

ISAIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Isaiah chapter 21 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Tonight we will finish up this section of judgments that came upon the nations around Jerusalem, Gentile nations, and this section covers Isaiah chapter 13 through Isaiah chapter 23. There is a section that will deal with Jerusalem in Isaiah chapter 22, but for the most part this is judgment against these Gentile nations. In Isaiah chapter 21 we will see God pronounce judgment upon Babylon, Edom or Dumah and Arabia.

I realize that for many this is a tough section. In fact, many pastors don't even go through these passages, which is very sad. But if you don't go verse by verse through the Bible why would you focus on these prophecies of judgment or even the book of Leviticus? You wouldn't. But God has placed this in His Word and thus, it is important for us to not only read these verses but study them. And God, by His Spirit will show us what we need to learn as we continue to go through this section that deals with the judgment of the Gentile nations. With that as our background, let's begin reading in Isaiah chapter 21 starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

ISAIAH 21**VERSES 1-2**

1. Now we are not told that this is a prophecy against Babylon in these verses. In fact, we are not told that until we get to verse 9 that Babylon is the nation spoken of. And this has a near term fulfillment and a long term fulfillment as we will see as we get to verse 9.

2. Isaiah starts out by saying that this is “**The burden against the Wilderness of the Sea.**”

What does that mean? Some say that it is showing how Babylon has nothing to offer. A desert or wilderness can't sustain life nor can the sea with its salt water. It sounds good but I don't think that is what it means.

Babylon was in the midst of the wilderness but within that area was the Euphrates River as well as many lakes and marshes. Also we see that Babylon was adjacent to the Persian Gulf on its southeastern borders. As Poole points out, “And the title of *the sea* might well be given to the waters of Babylon, because of the great plenty and multitude of them . . . the name of *sea* being given by the Hebrews to ever great collection of waters.”

3. Also keep in mind that the Assyrians were the power at this time, Babylon was on the rise but had not attained world domination as yet. What is interesting is that Isaiah speaks of the fall of Babylon by two nations that were nothing. Elam, or Persia, and Media or the Medes were just little powers at this time. Media was still a nomadic group of people cruising through the desert. And yet God says that these two nations will bring Babylon down, not the powerful Assyrians!

In the book of Daniel the Babylonian Empire is spoken of as the head of gold of this multi-metallic image that King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of. It truly was the greatest of the world empires. The Gentile world empires that would succeed Babylon were going to be inferior to this mighty empire.

And the nation that would rise up against Babylon was Elam or Persia and Media or the Medes like I have said. This next empire was represented as the chest and arms of silver spoken of in Daniel chapter 2.

Now I think we read this and we don't think much about it. But what if I told you that Maniwoc would rise up and become the leader of the world? You would call the men in white coats to take me away, you would think I was nuts. And yet, when God spoke those words to Isaiah it was just as farfetched and yet it all came to pass, Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians.

VERSES 3-10

1. As you read this it seems like Isaiah is saying that when the Lord gave him this vision he couldn't sleep. That is possible. But it could be a picture of the Babylonians and their leader, King Belshazzar. The night that Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians King Belshazzar was throwing a feast with drinking and mocking the God of Israel. It wasn't that they were unaware of the Medes and the Persians being outside the walls of the city but they felt secure because their walls were so thick that no one could penetrate them, or so they thought!

Babylon was an impressive fortress. The city itself was 15 square miles with an outer wall extending the entire city that was 350 feet high. Then they had every 100 feet or so watch towers that extended another 100 feet into the air.

This outer wall was very impressive, not like a chain-link fence. It was 88 feet thick and they would have chariot races on the top of the wall, 6 abreast. Then there was a moat between the outer wall and the smaller inner wall. And running through the center of the city was the Euphrates River which supplied water which they needed to survive if they were under attack. They were also able to grow their own food within the city itself. So they had no fear of any enemy!

As this feast was going on and the mocking of the God of Israel continued, it was at this point that Belshazzar the King saw the handwriting on the wall, his time was up! In Daniel 5:6 we are told the response the King had to this handwriting on the wall, **“Then the king’s countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.”** That is the King James Version and it is saying that he was so nervous that his knees were knocking against themselves. We might say that he was shaking in his boots!

Daniel is called to come in and read this handwriting on the wall because no one knew what it meant, no one could read it even though the King knew it was bad. And Daniel comes in and basically tells the King that he has been weighed in the balances of God and has come up short. Because of that this very night he will die and his kingdom captured. So now, in the middle of this party they arose to try and defend themselves, gathering their wood shields and placing oil on them for battle. But it was too little too late! The Medes and the Persians had already entered the city.

The Persian army, led by Ugbaru came up with a plan to enter the gates of Babylon. They divided the army in two, sending one part to be stationed in the north and the other in the south. Then, as the northern army diverted the Euphrates River by digging a canal for the river to flow into a near-by lake, which caused the water levels to drop south of this canal. That allowed the southern army to enter the gates of the city from which the river flowed, and for some reason, maybe because the Babylonian soldiers were drunk, these gates were not locked, and this army was able to walk in and conquer the city with very little resistance. This overthrow took place on October 12, 539 B. C.

Interestingly enough over 150 years before this event took place Isaiah describes it like he was an eyewitness of the event. He even named Cyrus as the leader of this Medo-Persian army. In Isaiah 45:1-6 we read, **“Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held - To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: ‘I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the Lord, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.”** God spoke it and it came to pass!

2. In verse 6 and on we see the Lord telling Isaiah to set a watchman on the wall and let him describe what is happening. And as the watchman watches he does not see the enemy enter over the walls of Babylon but he sees their destruction. How can that be?

Like I have said, Cyrus had his troops divert the Euphrates River upstream and they were able to enter on the river bed, under the gates. And the city was so massive that by the time word spread, it was too late! Thus, the cry, **“Babylon is fallen, is fallen!”**

3. That phase should sound familiar to us because we read of this in Revelation 18:2 where we are told, **“And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”** At the end of the Tribulation Period, before the Lord returns we see religious Babylon and commercial Babylon destroyed, suddenly and without warning just as we saw with the fall of Babylon in Daniel’s day! Here in Revelation 18:2 we see the fall of commercial Babylon. In Revelation chapter 17 we see the fall of religious Babylon.

Now verse 10 can seem a little confusing and I think the Amplified Bible makes this verse a little easier to understand. It says, **“O you my threshed and winnowed ones [my own people the Jews, who must be trodden down by Babylon], that which I have heard from the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, I have [joyfully] announced to you [Babylon is to fall]!”**

Today Babylon is not a world power yet but when it rises up it will oppress God’s people for a time, but then they will be destroyed. Isaiah saw the liberation of the Jewish captives under the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia. You see, God called Cyrus by name over 150 years before he was even born! And tradition tells us that when they defeated the Babylonians Daniel went out to meet Cyrus and showed him the scroll of Isaiah which spoke of Cyrus long before he was even born. Cyrus was so impressed with the God of Israel that he signed a decree to let them return home, and under the leadership of Joshua and Zerubbabel just under 50,000 returned home in 536 B. C. out of the 2 to 3 million or so in captivity.

So what we see here in Isaiah was fulfilled when Babylon fell and it will be fulfilled with religious and commercial Babylon fall at the end of the Tribulation Period!

VERSES 11-12

1. This is a judgment against Edom, the descendants of Esau. Dumah is Edom and this word “**Dumah**” means “silence.” Their cry is how long will this oppression occur, how long will it remain night? Yes there will be a break from the oppression but night will come again. And that is what we see as the power of the Assyrians was removed by the Babylonians. And the Edomites had a time of peace, a time of rest, but the Babylonians would then come against them, and it became night again.

And as you read these verses it does seem like God is not really answering them, that He is silent to them. Why is that? Because they are not looking to God to help them they just want answers. “How much more darkness are we going to have to endure?” But there is no real answer to that question.

That you might say is the bad news. But let me tell you some good news. God will answer those who are seeking Him; He does not hide Himself from them. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. If you don't you will be like the world, fearful of what is happening, wanting to know what to do but not looking to the one who truly has the answers, the Lord! Don't be like the Edomites because in their refusal to turn to God by 70 A. D. they had disappeared!

VERSES 13-17

1. This next judgment is against Arabia and you might say that the sun is setting on this nation. The Assyrians will come under the leadership of Sargon their King and take Arabia. And this occurred within 1 year of this prophecy, Kedar, which was a powerful Arabian tribe was taken captive.

Now as the people of Arabia began to flee for their lives they head to the back roads and small towns, like Tema for safety. Here we see the people of Tema coming out with food and water to help these refugees.

Why did the sun set on this nation? Because there is no salvation, there is no light for those who reject God and look to other god's or human ideas for solutions. But for those that are of the Kingdom of God, the sun will never set. Why is that? Because it is the Son of God we rest in and His light will never go out!

ISAIAH 22

VERSES 1-4

1. First of all we no longer see judgment upon the pagan nations that surrounded Jerusalem but upon Jerusalem itself. Why is that? Is this not where the people of God were dwelling? Of course this was the place where God's people were dwelling, the problem was that their behavior, the things that they were doing, the idolatrous worship they were involved with was no different than the pagan nations that surrounded them. Thus, God is going to judge them for this. God's people should have known better and thus, they are more accountable because more light was given to them.

Wolf sums it up like this, "It is strange to find a prophecy against Judah and Jerusalem in a section that deals with the nations. But since Judah had chosen to behave like her neighbors and to desert the Lord, she deserved to be judged."

2. Notice the opening line, “**The burden [oracle or prophecy] against the Valley of Vision.**”

That is interesting because Jerusalem is set upon a hill, Mount Zion. Thus, this place that was lifted up high because of the Lord is now brought low because they have turned from God, they are in a valley. This place that had great vision as they walked with God now could not see. Even the people of God who are not walking with Him have no direction because they are not looking to the one who will guide them, light their path, help them to see! In fact, like the world, they are not living for the Lord, they are living for the weekend or whatever and their actions reflect that. That is why judgment had come upon them; they refused to turn back to God.

3. Now as you read through this portion of Scripture it is confusing. Some feel this is speaking of the Assyrian invasion, others say it is the Babylonian invasion and some feel that both are mentioned here. I tend to see this looking ahead into the future, some 150 years when the Babylonians came in. I don't see the Assyrians doing that, coming into Jerusalem and killing the Jews. In fact we see that in Hezekiah's day not one arrow flew into the city but God sent His angel and 185,000 Assyrian soldiers were killed in one night and the rest fled back home. So I tend to see this as the Babylonian invasion that is some 150 years down the road.

4. As you read through verses 2-4 you see them first on their housetops looking at the Babylonian army coming. The once festive city is being filled with victims from this battle. Many are trying to flee. And as Isaiah sees the destruction of his people he weeps over what is coming. It was bad enough that the other nations had fallen into judgment but now these were Isaiah's own people, and he couldn't take it. To see the Jews refuse to repent of their sins and that judgment was going to come upon them was too much for him to handle.

5. Now in verse 2 what does it mean that **“Your slain men are not slain with the sword”**? It can mean that they were starving to death as the Babylonians cut off their food supply. Not only that but some of the rulers tried to escape and they did not make it. Do we see that with the Babylonian invasion? Yes we do!

In II Kings 25:4-7 we are told what happened as the city walls were breached, **“Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king’s garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king went by way of the plain. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.”** So we do see this played out in the Babylonian invasion against Jerusalem.

VERSES 5-7

1. Now as you read this you will see that it is not the Babylonians that have brought his upon Jerusalem. I realize that may be hard to swallow but listen again to what is said in verse 5, **“For it is a day of trouble and treading down and perplexity by the Lord GOD of hosts.”** You see, God was bringing judgment upon them and the instrument He used was the Babylonians.

Why are Elam and Kir mentioned in this invasion in verse 6? Elam and Kir are the southern and northern units of the Babylonian army. And they filled the land with chariots and men as they came towards the gate of the city of Jerusalem.

2. What are the people of Jerusalem going to do as the Babylonians prepare to do battle against them? What will God do for His people? We don't have to guess because Isaiah tells us. Let's read on and see what happens.

VERSES 8-14

1. Why did God remove His protection from His people? The reason is simple, instead of looking to the Lord for protection they **“looked in that day to the armor of the House of the Forest”** for protection. They are making their plans to defeat this enemy; they were going to do it in their might instead of trusting in the Lord, resting in Him, returning to Him! When Jerusalem was faced with this subsequent attack, they prepared the city for battle and for siege, strengthening the wall of the city and making sure there was adequate water for a siege. But they did not do the most important thing, come before the Lord with their problems!

Now some feel that verse 11, which says, **“You also made a reservoir between the two walls, For the water of the old pool.”** is speaking of the Assyrian invasion and that Hezekiah made a water supply into the city by connecting the Spring of Gihon, which was outside the city, to the Pool of Siloam, which was inside the city walls.

This tunnel is some 1,777 feet long, cut through solid rock. Now did Hezekiah turn from God? Yes and no. Initially he gave into their demands and sent tribute money to them. But after a while that was not enough, and the Assyrians wanted more, they wanted the land, and at this point Hezekiah turns to God to deliver them from this situation, and He does!

It does seem to fit but it speaks of a reservoir or a ditch to collect water and not necessarily a tunnel. And again, as you look at the Assyrian attack on Jerusalem, they did not fire an arrow into the city. Yes they captured cities outside of Jerusalem but not Jerusalem itself. So I think this fits the Babylonian attack better.

2. Now when they see that their efforts, their plans are not going to work, Babylon is way too strong for them, they come to this fatalistic attitude and say, “**Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!**” Isaiah 22:13d. This is not something that we see with the Assyrian attack.

3. And notice what God says about all of this, “**Surely for this iniquity there will be no atonement for you.**” Isaiah 22:14b. Why is that? Because there is no atonement for the person who refuses to come to the Lord! Jerusalem was doing everything except the essential thing they had to do to prepare for the attack, and because they rejected the Lord, there would be no atonement for them.

VERSES 15-19

1. Shebna was a servant of King Hezekiah, both a steward and a scribe (Isaiah 22:15, 1 Kings 18:18, Isaiah 37:2). So Shebna was in charge of the treasury under Hezekiah. But Shebna was not a godly man; he was not even a Jew, probably an Egyptian. And he was embezzling money from the treasury. And he took that money and used it to build himself a beautiful sepulcher so that when he dies he will be remembered.

Keep in mind that Isaiah had prophesied that the people of Judah and Jerusalem would be carried away into exile, but Shebna didn't believe it. He built this elaborate tomb to himself in Jerusalem, as if to say, "I will never be carried away in exile. I am so certain that I will die here that I will build my tomb here."

We don't know what happened with Shebna but according to what Isaiah tells us he is carried away captive and there would be no glory for him. All that he tried to do was the problem. Not seeking God, just doing it on his own and in the end he was left with nothing! Shebna sought honor and glory, but would never find it. Instead, the LORD would make certain that he was never even buried in his prestigious, expensive tomb, but would die in exile instead. And I believe that is exactly what happened to him.

VERSES 20-25

1. Taking the place of Shebna will be Eliakim. God says that this man is "**My servant**" and the Lord will strengthen him and use him. In regards to Shebna, he was self-serving, Eliakim will be God fearing! Also keep in mind that this is not the puppet king established by Pharaoh spoken of in II Kings 23:34, this Eliakim is the son of Hilkiah and you can read of him in passages like II Kings 18:18 and Isaiah 36:3 as well as here in Isaiah.

2. Now these words here in Isaiah 22:22 that are speaking of the key to the house of David, "**So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open**" are spoken by Jesus in Revelation 3:7 as He wrote to the church of Philadelphia.

What is the point? Eliakim was the steward over King Hezekiah's household. He was able to open and shut the doors that lead into the treasures of the King. So Eliakim is a type of Jesus Christ, the faithful steward of the kingdom.

And Jesus is speaking of allowing those into the kingdom He wants and keeping out those whom He wants. The holy and true God opens the doors of both the kingdom of God and of Hades. Also, the one who judges the spiritual life of the church also examines our own hearts. You see, not only the doors of Heaven and Hell but the doors in our own lives Jesus has the authority to open and shut and we need to allow Him to! Now if Eliakim is a type of Christ, then Shebna could be a type of the antichrist who is only interested in his own glory and he will be wiped out one day!

3. In verses 23-25 we see the beautiful picture of Jesus Christ. From Him sitting upon the throne in verse 23, to all the glory of the Father that we see in Christ in verse 24, to all our sins that were placed on Jesus as He hung on that cross. In a sense He is that peg you might say in verse 25.

You see, the sins of the world were hung on the cross of Calvary and as Christ paid that penalty for our sins and was cut down, the burden of our sins was lifted from us. Paul put it like this in Colossians 2:13-14, **“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”**

That is a secure peg in which we can rest our lives upon, hang our lives upon, Jesus is that peg and thus, we depend totally upon Him and if we do we are secure! It is as Clarke wrote, this “has been understood as the dependence of all souls, of all capacities, from the lowest in intellect to the most exalted, on the Lord Jesus, as the only Saviour of all lost human spirits.” Amen to that!

ISAIAH 23

VERSES 1-5

1. Now we see the burden or judgment against Tyre, which is one of two Phoenician city ports that were also strongholds. To the north of Israel, Tyre was the leading city of Phoenicia, the great maritime power of the ancient world. The other one, Tyre’s sister city, was Sidon, located about 30 miles north of Tyre, and not as wealthy as Tyre. This area today is known as Lebanon.

Now the Phoenician’s were a seafaring people and established settlements along the Mediterranean coast. No one could match the seafaring ability of the Phoenicians and thus they used this ability to do their commerce by sea, buying and selling and transporting goods. They traveled from the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea to Egypt, Spain, Great Britain, and some feel they even traveled farther.

The city of Tyre, built along the Mediterranean coast, had a wall around it that extended into the Mediterranean Sea. Thus, the only way you could get into the city was through their harbor. But since they had such a powerful navy, they were very secure. The original city of Tyre was on the mainland and then some 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile off shore was an island that had a temple on it so they could worship their gods.

Now the Babylonians, under the leadership of their King, Nebuchadnezzar, wanted to take this sea coast city, and it took him some 13 years to break down the walls of Tyre. And then, in 572 B. C., as the walls came down, the Babylonians found that most of the people and the city itself were moved to this island out in the Mediterranean Sea, some 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile. As mad as Nebuchadnezzar was over this he also realized that he could not outsmart the Phoenicians in the sea, so he gave up.

And for the most part the city was left for a while until 332 B. C. when Alexander the Great, the head of the Grecian Empire, sought to take this city, which was now located off shore. He first tried an assault by sea, but he couldn't match up to the Phoenicians ability and changed his military tactics.

He then began to take the rocks, the timber, the pottery, and-so-on, all the ruins of the city of Tyre from the mainland, and he began to build a causeway out to the island. They even scraped the dirt from the city to build this causeway. And as his men completed this task, they were able to defeat the Phoenicians, destroy the city and leave it barren. Nothing was left!

In Ezekiel chapter 26 we are also told of the destruction of Tyre and how it would be a place for fisherman to dry their nets. As Archaeologists tried to locate this ancient city they found this causeway and soon realized it was not a part of the natural landscape. That this causeway was built by man. They found in this causeway some of the timber, broken pottery, and-so-on that they used to build it. And as they looked at this island, they remembered what the Bible had said would be the fate of this city, and to their surprise, like the Bible said, the fishermen were drying their nets on this causeway. They had indeed found the ancient city of Tyre; it was right before their eyes.

Listen to what Ezekiel tells us, “Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up. And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,’ says the Lord God; ‘it shall become plunder for the nations. Also her daughter villages which are in the fields shall be slain by the sword. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.’ For thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I will bring against Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, with chariots, and with horsemen, and an army with many people. He will slay with the sword your daughter villages in the fields; he will heap up a siege mound against you, build a wall against you, and raise a defense against you. He will direct his battering rams against your walls, and with his axes he will break down your towers. Because of the abundance of his horses, their dust will cover you; your walls will shake at the noise of the horsemen, the wagons, and the chariots, when he enters your gates, as men enter a city that has been breached. With the hooves of his horses he will trample all your streets; he will slay your people by the sword, and your strong pillars will fall to the ground. They will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise; they will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water. I will put an end to the sound of your songs, and the sound of your harps shall be heard no more. I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken,’ says the Lord God. Thus says the Lord God to Tyre: ‘Will the coastlands not shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded cry, when slaughter is made in the midst

of you? Then all the princes of the sea will come down from their thrones, lay aside their robes, and take off their embroidered garments; they will clothe themselves with trembling; they will sit on the ground, tremble every moment, and be astonished at you. And they will take up a lamentation for you, and say to you: “How you have perished, O one inhabited by seafaring men, O renowned city, Who was strong at sea, She and her inhabitants, Who caused their terror to be on all her inhabitants! Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your fall; Yes, the coastlands by the sea are troubled at your departure.” For thus says the Lord God: ‘When I make you a desolate city, like cities that are not inhabited, when I bring the deep upon you, and great waters cover you, then I will bring you down with those who descend into the Pit, to the people of old, and I will make you dwell in the lowest part of the earth, in places desolate from antiquity, with those who go down to the Pit, so that you may never be inhabited; and I shall establish glory in the land of the living. I will make you a terror, and you shall be no more; though you are sought for, you will never be found again,’ says the Lord God.” Ezekiel 26:3-21.

The predictions of the destruction of Tyre, the details that have been given, are astounding! In fact, Peter Stoner, in his book, *Science Speaks*, says that the probability of these things happening by a random chance occurrence is 1 in 400 million! And that drives the critiques of the Bible crazy. They can't understand how this can be. But for the Christian who believes the Bible is the Word of God and that God is omniscient or all-knowing, this is not hard for us to believe, it is nothing for God to know the beginning from the end!

Now in this section you have both the Babylonian invasion of Tyre and the Grecian invasion of Tyre. As you read these verses you see that in this judgment God says that Tyre is going to be flattened - a flat Tyre you might say! They are not going to be spared - no spare Tyre you might say! But this was not fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. In fact, it would not be fulfilled for another 243 years or so. You see, like I have said, in 332 B. C., Alexander the Great came sweeping across the land with the intention of conquering the whole known world, which he did and he destroyed the people of Tyre, the ones that had moved out to the island. He built this causeway out to the island and overpowered the people of Tyre.

Now if you go to this area today all you will find is a small fishing village that uses this causeway that Alexander the Great had made, to dry their fishing nets upon. It is just as verse 5 and verse 14 says! The strange thing is, the location of this city is ideal to flourish as a big city; it should have been rebuilt again. It has been estimated that the water supply they have in this area, fresh water, is between 10,000 to 1 million gallons of water per day! But, as verse 14 says, **“I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken,” says the Lord GOD.**

God declared it, and we see it, and the skeptics are going crazy trying to figure out how this can be! But we have no problem understanding this, because the creator of heaven and earth, knows the future as if were the present, and He declares it to us with 100% accuracy! Awesome prophecy, don't you just love it?

2. As we open up this section, in verse one we see that their navy was out and while they were gone their city fell. As they were returning home and reached Cyprus, which was about 150 miles northwest of Tyre, they got the disturbing news. It was not a time to rejoice over the money, the profit they had made buying and selling goods from Egypt to Great Britain, it was a time to wail over their loss.

3. Keep in mind that the Nile River would transport rich, fertile soil when it overflowed its banks and Egypt was known as the breadbasket of the Mediterranean. I think that is what is referred to in verse 3 with the word “**Shihor**” because it means “black” and I think that is just referring to this rich soil of Egypt!

4. We also need to keep in mind that Egypt depended upon Tyre for transporting their grain, but now that was not going to happen and the Egyptians would feel this in their pocketbooks, it would affect their way of life. That is why it says in verse 5, “**When the report comes to Egypt, [of the destruction of Tyre], They also will be in agony at the report of Tyre.**”

VERSES 6-9

1. Was it their wealth, their prosperity that brought Tyre down? No, it was their pride! Look at verse 9 once again and you will see what I mean. Isaiah says, “**The LORD of hosts has purposed it, To bring to dishonor the pride of all glory, And to bring into contempt all the honorable of the earth.**”

Pride will bring a people and a nation down because pride says, “Look at what I have done” instead of “Look at what God has done!” Since it is football season let me show you what pride can do, how it can not only hurt you but your team. We are told,

Danny Trevathan, a second-year Denver Broncos linebacker from Kentucky, intercepted a Joe Flacco pass late in his team’s season opener against the Baltimore Ravens and had nothing but clear sailing to the end zone. He picked off the ball at the 30, was free at the 20 and had the rest of the Ravens behind him at the 10. Trevathan’s first NFL touchdown was easy as any and would have put Denver up 49-17 on the defending Super Bowl champions.

But before crossing into the end zone, Trevathan opted for the hot-dog route and dropped the ball like he was Kanye dropping a mic, as if scoring his first NFL touchdown was no big deal. It wasn’t, because he didn’t.

Since Trevathan dropped the ball before crossing the plane , there was no touchdown. And because no one recovered the ball in the field of play, Baltimore got possession back on its own 20-yard line. Trevathan’s first brush with NFL glory instead turned into his Leon Lett moment. [He did the same thing in the Super Bowl].

“It was a dumb play in retrospect,” Trevathan said after the game, per USA TODAY Sports’ Lindsay H. Jones. “It’s not going to happen again. I was just so in the moment. It was kind of selfish of me. I’m growing from it, and I’m not going to let nobody stop me from getting better.”

Trevathan, who said he'll run through the end zone and hand the ball to a fan if there's a next time, was yelled at by Broncos defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio in a clip that was shown on television multiple times. His error eventually led to a Ravens touchdown. What should have been an insurmountable 49-17 lead instead turned into a closer 42-24 game. Worst of all, starting linebacker Wesley Woodyard was injured on the play trying to pick up Trevathan's forgotten football. In Trevathan's lone stroke of good luck for the night, Woodyard's injury appeared minor and he was back in the game later in the fourth quarter.

- <http://ftw.usatoday.com/2013/09/broncos-drop-ball-endzone-danny-trevathan/>

2. There are not a lot of things that God hates but pride is one of them. Proverbs 6:16-19 says, **“These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”**

Pretty broad list when you think about it and God *HATES* these things! Make no mistake about it; God holds our very lives in His hand. That is what Paul tells us in Acts 17:25, that God **“... gives to all life, breath, and all things.”** In understanding that all we have comes from God it doesn't leave too much room for pride to grow in us! When we lose sight of that then it is all about us or as Jennings said, “Pride, pride, pride, is that basic sin to which God is ever opposed, and man is ever expressing.” How true a statement that is!

VERSES 10-14

1. Keep in mind that at the time Isaiah wrote this the Babylonians were no threat to anyone. In fact the Assyrians, who were the world power at this time, attacked and defeated the Babylonians. But as Isaiah also tells us Assyria will attack Tyre and so will Babylon, they will destroy the city on the main land and the Greek Empire under the leadership of Alexander the Great will defeat the island nation!

VERSES 15-16

1. As we have talked about the city of Tyre, the mainland, it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 572 B. C., and for 70 years they were not much of a threat to anyone, rebuilding their city offshore.

And even after those 70 years, Tyre and its people never attained the power it once had. But God is gracious and merciful and He says that after those 70 years Tyre will be remembered again. But eventually, this city located on an island was going to be destroyed in 332 B. C. by the armies of Alexander the Great because of their pride. We will see that as we move on.

VERSES 17-18

1. As I have said, God will restore them to trading once again but not to the level they once had and enjoyed. Why did judgment come upon them again? We are told that it is because, **“She will return to her pay, and commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth.”** She went back to her old ways, pride got the better of her, she did not learn the lesson and God will judge this nation once again by the armies of Alexander the Great!

2. Now it also says in verse 18 that **“Her gain and her pay will be set apart for the Lord; it will not be treasured nor laid up, for her gain will be for those who dwell before the Lord, to eat sufficiently, and for fine clothing.”** What does that mean?

I believe that this is still future. Why do I say that? Because in Psalm 45:12 we are told, **“And the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; The rich among the people will seek your favor.”** I think this is looking ahead towards the Kingdom Age and the people of Tyre, the descendants of this city will bring an offering to the Lord. You see, the pride is gone and these humble people will not only present themselves before the King of kings and Lord of lords but they will bring presents with them to give to the Lord!

3. We are going to stop here in our study tonight because as we move into chapters 24-27 we are going to move from the Tribulation Period, into the Great Tribulation, which gives birth to the Millennial Reign of Christ. And the progression follows the Jewish day, which begins at sunset, night and goes into sunrise or light! The Tribulation Period is a time of darkness that is dispelled by the light of Christ as He comes to set up His Kingdom here on earth! So next week we will look at these chapters and see what the Lord has for us.

I will close with this thought showing how our God is in control and He knows all things. In Isaiah 42:8-9 we are told, **“I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”**

And in Isaiah 44:6-8 we read, **“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’”**

If we truly believe that and understand the attributes of God we have no fear because God the Father and His Redeemer, the Yahweh of hosts, Jesus Christ knows all things and there is no one who can compare with our God. We can rest in Him, He is aware of everything we are going through and will go through. May we trust in Him and walk by faith. Not in our own strength but in His! The Spirit of God will give us the power we need to do the things that God has called us to do. Are we willing to walk by faith or are we going to limit what we can do by walking by sight? The choice is ours, God wants to work through us, can we trust Him? I pray that we can!