

I. God is Just - Is. 23:8-12

1. Tyre fell (**verse 8**)
 - a major city for sea trade
 - their commerce made the city wealthy
 - “merchants” are named here
2. In verses 1-7 Isaiah predicted her fall
3. Who planned this fall?
 - the answer is forthcoming in verse 9
 - only God
4. Her merchants were like princes - “crowns”
5. The Lord Almighty planned this fall (**verse 9**)
 - He humbled her
 - He brought down
- Rea -does God do this? - bring down cities... or is this just an Old Testament thing?
6. Tarshish - the farthest point of Tyre’s trade
- Rea -your harbor is useless (**verse 10**)
- could mean literally that the harbor was destroyed
- Rea -like the Nile - the Nile overflowed so that any “harbor” would have been destroyed
- Rea -the harbor is seen as a strength - here’s the relevance - when God humbles He usually takes down our “strength”
7. The Lord is over the sea (**verse 11**)
 - He gives the order and the fortresses of Phoenicia are destroyed
 - the sailors of Phoenicia were considered the finest in the world
 - their gods were sea gods
8. The fortresses of Phoenicia are not secure - not when God is involved
9. Virgin daughter Sidon is crushed (**verse 12**)
 - he refers to Tyre
 - a young lady free and happy
- Rea -to crush a young girl is particularly hard
10. They will run to Cyprus but that will not avail - no rest there
 - they could not outrun God
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. God does intervene in our history and amongst nations - the fact that we don’t see that does not mean that it does not happen
 - the idea of God judging at all is not in style
 2. What is the “strength” of the United States - should God choose to humble her?
 3. They had fortresses, they had wealth, they had strong sailors - but they were crushed
 4. When God humbles me, He usually does it by affecting the thing that I feel is strong
 5. The question for me is not whether God judges individuals and nations... the question is that when he judges do we “get it?”

II. God is Active - Is. 23:13-14

1. The land of the Babylonians (**verse 13**)
 - no longer existed

- laid waste by the Assyrians
- made a place for desert creatures
- stripped bare
- turned into ruin

2. Wail (**verse 14**)

- addressed to the ships of Tarshish
- ships are seen as strongholds

Rea -God builds up but God also pulls down

Rea -the Lord gives and the Lord takes away... blessed be the name of the Lord

Rea 3. Is the USA too big to fall?

- 911 taught us that we too are vulnerable

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Tall walls are not too tall for God

- great navies are not too great for God to take down

2. Great armies are nothing to God

- we put too much confidence in our military and our economy and not enough trust in God

III. God Honored - Is. 23:15-18

1. Tyre will be forgotten (**verse 15**)

- for seventy years

Rea -is 70 a literal number or is a figurative number like Jesus says forgive 70 x 7?

2. The song of the prostitute

- she takes up a harp (**verse 16**)
- she is past her prime and ...forgotten

Rea -beauty is vain, and empty and soon passes

Rea -it is the song "of" the prostitute not "about" the prostitute

Rea -verse 17 is clear the "prostitute" is Tyre

3. God deals with Tyre at the end of 70 years (**verse 17**)

- she will return to her "prostitution"
- it is not "business" that is wrong, but how it is conducted and for what reason
- we tend to put trust in our wealth instead of God

Rea -it is harder for a rich man to go to heaven, than it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle (someone said that)

4. The prostitutes profits (**verse 18**)

- they will not be hoarded, they will belong to the Lord
- set apart for the Lord
- God is in control

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Another prophecy of judgment - God judges nations

- God also judges individuals
- New Testament judgment is heaven and hell (do we still believe in these?)

2. In Noah's day, the people were allowed to continue, but only for so long

3. The idea is not that it's wrong to have money... or to make money. The idea is that money presents a tremendous temptation to do the wrong thing. When you have money it is very easy to trust it.

Blake Hearson/ SS Lesson for 9-27-20