

How Shall We Escape?

Isaiah 20

1. The LORD's _____ and _____
 - a. The walking illustration
 - i. A _____ prophet
 - ii. A _____ prophet
 - iii. For _____ years!
 - b. The spoken confirmation
 - i. Reveals picture of _____
 - ii. Reveals shame of _____
2. The people's _____ and _____
 - a. Fear of the _____ of Egypt's captives
 - b. Fear of the common _____
 - c. Reproach of the _____ of the exiles
 - d. Reproach of _____ Egypt
3. The people's _____ and _____
 - a. _____ plan of hope
 - b. _____ plan of hope
 - c. _____ crown of glory
 - d. _____ crown of glory

"I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in Him." (Isaiah 8:17)

"The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory." (Isaiah 60:19)

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The Question in the 8th Century BC

Judah was sorely tempted to trust in Egypt to help against their common enemy Assyria. The temptation was so great that much of this section of Isaiah addresses it. God found it necessary to warn His people against trusting Egypt instead of trusting in Him.

If the shock of a naked prophet walking around wasn't enough, the fulfillment of this prophecy in itself was also shocking. The picture of captives being taken away in shame was not of the weak city of Ashdod but of those from the powerful nation of Egypt. Many of Hezekiah's advisors had probably been supporting a plan to ally with Egypt in rebellion against Assyria. When they saw these Egyptian captives and Cushite exiles (a Cushite dynasty was at that time ruling Egypt), their plan of escaping Assyria was upended and they asked the question, 'How shall we escape?'

Today's Question

You as an individual may be joining in the chorus of millions of people right now wondering 'How shall we escape?' This is a question for those upset about the pandemic and its aftermath; for those impacted by lawlessness and violence; and for those who face injustice. There is no worldly answer!

Trusting in a new system or a new class of politicians or the right judges or some kind of financial solution won't allow us to escape. The only answer to our pain, suffering and injustice is not found in laws or lawlessness or in peaceful or violent solutions. Our main problem from which we seek escape is true justice: judgment for our sins. Salvation is found only in our Lord. "How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?" the author of Hebrews asks. This great salvation is in Christ. The answer to the question is simple: if we neglect salvation in Christ we cannot and will not escape the wrath of God for sin.