

Fact Sheet for “A Bad Example” Isaiah 22:1-14

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We all have people who have served as examples for us. Many of them are good examples. Some are bad examples. This passage from Isaiah is from of the dark times in Judah’s history. It can serve as a bad example to avoid.

Chapters 13-23 are a catalog of judgments against various nations. They also record the responses of those nations to the Assyrian threat in the days of Isaiah. Hezekiah was king in Jerusalem.

ESV 1a ¶ **The oracle concerning the valley of vision.**

Jerusalem is often referred to as a mountain (Mt. Zion). Here it is referred to as a valley.

**1^b What do you mean that you have gone up,
all of you, to the housetops,
...to observe the enemy outside the city walls**

**2 you who are full of shoutings,
tumultuous city, exultant town?
Your slain are not slain with the sword
or dead in battle.**

This was the early part of Sennacherib’s siege.

NLT **Isaiah 22:2** The whole city is in a terrible uproar. What do I see in this reveling city? Bodies are lying everywhere, killed not in battle but by famine and disease.

**3 All your leaders have fled together;
without the bow they were captured.
All of you who were found were captured,
though they had fled far away.**
Their leaders had escaped, but were captured by the Assyrians.

**4 Therefore I said:
"Look away from me;
let me weep bitter tears;
do not labor to comfort me
concerning the destruction of the daughter of my people."**

**5 For the Lord GOD of hosts has a day
of tumult and trampling and confusion
in the valley of vision,
a battering down of walls
and a shouting to the mountains.**
This was from the Lord!

**6 And Elam bore the quiver
with chariots and horsemen,
and Kir uncovered the shield.**
Soldiers from Elam (east of Assyria) and Kir (perhaps an Assyrian province, 2 Kings 16:9) joined the Assyrian assault.

7 Your choicest valleys were full of chariots,

and the horsemen took their stand at the gates.

^{8a} ¶ **He has taken away the covering of Judah.**

The Assyrians were ready to attack and Judah was defenseless.

^{8b} **In that day you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest,⁹ and you saw that the breaches of the city of David were many. You collected the waters of the lower pool,¹⁰ and you counted the houses of Jerusalem, and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall.¹¹ You made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to him who did it, or see him who planned it long ago.**

You would think that the people would turn back to God and repent, however they still tried to do things their own way. Rather than seeking God for protection they depended on their own strength.

They got out weapons from the "House of the Forest" that Solomon had built (1 Kings 7:2; 10:17, 21). It got its name from the huge cedar columns brought to Jerusalem from Lebanon.

Hezekiah demolished some houses to use their material for fortifying the wall (see 2 Chronicles 32:5).

They collected waters in the lower pool (see 2 Chronicles 32:4) and preserved the city's water supply in a reservoir between the two walls. Perhaps the reservoir refers to Pool of Siloam which Hezekiah connected to the Gihon spring through his famous tunnel (2 Chronicles 32:30). This 1,777' tunnel was carved out of solid rock and can be entered today. Perhaps it referred to another reservoir to hold excess water from the Pool of Siloam.

¹² **In that day the Lord GOD of hosts
called for weeping and mourning,
for baldness and wearing sackcloth;**

The people should have repented, but instead...

¹³ **and behold, joy and gladness,
killing oxen and slaughtering sheep,
eating flesh and drinking wine.**

**"Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die."**

This is very different than Solomon's writing in Ecclesiastes (^{ESV} Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:13; 5:18; 8:15).

¹⁴ **The LORD of hosts has revealed himself in my ears:
"Surely this iniquity will not be atoned for you until you die,"
says the Lord GOD of hosts.**

The curses of the Mosaic Covenant would eventually come upon Judah (compare Deuteronomy 28 with Deuteronomy 30).

When we find that life gets tough what do we rely on?

Financially (Hebrews 13:5-6) – Do we first try to solve the problem in our own wisdom? God has given us a mind to use, but first go to God.

Medically (2 Chronicles 16:12) – Trust in God first! Then go to see the doctor!

Relationally (Ephesians 4:32) – A great place to start

Where do we go firstly, or perhaps exclusively?

Remember what God said through Isaiah to Judah. Trust in God first and seek him, then use the wisdom He gives you.