

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 13, 2022

Passage: Isaiah 21:1-17

Memory Passage: Isaiah 21:9-10

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 21:1-17.** The second set of five oracles begins as the first set of five, with an oracle concerning Babylon. Though the oracle concerns “the wilderness of the sea” (v.1), how do we know it refers to Babylon?

(b) Re-read the first oracle concerning Babylon (13:1-22) and summarize the message to Judah it conveys.

(c) What do “whirlwinds” and “wilderness” symbolize, and why is the vision “stern” (21:1-2)?

(d) What role do Elam and Media play in this vision?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 21:1-17.** Explain Isaiah’s response to this vision. Why does it affect him this way?

(b) What do the three descriptions in v. 5a-c reveal about Babylon, what does Isaiah command them to do (5d-e), and why does he command them to do these things (v. 6-7)?

(c) Whose riders are the watchman to watch for?

(d) What is the testimony of the watchman in vs. 8-9a?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 21:1-17.** Remember that “Babylon” is a term often used as a metaphor for anti-God people and worldly systems. Is Isaiah using that idea here as well as referring to Babylon’s historical (future for Isaiah) fall (consider: this text is quoted in Revelation 14:8 & 18:2; see also Rev. 16:19; 17:15; 18:10, 21)?

(b) Who is the “threshed and winnowed ones” to whom Isaiah speaks in v. 10?

(c) In what ways does Isaiah’s account reflect Daniel’s account of Babylon’s fall in Daniel 5:1-31?

(d) Summarize the message of the oracle concerning Babylon and explain what Judah is to learn from it.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is. 21:1-17.** Although “Dumah” (v. 11) could refer to an oasis in northern Arabia (and therefore connect this oracle with the following), it means “silence” and is most likely a play on the word “Edom,” which is synonymous with “Seir,” the land in which Esau settled. How does this play on words serve the message of this oracle (vs. 11-12)?

(b) Summarize the message of the oracle concerning Dumah/Edom, and explain what Judah is to learn from it.

(c) To whom will those in Arabia, Dedan, and Tema bring water & bread, and why (vs.13-15)?

(d) What will happen to Kedar according to vs. 16-17?

(e) Summarize the message of the oracle concerning Arabia (including the Arabian lands of Dedan, Tema, and Kedar), and explain what Judah is to learn from it.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is. 21:1-17.** Isaiah longed for God to bring to an end sinful, oppressing nations (“the twilight I longed for” in v. 4), it overwhelmed him when he saw it (vs. 3-4), yet he obeyed (v. 5ff). What lessons do you learn from this to apply to your life?

(b) Review the answers you gave in 3(d), 4(b), and 5(e), and write out at least 2 applications for each oracle to your own life.

(c) What do the truths found in these oracles say to evil nations? To believers as evil nations oppress them?

(d) What truths do you learn about God in this chapter? About man? About yourself?

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Oracles Concerning Babylon, Dumah, and Arabia