

THE TWO ORDERS OF LEADERSHIP

LESSON 23 (ABC)

QUESTION

READ THE FOLLOWING CHAPTER AND OUTLINE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SHEBNA AND ELIAKIM ORDERS OF LEADERSHIP.

Isa 22:1-25

- 1 The burden against the Valley of Vision. What ails you now, that you have all gone up to the housetops,
- 2 You who are full of noise, a tumultuous city, a joyous city? Your slain men are not slain with the sword, nor dead in battle.
- 3 All your rulers have fled together; they are captured by the archers. All who are found in you are bound together; they have fled from afar.
- 4 Therefore I said, "Look away from me, I will weep bitterly; do not labor to comfort me because of the plundering of the daughter of my people."
- 5 For it is a day of trouble and treading down and perplexity by the Lord GOD of hosts in the Valley of Vision-- breaking down the walls and of crying to the mountain.
- 6 Elam bore the quiver with chariots of men and horsemen, and Kir uncovered the shield.
- 7 It shall come to pass that your choicest valleys shall be full of chariots, and the horsemen shall set themselves in array at the gate.
- 8 He removed the protection of Judah. You looked in that day to the armor of the House of the Forest;
- 9 You also saw the damage to the city of David, that it was great; and you gathered together the waters of the lower pool.
- 10 You numbered the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses you broke down to fortify the wall.
- 11 You also made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to its Maker, nor did you have respect for Him who fashioned it long ago.
- 12 And in that day the Lord GOD of hosts called for weeping and for mourning, for baldness and for girding with sackcloth.
- 13 But instead, joy and gladness, slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating meat and drinking wine: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"
- 14 Then it was revealed in my hearing by the LORD of hosts, "Surely for this iniquity there will be no atonement for you, even to your death," says the Lord GOD of hosts.
- 15 Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: "Go, proceed to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the house, and say:
- 16 'What have you here, and whom have you here, that you have hewn a sepulcher here, as he who hews himself a sepulcher on high, who carves a tomb for himself in a

rock?

17 Indeed, the LORD will throw you away violently, O mighty man, and will surely seize you.

18 He will surely turn violently and toss you like a ball into a large country; there you shall die, and there your glorious chariots shall be the shame of your master's house.

19 So I will drive you out of your office, and from your position he will pull you down.

20 'Then it shall be in that day, that I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah;

21 I will clothe him with your robe and strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.

22 The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open.

23 I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, and he will become a glorious throne to his father's house.

24 'They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers.

25 'In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'the peg that is fastened in the secure place will be removed and be cut down and fall, and the burden that was on it will be cut off; for the LORD has spoken.'"

(NKJ)

ANSWERS (ABC)

LESSON 23

(A) THE SHEBNA ORDER OF LEADERSHIP

CHARACTERISTICS:

CHURCH IN A VALLEY

Isa 22:1

The burden against the Valley of Vision. What ails you now, that you have all gone up to the housetops,(NKJ)

Isa 22:1

This is God's message concerning Jerusalem: What is happening? Where is everyone going? Why are they running to the rooftops? What are they looking at?

(TLB)

Under the leadership of Shebna the church went into the valley instead of the mountain top. The valley is a symbol of troubles, failure and vulnerability. Under Shebna leadership there is no victory or glory but hardship and vulnerability to demonic infestation.

DELUSION OF VICTORY

Isa 22:1

The burden against the Valley of Vision. What ails you now, that you have all gone up to the housetops,(NKJ)

Shebna brought the congregation up to the rooftops – the people believed that this was the mountain top. They believed that this was the Zion experience. But the people were still in the valley.

Isa 22:2

You who are full of noise, a tumultuous city, a joyous city? Your slain men are not slain with the sword, nor dead in battle.(NKJ)

The church was rejoicing in her delusion. It was full of celebration. Involuntary prostration was a common experience(“slain in the Spirit”). But it was a change of scenery, not a change of position – the church was still in the valley. It was a rooftop experience not a mountain top experience.

A COWARDLY MENTALITY

Isa 22:3

All your leaders have fled together; they have been captured without using the bow. All you who were caught were taken prisoner together, having fled while the enemy was still far away.(NIV)

The Shebna order inspired a timid mentality in its followers. This order can never produce overcomers. This order produces a band of fearful believers ill-equipped for possessing or occupying till He comes.

The products of a Shebna order are not militant reformers. They surrender easily, while the enemy is still far away. There is no warfare spirit.

God demands a militant, bold attitude in His people.

Josh 1:7

"Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.(NKJ)

Eph 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.(NKJ)

Matt 11:12

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force(NKJ)

Prov 28:1

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.(NKJ)

Heb 13:6

So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"(NKJ)

PROVOKES MOURNING IN THE HEARTS OF THE GODLY

Isa 22:4

Therefore I said, "Turn away from me; let me weep bitterly. Do not try to console me over the destruction of my people."(NIV)

The Shebna order destroys the people of God by failing to equip them. Shebna plundered the people of God. The godly see this and mourn.

IMPRISONMENT IN THE VALLEY

Isa 22:5

The Lord, the LORD Almighty, has a day of tumult and trampling and terror in the Valley of Vision, a day of battering down walls and of crying out to the mountains.(NIV)

Shebna not only led the people into the valley, he built walls to imprison God's people in the valley.

God promises to break down the walls and inspire a passion for the true mountain top experience – the Zion position.

EXPOSURE TO ENEMY INVASION

Isa 22:8

the defenses of Judah are stripped away. And you looked in that day to the weapons in the Palace of the Forest;(NIV)

Shebna did not build the stronghold to protect God's people. Under his leadership the defenses of the church were stripped away. The people depended on the armour of the forest – an inferior covering.

BREAKS THE HOUSE TO BUILD THE WALL

Isa 22:9-10

9 You also saw the damage to the city of David, that it was great; and you gathered

together the waters of the lower pool.

10 You numbered the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses you broke down to fortify the wall. (NKJ)

Destroys family life for church life. Under Shebna, family life is broken to build the church.

“DAMS” THE ANOINTING

Isa 22:11

You also made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to its Maker, nor did you have respect for Him who fashioned it long ago. (NKJ)

Shebna turned running water to stagnant water.

He frustrates the flow of God’s Spirit.

The Shebna order brings stagnation in the house of God.

LACK OF A CHRISTOCENTRIC FOCUS

Isa 22:11

You also made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to its Maker, nor did you have respect for Him who fashioned it long ago. (NKJ)

There is no consultation with Christ. This order boasts strength in itself.

OPPOSITION TO THE DEMANDS OF GOD

Isa 22:12-13

12 And in that day the Lord GOD of hosts called for weeping and for mourning, for baldness and for girding with sackcloth.

13 But instead, joy and gladness, slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating meat and drinking wine: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"(NKJ)

This order cannot meet the demands of God. It acts in opposition to the will of God. It is a gluttonous, indulgent order that misses the times of God. Just like Eli this order cannot hear the current voice of God.

JUSTIFICATION OF INSTANT GRATIFICATION

Isa 22:13

But instead, joy and gladness, slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating meat and drinking wine: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"(NKJ)

For this order the kingdom is meat and drink. For this order the possibility of death

tomorrow, justifies indulgence today.

A LEADERSHIP THAT CANNOT BE REDEEMED

Isa 22:14

Then it was revealed in my hearing by the LORD of hosts, "Surely for this iniquity there will be no atonement for you, even to your death," says the Lord GOD of hosts.(NKJ)

This order of leadership is totally disqualified. God has not accepted this pattern in his church.

Isa 22:17-18

17 Indeed, the LORD will throw you away violently, O mighty man, and will surely seize you.

18 He will surely turn violently and toss you like a ball into a large country; there you shall die, and there your glorious chariots shall be the shame of your master's house. (NKJ)

This leadership God will cut off from his church.

Isa 22:25

'In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'the peg that is fastened in the secure place will be removed and be cut down and fall, and the burden that was on it will be cut off; for the LORD has spoken.'"(NKJ)

BUILDING FOR SELF

Isa 22:15-16

15 Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: "Go, proceed to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the house, and say:

16 'What have you here, and whom have you here, that you have hewn a sepulcher here, as he who hews himself a sepulcher on high, who carves a tomb for himself in a rock?(NKJ)

We see from these verses that Shebna was responsible for all the preceding problems. Shebna was building for himself.

He was building a monument for himself. He was building a name for himself.

This is celebrity-type leadership that was the scourge of the Charismatic movement. God's people were not equipped – they were plundered. Leadership built for themselves in the name of God. In many places the only benefactors of the “prosperity doctrine” were the leaders themselves. God's people were given leaves to cover themselves(armour of the forest) instead of the armour of God.

The Shebna order represents a leadership that builds its own kingdom at the expense of

a gullible people. It's a leadership that positions the people in the valley and the enemy on the mountain.

THIS LEADERSHIP HAS SIMILARITIES TO THE SAUL AND ELI.

(B) THE ELIAKIM ORDER OF LEADERSHIP

THAT DAY IS NOW

Isa 22:20

'Then it shall be in that day, that I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah;
(NKJ)

ONE THAT IS CALLED

I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah

The called one is the sent one – the set man of the house.

PROVISIONS IN HIS CUSTODY

Isa 22:21

I will clothe him with your robe and strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.(NKJ)

OVERSIGHT OF THE HOUSE

Isa 22:21

... I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.(NKJ)

Note that Shebna was in charge of the house.

Isa 22:15

Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: "Go, proceed to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the house, and say:(NKJ)

This responsibility is now being transferred to a new order – the order of Eliakim.
The legitimate set man is one from the order of Eliakim.

A FATHER SPIRIT

Isa 22:21

.... He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.(NKJ)

God is raising leaders who will father his people.

1 Cor 4:15

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.(NKJ)

Mal 4:5-6

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."(NKJ)

TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD LIKE DAVID

Isa 22:22

The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open.(NKJ)

David was a man of accuracy. The Tabernacle of David is a picture of the church. The key to this pattern, God will give to the Eliakim order of leadership. The Eliakim order will carefully select the right materials to build God's house – definitely not wood, stubble and hay but gold, silver and precious stone.

STABLE LEADERSHIP

Isa 22:23

I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, and he will become a glorious throne to his father's house.(NKJ)

This leadership is rooted and grounded in Christ – the secure place. This leadership is the throne on which Christ sits i.e. Christ governs his church through this order of leadership.

A SET MAN ENTRUSTED WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

Isa 22:24

'They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers.
(NKJ)

The Eliakim order is an order of legitimate set men, called and sent by God to lead His

people. The vessels here, are the vessels of honour in the church – bonafide members of the body of Christ. These members must be attached to a legitimate set man – the peg.

God does not pick vessels from the floor. Make sure you belong to a local church, attached to a set man appointed by God.