

## A Prophecy Against the Valley of Vision ~ Part 1

### Yesha'yahu 22:1-11

In my last post, we learned of **A Prophecy Against Dumah and Arabia in Yesha'yahu 21:11-17**. In this post, we learn of **A Prophecy Against the Valley of Vision ~ Part 1** in **Yesha'yahu 22:1-11**.

***<sup>1</sup> A prophecy about the Valley of Vision: Tell me what is wrong with you, that you have all gone up on the roofs.***

From later in the prophecy, it is clear that the **Valley of Vision** is a reference to **Yerushalayim**, even though this name is not used elsewhere of the city. It could be satirical; that is, the **Valley of Vision** was blind to the divine purpose. Or perhaps it could be a reference to **Hinnom**, where divinatory practices took place.

***Gone up on the roofs*** may be a reference to divination or false worship. There is ample evidence in the prophetic books of Israelites burning incense on the roofs of their houses (Jeremiah 19:13; Zephaniah 1:5). It could also refer to their getting a better perspective on the withdrawal of a besieging army.

***<sup>2</sup> You city full of noise, confusion, and boisterous excitement, your slain did not fall to the sword, nor did they die in battle. <sup>3</sup> All your leaders fled together and were captured without the use of a bow; all from you who were found were captured, even though they had fled far away.***

The inhabitants were jubilant because the attacking army had withdrawn from its siege. The reference to those who died apart from battle may be a reference to those who starved or contracted the disease during the siege.

From a historical perspective, the events of verses 2-3 occur during the 701 BCE campaign of **Sennacherib**. The **Ashurim** king led a massive army of mercenaries and conscripts from throughout his empire. During the invasion of **Y'hudah**, they will, according to **Sennacherib's Annals**, "lay siege to forty-six fortified cities, walled forts, and countless villages." **King Hezekiah** was bottled up in **Yerushalayim** "like a bird in a cage." Any of his officials who attempted to escape and many were executed. <sup>1</sup>

***<sup>4</sup> This is why I said, "Don't look at me, leave me alone to weep bitterly, don't try to comfort me over the destruction of my people."***

**Yesha'yahu** did not share the joy of the city. After all, although the siege was lifted, people died.

***<sup>5</sup> For it is a day of panic, trampling, and confusion from Adonai Elohim-Tzva'ot [the Lord God of Hosts] in the Valley of Vision. With walls crashing down, they cry for help to the mountains. <sup>6</sup> 'Eilam picks up the quivers, with cavalry and horsemen, and Kir uncovers the shields.***

**'Elam** (located on the Iranian plateau east of **Bavel**) and **Kir** appear to have fought along with the **Ashurim**. There is no consensus on the exact location of the country of **Kir**. Because of its association with **Aram** in Amos 9:7, several attempts have been made to place it either in northern **Syria** or in the western desert (west of the Euphrates). Its mention here with **'Elam** also suggests proximity to that country east of the **Tigris River**.

***<sup>7</sup> In time, your choicest valleys Yerushalayim by chariots, and the cavalry take their posts by the gate; <sup>8</sup> thus is Y'hudah's protection removed. That day you looked for the armor in the House of the Forest.***

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<sup>1</sup> The IVP Bible Background Commentary – Old Testament.

The **House of the Forest** is likely the same as the storehouse in the palace complex known as the **House of the Forest of L'vanon** (1 Kings 7:1-12). Weapons were stored there. The people should have been looking to God for help, but they put their trust in their weapons instead.

***<sup>9</sup> You saw how many breaches there were in the City of David; you collected water from the lower pool,***

Based on the discovery of the **Siloam Tunnel** inscription, it seems clear that **Hezekiah** constructed a water tunnel over eighteen hundred feet long from inside the walls of **Yerushalayim** to the **Gihon Spring** in the **Kidron Valley**. In this way, he was able to ensure a safe and continuous water supply for **Yerushalayim** during the **Ashurim** siege. The **lower pool** was one of two reservoirs used to hold and channel water. It was designed to provide irrigation flow to the terraced areas along the slope of the **Kidron Valley**, and it eventually drained into the **Pool of Shelah**, modern Birket el-Hamra. <sup>2</sup>

***<sup>10</sup> you surveyed the houses in Yerushalayim, tearing some down to fortify the wall. <sup>11</sup> You also built a reservoir between the two walls for the water from the Old Pool, but you didn't look to Him who made these things; you had no respect for Him who fashioned them long ago. ~ Isaiah 22:1-11 (CJB)***

Refortifying the wall with construction materials taken from demolished homes and building an emergency reservoir within the city are taken again by the prophet as a sign of individual self-reliance. They should have been looking to God for help. After all, he was the One who created it long ago.

Are you putting your faith in God OR others and yourself?

In my next post, we will continue to learn about **A Prophecy Against the Valley of Vision ~ Part 2** in **Yesha'yahu 22:12-25**.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.