

## **“Valley of Vision”** **Isaiah 22**

### **“Valley of vision” V. 1-14**

The “valley of vision” was not an actual place and this is the only time in scripture where it is used. Several places in scripture Jerusalem is referred to as “valley”. **Jeremiah 21:11-14, Joel 3:14-16** They felt secure in their homes in the valley thinking that they have a vision or can see the path of God. But you cannot see far in the valley only on the hilltop (the temple was on a hill). **Psalm 15**

Shouting instead of sorrow V. 1-8 – they were rejoicing over the withdrawal of Assyria (short sighted) instead of being sorrowful and repentant knowing judgment still comes (far sighted). **Isaiah 20:1** In 711 B.C. Ashdod fell to Assyrian rule under Sargon II. Although Judah attempted to defend Ashdod it quickly fell. The Assyrian army then focused on Israel and turn toward Assyria leaving Judah untouched, a great cause for rejoicing. However Isaiah focuses on Babylon as God’s tool of judgment. Leaders are captured, great weeping, the walls have fallen, and the enemy has trampled the land. Elam and Kir (Media) have conquered, these two nations frequently aligned with Babylon. **2 Kings 25:1-12**

Responses V. 9-14 – They see the Assyrians leaving from Ashdod and fortify the city and defenses. **2 Chronicles 32:1-8** They eat and drink the night before the battle and rest on their own provision , but they have forgotten God. **Proverbs 16:9, Luke 12:16-21**

### **Two Men V. 15-25**

This story begins with Shebna, the Palace Administrator, checking on his opulent tomb that he is having built. Isaiah confronts him about his self-centeredness and says he will be waded up, thrown away, and die in a vast wilderness. All of his authority and possessions will then be handed to Eliakim, a faithful and honorable servant. People will flock to him and seeing his character heap more and more responsibility upon him. Finally he gives way under the overloaded responsibilities and the household collapses.

- Self-centered, external living leads to destruction. **Proverbs 18:10-12, Romans 15:1-7**
- Wisdom and blessing come from an internal adoption of God’s characteristics. **Ecclesiastes 12:9-14**
- Stewardship is essential to maintain Godliness. **1 Timothy 4:6-16**
- Place faith and hope in God alone NOT another person. **Psalm 62**

### **Application**

### **Discussion Questions**

What self-centered things distract you the most?

In what ways have you followed others rather than God?

In what ways can you be a better steward of the things God has given you?

### **Homework**

**Read *Isaiah Ch. 23***

**Answer the following questions:**

1. What does God's Word say? List the facts.
2. What does God's Word mean? Learn the lessons.
3. What does God's Word mean to me? Listen to His voice.
4. How will I respond to God's Word today? Live it out.

**Survey what you do for God, make sure these are for God not you, and evaluate how much you do not sacrificing the best for the good.**