

Isaiah 13-23 : the Burdens of the Surrounding Nations

v5 The doctrinal meaning is revealed by the words *day of trouble* (Jer 30:7) along with *perplexity* (Lk 21:25) and *treading down* (Rev 11:2). {not ong of these three cross references matches in the nasv; you cannot **study** perversions, all you can do is *read them-while drinking bicarbonate of soda*}

v6/7 *Elam* (youth) - a district south of Assyria and east of Persia inhabited by the descendants of Elam (a son of Shem - Gen 10:22). Eventually Elam was taken by the Persians.

Kir (wall) - an Assyrian district located on the river Kur between the Caspian and Black Seas.

v8-14 In this paragraph God shows the folly of self reliance in times of trouble.

v8 *And he* (the Lord) *discovered the covering of Judah* - i.e. their cheap fig leaf of religious hypocrisy could not deliver them from their time of trouble

v8-11 *and thou* (Judah) *didst look to the armour* (v8) and the *breaches* (v9) and the *houses* (v10) and the *waters* (v11). Here the Jews are taking inventory and 'doing their best' to avoid their just judgment due to disobedience.

v12 God shows them the right way : contrition and repentance.

v13 They continue on their own way : carnality and religion.

v 14 Therefore Judgment is ordained.

The chapter closes with an historical near term prophecy of the demotion of Shebna (v15-19) and the promotion of Eliakim (v20-25)

v15-19 Shebna (youthfulness) was the treasurer for the Lord's house who was guilty of misusing God's money for himself (v 16, 18). He was to be carried into captivity and die an ignominious death.

v20-25 Eliakim (God sets up) historically was advanced to the position of treasurer (Isa 36:3) with the responsibility of opening the Lord's house (v22).

These two men are a portrait of Jesus the Christ (in Eliakim) and Judas, historically, and the antichrist, doctrinally (in Shebna).

v22/23 Speaks of the Millennium with Christ ruling *the house of David*.

v25 *in that day* (v5) shows the counterfeit *nail fastened in the sure place - removed and cut down*, i.e. at the end of the tribulation the antichrist's abomination of desolation shall be removed, *for the Lord hath spoken it*.

Isaiah 23 - The Burden of Tyre

This chapter records the eleventh and final burden. It is leveled against the ambitious, adventurous, commercial nation of Phoenicia. The Phoenicians were mariners who sailed the Mediterranean Sea and docked in sea ports along North Africa (Zoan, Alexandria, Cyrene, Carthage) and Southern Asia and Europe. They penetrated and explored uncharted waters and founded Tarshish, beyond the strait of Gibraltar, from where they sailed to Great Britain to obtain tin ore (Britannia means the land of tin). They were inventive (e.g. our alphabet) and industrious. They were expert merchants and builders of great ships and cities. Zidon (fortress)

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was her mother city founded soon after the Noahic flood by a grandson of Ham (Gen 10:15). She was then surpassed by her proud and rich daughter Tyre (rock).

v1 the land of Chittim is Cyprus, the island founded by Kittim (Japheth's grandson Gen 10:4).

The inhabitants of this island carry the news of Tyre's fall (v6).

v3 the seed of Sihor (turbid, slimy) is the rich, fertile silt of the Nile delta which the Phoenicians transported and traded.

v4 the sea hath spoken means that the news travelled to Zidon by sea rather than by land. the strength of the sea is Tyre who lives in wealth and comfort. She does not travail, nor nourish young men or virgins. She is selfish. She will not obey Genesis 1:28 or 9:1. She is the mother of planned parenthood, she desires to keep all to herself like the certain rich man Jesus spoke of in Luke 12:15-21.

v5 The merchantmen lament the fall of Tyre as they did the fall of Egypt and as they will the fall of Babylon (Rev 18:11).

v6 (see verse 1)

v7 Some of Tyre's inhabitants flee to Tarshish.

v8/9 The Lord answers his question (v8) with his purpose (v9): to ^{to} ~~satiate~~ the pride of all (man's) glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth. The Lord considers a similar Q & A in James 4:4 / 1 John 2:16

v10-14 The Lord invites the citizens of nations to witness, first hand, his work of judgment.

He warns Tyre in verse 12 that they can no more escape than Babel could (v13) when they rebelled after the flood (Gen 10:10-12; 11:1-9). Note how the Assyrian (a type of the spirit) founded the Chaldeans (or Babylon, a type of the world who lives after the spirit; see comments from 19:1).

v15 The prophet is foretold that Tyre would go into captivity for seventy years as Judah did. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to the city of Tyre for thirteen years and their commercial trade dried up during his seventy year dynasty. She rebuilt her hire and international trade after the fall of Babylon (v17).

doct: it maybe that the Lord will visit Tyre (Eze 28:12) in the Millennium and all the kingdoms is fulfilled in Rev 20:8.

v18 her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the Lord - historically fulfilled during the regathering of the Jews when the temple was rebuilt under Zerubbabel (Ezra 3:7, Neh 13:16). A Bible principle that holds is Proverbs 13:22.

Spiritually : Tyre means rock (Deu 32:31) and represents a sprawling, international, commercial religious system that is ancient (v7) and an harlot (v15, Rev 17:5). Observe some of the chapters key words: great waters (v3), virgins (x2), Tarshish (x3), crowning city (v8), pride (v9).

Religiously, it is easy to see its similarity to Romanism.

Commercially it resembles Great Britain and her daughter the United States.

+ Sidon → Mt 15:21 / Mk 3:8, 7:24

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