walked barefoot to predict this trouble, now the trouble has arrived.

Well might we express some sorrow occasionally, so many cold, impenitent, tearless eyes in the world.

Current world history - leaders distracted - no answer for the situation.

Winston Churchill -- "Our problems are beyond us". Dilemma in his time.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld -- "Unless the world has a spiritual rebirth within the next few years, civilization is doomed!"

We take business as usual - pleasure as usual. Close our eyes to reality. Refuse the lessons of history.

Critical time in history and our plans are not in the purposes of God.

Verse 5 - Day of Trouble.

Vision of battering rams breaking down the walls, Jerusalem filled with chariots,  
famine - men die not by the sword but starvation.

A day of trouble for them! But what of our day of trouble?

1945 1st Atom Bomb exploded over New Mexico. The light of a thousand suns - one  
scientist wept as he exclaimed "My God, we have created Hell."

If that small bomb was thought of as Hell what must be said of today's nuclear  
power.

Before the day in 1945 some one is quoted as saying "if man ever learned to split  
the atom, the first thing that he would make would be a bomb".

This is judgment upon human nature. Take elements of universe and turn into  
destruction.

H. H. Hobbs in speaking with a SAC officer - Bomb load is classified but this much  
information "If reproduce bomb load on one plane in terms of World War II Bombs, it  
would require a freight train 5,000 miles long - reaching from San Francisco to Tokyo."

Could you stand the knowledge of what several of those planes carry in the way of  
destruction?

Estimated that if nuclear war between nations should break out -- 1st 24 hours  
300 million people would perish in U. S. and Europe.

Ours is a day of trouble. Men ought to cry out to God in mercy and not go  
stumbling on their way in sinful rebellion. Only God can save us in this terrible  
hour.

Verse 6-7 - Enemies invade. Elam - Persians.

Verse 8 - Covering - protection to country side - walled city - shelter.

Improved their advantage - inspected their armour - Solomon built for security.

I K. 10:17.

Verse 9 - Inspected Fortifications - Breaks in the walls. Decay. Lack of repair.

Make sure the water.

Verse 10 - Count of Houses - Public Safety.

Private houses torn down and the material used to repair the wall.

Verse 11 - Water for security - Away from enemy.

Preparation - not looked to God for protection which they should have done. Human hands had not made the pool.

Verse 12 - (Foretelling) the calamity - Day of trouble. Was really a call for repentance.

Suggestion for Godly sorrow - Weeping, mourning. Sackcloth garments expressing Godly sorrow.

Does he find this? NO.

Verse 13 - Type of Living - Plain.

They have fixed their security now they mocked the Prophet and made just of dying.

(Ridiculed) - Prophets doctrine of life and the future state beyond death.

Pleasure - feasting - Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die.

This is life - (all we have), nothing to be feared beyond or hoped for - just enjoy all the pleasure.

Sorry for the soul with this philosophy.

(Paul) - I Co. 15 - No resurrection, if Heaven is an old fogy idea and Hell needs to be taken out future punishment. "How foolish I myself have been, I have thrown away my life without the slightest compensation."

Grave moment in history and the people should have gone to their knees in repentance. "Let us eat and drink..."

We have our supplies, arms, defenses and drawn their fears in riotous living - what is wrong with the Preacher?

Modern parallel - men seek to disprove God, destroy the Bible.

Casseus Clay last Wednesday in Norfolk made a few statements and felt he had completed disproved the Bible and whittled Jesus down to the size of Abraham. He preached a self style social order of humanism. Black men must create a paradise of their own.

A day of trouble - World War I - make safe for Democracy. World War II - For Freedom. We have a war-fed economy. World's economy would collapse if defense spending suddenly withdrawn.

What are we doing in such a situation.? Blind - one sure thing we are not on our knees - like a 4th July Holiday. Slaying oxen eating - drinking.

Verse 14 - God displeased - Jehovah whispered in my ear.

Iniquity not purged - you shall go out of this life with that iniquity still upon you and awaiting another death than that which all suffer.

Jesus -- "If ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins".

Unpardonable sin - not repent - 2nd death.

Unless we heed the words of the Prophet we too will fall as an idolatrous nation.

"Ephraim is joined to his idols: Let him alone."

How long will God for bear with us? They had crossed that invisible line -- now, day of wrath.

Destruction came from the Babylonians many years later (century) - not by Assyrians.

Isaiah not mistaken about his prophecy and God's word had not failed.

Answer found - II K. 19:19. Hezekiah prayed and angel of death destroyed Assyrian Army. It took action of God to do this: Day of trouble delayed.

Search your own heart, turn from your rebellious ways. We need a rebirth of dedication to God!

### III. Shebna Guillotined 22:15-25.

Verse 15 - Name not found else where.

Replacement of self-seeking man - grasping at more than they can manage.

"Steward" - Treasurer - Important office - over the house of the King.

Verse 16 - What hast thou here? What business or right - justification is hewing out a large tomb? Actually among Kings.

Verse 17 - Put you in wide far-off country.

Obscurity - As Leprosy.

Verse 18-19 - Ball - Roll.

Die in shame - Dust to be dishonored - as in the case of the Resurrection (sown - raised).

Nothing said of his parentage, father or mother. Shebna's doom. "Without God and without hope" as to what comes after death.

Jer. 25:32-33.

Not "gathered" - tender consolation to his people. Body, refusal of burial; soul, refusal of lamentation; spirit, refusal of gathering.

Shebna - awful future awaiting him after death. Satan has been his Master, servant of. Cut off.

Verse 20 - Eliakim - He is God's servant.

Verse 21 - Second coming of Christ.

Rule - government - badge of power. Preferment in God's Book.

Verse 22 - Key - His power in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matt. 16:19. "And I will give unto Thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: And whatsoever Thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven: And whatsoever Thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven."

Rev. 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the Key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth."

Rev. 20:1-3 - Key - bottomless pit.

Very clear that Peter was not given the key - therefore, the Pope no "Successor of Peter".

Verse 23 - He shall have it for lasting honour.

Verse 24 - Blessing upon his followers - family.

Verse 25 - Shebna's Fall.

Messiah come - Eliakim a Type.

One of The Answers to our day of Trouble - Godly Mothers!

This is Mother's Day!

What a Blessing - Ever The 1<sup>st</sup> Mother.

Home that has Bad Mother - is hopeless - though the Husband be an angel!

Home that has Bad Husband - is safe if the Mother is Godly!

Children are what Mother Makes Them -

Mother - is Legislator of the household,

" judge in love -

" Educator

" willing to bear her child's blame "

Revered Member told me yesterday - His father died in his 30<sup>th</sup> - & Mother had to raise the boys on the farm. He said, "if a man has a christian mother he is well on his way to success in this life; if not he will have a hard time."