

ISAIAH 17-18

- Burden
 - The
Isaiah
 - [of
The
 - Their
 - their
NOT
 - As in
and
the
they
 - From
hide
hide
Moab
 - But
place
 - NOT

- killed
- Fall of
 - Isaiah
LAMB
 - the
 - And
to
 - from
 - But
that
 - they

of Moab...
THIRD burden of
was against the
Kingdom of MOAB
his father]
Assyrian empire
would come and
destroy them...
walled cities
would fall - and
religion would
save them...
the days of Sodom
Gomorraah - like
daughters of Lot -
would run to
Zoar...
there they would
in the mountains -
in caves [how
began]
there would be NO
to hide - their
MONEY would
save them...

- Anyone who
escaped from
Assyria - would be
by lions!

Moab...
told Moab to give a
to the King of
Jerusalem [rebuild
friendship]
commanded Judah
receive the
refugees coming
Moab...
also told Moab
in the future
[Tribulation] -
were to take in
refugees from
Israel...

- Because we need each other - and we are commanded to help one another...
- Yet because of the PRIDE of Moab - they would FALL...
- For in their hour of need - they went to all the WRONG places [idols - false gods]
- Therefore - they had THREE years left until God would reduce them to a REMNANT!
- **1ST - THE REMNANT... vs. 1-8**
 - 1st – The Burden... vs. 1-2
 - Syria... vs. 1
 - The burden against Damascus!
 - Isaiah continued his BURDENS against the Nations...
 - A section of the book that gives TEN burdens from the Lord - **Isaiah 13-23**
 - BURDEN [מִשָּׁרָא] - a heavy weight or load - a warning to the nations...
 - The FOURTH of these burdens was against the Kingdom of Syria [Damascus]!
 - This passage is closely tied to - **Isaiah 7**
 - King Ahaz was the son of Jotham [good king] - grandson of Uzziah [good king]
 - But he was NOT a good king - even sacrificed his children to MOLECH - **II Kings 16:3**
 - Therefore the king of Syria [Rezin] and Israel [Pekah] defeated Judah in battle [735 B.C.]
 - But God sent Isaiah to Ahaz - he was NOT to fear because Jerusalem would NOT fall...
 - To help give him FAITH - God would send a SIGN - **Isaiah 7:14**
 - A young woman [virgin] would have a SON - he would be called IMMANUEL [God with us]
 - Before the boy was TWO years old - Rezin and Pekah would be defeated by ASSYRIA!
 - Ruins... vs. 1
 - Behold Damascus will cease from being a city - and it will be a ruinous heap!
 - Shortly after the Prophecy of Isaiah 7 - [734 B.C.]
 - Isaiah goes on to tell JUDAH to look - and see the inevitable...
 - Damascus - the capitol city of Syria - would stop [hophal] being a CITY...
 - It would become [prophetic perfect] a pile of RUINS [cast down]!
 - Too often we look at our CIRCUMSTANCES - not at what the Lord SAYS...
 - It does NOT matter how bleak things look - how overwhelming our problems might seem...
 - They are NOTHING to the Lord - so long as we look to Him for the answers!
 - **Jeremiah 23:27**- "I am the Lord... Is anything too difficult for me?"
 - Abandoned... vs. 2
 - The cities of Aroer are forsaken.
 - They will be for flocks which lie down - and no one will make them afraid!
 - The name Aroer can refer to a city east of the Jordan river - **II Samuel 24:5**
 - But it is more likely referring to RUINED [עָרוֹעַר] cities [καταλελειμμένη εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα] - LXX
 - Rather than being a place for PEOPLE to live in...
 - Their cities of Syria would be a place for SHEEP to lay down [pastures]
 - And there would be NO one [אֵין] left around to make the sheep afraid!
 - The contrast is intentional - the POWERFUL army of Syria - **II Chronicles 28:5-15**
 - That had defeated the kingdom of Judah in battle [120 thousand soldiers killed in one day]
 - Would be so devastated there would NO one left in their cities!
 - Meaning the thing that terrifies us TODAY - will NOT even be there TOMORROW...
 - It is unfortunate how much time we waste worrying...
 - We fret about a problem - only to see it disappear [God takes care of it]
 - But we just move onto the next problem - and keep worrying...
 - How much better to just keep our eyes on the one who is greater than EVERY problem!

- **Philippians 4:6** - "Do not worry about anything - instead pray about everything." [NLT]
- 2nd - Same fate... vs. 3-5
 - Like Israel... vs. 3
 - The fortress also will cease from Ephraim.
 - The kingdom from Damascus - and the remnant of Syria.
 - They will be as the glory of the children of Israel: Says the LORD of hosts!
 - The FORTIFIED city [Samaria] of Ephraim [Israel] - would also be CUT off [niphall]
 - They would fall to Assyria along with Damascus and the rest of Syria...
 - They will no longer be protected like [בָּ] the children of Israel...
 - Says the LORD [יְהוָה] - who is the commander of the armies of Heaven [צְבָאוֹת]
 - Syria would fall to Assyria in the year 732 B.C. - **II Kings 16:9**
 - Ten years later Israel would also fall to Assyria [722 B.C.] - **II Kings 17:6**
 - When Korah led a REBELLION against Moses – **Numbers 16:1-3**
 - God opened up the EARTH and swallowed him up along with ALL who followed him!
 - Be careful who we stand with - because we will become like them and share their fate!
 - Harvested... vs. 4-5
 - In that day it shall come to pass that the glory of Jacob will wane.
 - And the fatness of his flesh grow lean.
 - It shall be as when the harvester gathers the grain and reaps the heads with his arm.
 - It shall be as he who gathers heads of grain in the Valley of Rephaim!
 - In that DAY it would come to pass [prophetic perfect]
 - The GLORY of Jacob [rebellious] would fail [לָלַךְ]
 - And those who were blessed [fat] - would lose [niphall] everything [skinny]
 - The land of both Israel and Syria would look like [בָּ] a harvested field...
 - Not just ANY field - it would be like [בָּ] the Valley of Rephaim [giants]!
 - When the Philistines attacked King David - they met in the Valley of Rephaim...
 - FIRST time - God told David to attack them - **II Samuel 5:18**
 - SECOND time - God told David to come at them from the trees - **II Samuel 5:23**
 - Both times David was VICTORIOUS - because he looked to the Lord!
 - Being blessed in life is NOT about what we do - it is who we look to...
 - If we CHOOSE to LOOK to the world - then we will LOSE our blessing...
 - If we CHOOSE to LOOK to the Lord - then will have the VICTORY!
 - **Deuteronomy 30:19** - "I have set before you life and death - blessing and cursing - therefore choose life."
- 3rd - The purpose... vs. 6-8
 - Remnant... vs. 6
 - Yet gleaning grapes will be left in it.
 - Like the shaking of an olive tree - two or three olives at the top of the uppermost bough.
 - Four or five in its most fruitful branches: Says the LORD God of Israel!
 - Yet in the midst of the destruction - there would be a REMNANT...
 - Like [בָּ] - the small clusters of overlooked grapes that are left after a harvest...
 - Like [בָּ] - the handful of olives left on the highest branches when the tree is SHAKEN...
 - So also will there be a FEW left over from the DESTRUCTION of Israel!
 - We used to love go blueberry picking in the spring time...
 - But they would get picked over quickly - leaving few good berries left...

- The key was to look in hidden parts of the bush - find the remnant others had missed!

▪ See the Lord... vs. 7

- In that day a man will look to his Maker - his eyes will have respect for the Holy One of Israel!
- In that DAY - when only a REMNANT was left in Israel...
- The man [הַיָּחִיד] would look to the one who CREATED [עָשָׂה] him - **Genesis 1:26**
- And that man would SEE [רָאָה] the HOLY One of Israel!
- Why would God leave a REMNANT from the NORTHERN tribes...
- Because God still had a purpose and PLAN for them - **Revelation 7:4**
- During the TRIBULATION He will seal TWELVE thousand from each of the TRIBES!

▪ No idols... vs. 8

- He will not look to the altars - the work of his hands.
- He will not respect what his fingers have made - the wooden images nor the incense altars!
- In that DAY - when the REMNANT looks to their CREATOR...
- When they SEE the Holy One of Israel - they will STOP trusting in ALTARS...
- They will NO longer LOOK [רָאָה] to the things their HANDS have made...
- WOODEN images [אֲשֵׁרָה] and IDOLS [תַּמָּזִיטִּים]!
- This might well have a DUAL fulfillment...
- No doubt there were some Jews who lived in the Northern Kingdom...
- Who when Samaria fell - repented - and came back to the Lord...
- But it also might point the eventual salvation of Israel - **Romans 11:26**
- When the remnant from the Tribulation LOOK up and see Jesus return!
- **Zechariah 12:10** - "They will look on Me [אֶת] whom they pierced."
- God will allow our lives to be SHAKEN up...
- He will let everything we have get STRIPPED away [harvest]
- The reason is because He is trying to get our attention...
- He wants us to WAKE up - and LOOK up - so we can see the only one we need!
- **II Corinthians 1:9** - "We had the sentence of death in ourselves that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead."

● 2ND - THEIR DESTRUCTION... vs. 9-14

○ 1ST - The Harvest... vs. 9-11

▪ Their cities... vs. 9

- In that day his strong cities will be as a forsaken bough.
- And an uppermost branch - which they left because of the children of Israel.
- And there will be desolation!
- In that DAY - when only a REMNANT will be left behind in Israel...
- Their fortified [מְצוּדָה] CITIES [Northern Kingdom] will be like [כֵּן]:
- HEBREW - paints a picture of an EMPTY forest [הָרֵשֶׁת] - or an EMPTY mountaintop [אֶמֶר]
- LXX - interprets these pictures with specific examples...
- The cities of Israel will be abandoned like the AMORITES [אַמּוֹרִיטַיִם] and HIVITES [חִוִּיטַיִם]
- The key is WHEN these cities were ABANDONED...
- WHEN the sons of ISRAEL came [perfect] through and DESTROYED them [Joshua]
- The idea is there had been a REVERSAL - a TURN of hand...
- The people who had been VICTORIOUS previously - were now being DEFEATED!

▪ Forsaken... vs. 10

- Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation.

- And have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold!
 - The reason WHY the cities of Israel would be DESTROYED...
 - [יָ] because - they had FORGOTTEN [perfect] the God of SALVATION...
 - And they did not REMEMBER the ROCK of safety!
 - Peter could ONLY walk on water - when he looked to Jesus...
 - The moment he took his eyes off the Lord - he immediately sank - **Matthew 14:30**
 - Which is such a simple but powerful truth...
 - The ONE thing that takes us from VICTORY to DEFEAT...
 - Is when we get our eyes off of Jesus - when we FORGET about our ROCK - **Matthew 7:24**
- Reaping... vs. 10-11
 - Therefore you will plant pleasant plants and set out foreign seedlings.
 - In the day you will make your plant to grow.
 - And in the morning you will make your seed to flourish.
 - But the harvest will be a heap of ruins in the day of grief and desperate sorrow!
 - THEREFORE [עַל־כֵּן] - although Israel planted the FINEST plants...
 - They would even get SEEDS from faraway lands [luxurious]
 - And in the DAY when they plant them - they would GROW [piel] in the morning...
 - But in the DAY of harvest - they would only gather GREIF and incurable SORROW!
 - **Galatians 6:7** - "God is not mocked for whatever a man sows - that he will also reap."
 - There is no reason why we should be surprised by the outcome of our choices...
 - If we are FORGETTING the Lord - FOCUSED on the world...
 - Then we have the GUARANTEE - that things are NOT going to end well...
 - It is NOT a question - it is as inevitable as reaping what we sow!
 - 2nd - Rushing waters... vs. 12-14
 - Woe to nations... vs. 12
 - Woe to the multitude of many people who make a noise like the roar of the seas.
 - And to the rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!
 - WOE [הוֹי] - to the NOISY crowds [הֶמְנוֹן] of MANY [רַבִּים] people...
 - They sounds like [בָּ] the ROARING of the SEA [loud]
 - NATIONS rushing together like [בָּ] the waves of the mighty sea...
 - The people though because of the were UNITED [many voices - many nations]
 - That what they DECIDED - what they WANTED - would stand!
 - Rebuked... vs. 13
 - The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters.
 - But God will rebuke them and they will flee far away.
 - Chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind - a rolling thing before the whirlwind!
 - But even though the NATIONS were gathered like MANY waters...
 - The Lord would REBUKE them - and they would all RUN far away...
 - As they were CHASED [piel] - like [בָּ] chaff blown off a mountain by a whirlwind!
 - It does not matter WHO we are - or if we think we are RIGHT...
 - It does not matter if EVERYONE else agrees with us - **Romans 3:4**
 - The WORD of God is always RIGHT - His word is TRUTH - **John 17:17**
 - No more... vs. 14
 - Then behold at eventide - trouble! [But] before the morning - he is no more.
 - This is the portion of those who plunder us and the lot of those who rob us!
 - Isaiah wraps up by drawing the conclusion for Judah [us]

- BEHOLD - those who PLUNDER and ROB the people of God...
- In the EVENING they will be in TROUBLE - by MORNING they are GONE [אין]
- By giving us the FATE of SYRIA and ISRAEL...
- Isaiah was showing that the END those who follow the Lord - WIN!

● **3RD - WRONG SOLUTION... vs. 1-7**

○ 1st - Ethiopia... vs. 1-2

▪ Shadows... vs. 1

- Woe to the land shadowed with buzzing wings which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia!
- Still working withing this FOURTH burden...
- Isaiah turns his focus - WOE [הוי] to the land beyond the rivers - to ETHIOPIA [כוש]
- At this point in history - as ASSYRIA rose to become a world power...
- CUSH [Ethiopia] was a KEY ally capable of challenging them militarily...
- They ruled Egypt and were a force to be reckoned with!

▪ Looking for help... vs. 2

- Which sends ambassadors by sea - even in vessels of reed on the waters.
- Saying: Go swift messengers - to a nation tall and smooth of skin.
- To a people terrible from their beginning onward.
- A nation powerful and treading down whose land the rivers divide!
- Judah - fearing the powerful nations that threatened it...
- Sent MESSENGERS [ציר] by SEA - in boats with PAPYRUS sails...
- Commanding [imperative] them to go QUICKLY to get HELP [urgent]
- To the people of ETHIOPIA - who were TALL [drawn out] and had SMOOTH skin [shaved]
- They had a REPUTATION from the start of being FEARED [נורא]
- They were known to marking out their BOUNDARIES [קו]
- Whose LAND is divided by the RIVERS [natural boundaries]
- It is easy to see why Judah would look to Ethiopia for answers...
- When we are in NEED - we tend to LOOK for those who seem to have it all together...
- If we lack MONEY - we look to those who are RICH...
- If we are UNHEALTHY - then we look to those who can HEAL...
- If we are at WAR - then we look to those who can help us WIN!

○ 2nd - Rejected... vs. 3-6

▪ Everyone... vs. 3

- All inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth.
- When he lifts up a banner on the mountains you see it - when he blows a trumpet you hear it!
- EVERYONE [כל] in the world - ANYONE who lives on the earth...
- Just like [כ] someone can SEE [רָאָה] when someone lifts up a BANNER on a mountain...
- Just like [כ] someone can HEAR [שָׁמַע] when the SHOFAR [שׁוֹפָר] is blown...
- So also should EVERYONE be able to SEE and HEAR what the Lord does and says!

▪ Patient... vs. 4

- For so the LORD said to me:
- I will take My rest and I will look from My dwelling place.
- Like clear heat in sunshine. Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest!
- For [כי] the LORD said to Isaiah [divine direction]

- He would be QUIET [שָׁקֵט] LOOK intently [נִבְּט] from heaven [His dwelling place]
- Focused like [נֶ] the intense light of the sun in the HEAT of the day [bright light]
- Patient - like [נֶ] the refreshing cloud that gives rest during the HOT days of the harvest!
- Just because God is NOT acting - does NOT mean He is NOT watching...
- The Lord is NOT a spectator - all things happen according to His counsel - **Ephesians 1:11**
- But God is PATIENT - He is waiting for His perfect timing!
- **II Peter 3:8** - "With the Lord one day is as a thousand years - a thousand years as one day."
- Cut down... vs. 5-6
 - For before the harvest when the bud is perfect - and the sour grape is ripening in the flower.
 - He will both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks and take away and cut down the branches.
 - They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey and for the beasts of the earth.
 - The birds of prey will summer on them and all the beasts of the earth will winter on them!
 - For [נֶ] - at the right TIME - before the harvest is RIPE [completed fruit]
 - Before the PLANS of men have a chance to be acted upon...
 - While the unripe GRAPE is still ripening inside of the FLOWER...
 - God will CUT off both the shoots and the branches...
 - They BIRDS of the mountains - and BEASTS of the earth...
 - Will feast on the fallen branches [soldiers] for a whole summer and winter [year]
 - The picture being when the time is RIGHT - and God does ACT...
 - The victory will be so COMPLETE - the power of the ENEMY will be broken!
 - What tends to get us into the most trouble - is a lack of PATIENCE...
 - Because we see the PROBLEM - but do NOT see God working on a SOLUTION...
 - Therefore we feel the need to HELP God out [never ends well]
 - The better answer is to learn to WAIT upon the Lord - His TIMING...
 - Because then we know that in the end there will be complete VICTORY!
- 3rd - Offering... vs. 7
 - In that time a present will be brought to the LORD of hosts.
 - From a people tall and smooth of skin - from a people terrible from their beginning onward.
 - A nation powerful and treading down - whose land the rivers divide.
 - To the place of the name of the LORD of hosts - to Mount Zion!
 - When the Lord brings the VICTORY - in that TIME...
 - A present will be GIFT [שֶׁ] to the LORD of Hosts [צְבָאוֹת]
 - The GIFT will be from the people of ETHIOPIA [uses same description] - **Isaiah 18:2**
 - They will bring their gift to the LORD - on Mount ZION...
 - The people Judah wanted to look to as an ANSWER - they would look to the LORD!
 - We have the tendency to LOOK to people as the ANSWER...
 - But the truth is they are NO different than we are - they also need HELP...
 - We are NOT called to be SOLUTION - we point others to Him...

- Because no matter what we are facing - what TRIAL we are in...
- The only place we are going to find HOPE - is from the Lord!