

Note: Chapter 22 is a prophecy in two parts. The first part, Isaiah 22:1-19, predicts Jerusalem's future destruction, then Isaiah 22:20-25, predicts Jerusalem's future restoration. Chapter 24 contains two short oracles. An oracle is a message given to a prophet to give publicly. These two chapters employ images and themes that reappear in later Jewish and Christian writings.

Isaiah 22

1. In Isaiah's description of Jerusalem being invaded, none of the Jewish people appear to be heroic or trying to defend Jerusalem.
 - a. How are the ordinary citizens behaving? (Is 22:1-2)
 - b. How are the leaders behaving? (Is 22:3)
2. The Lord watches "a day of tumult and trampling and terror" in Jerusalem. (Is 22:5)
 - a. What are the invaders doing to the walls and buildings of Jerusalem? (Is 22:5, 9-10)
 - b. What kinds of sounds are heard in the city? (Is 22:5)
 - c. Where in the city are the invaders' horsemen and charioteers to be found? (Is 22:6-7)
3. Isaiah alludes to a time, shortly before Jerusalem's future destruction, when God will give the people a chance to repent.
 - a. What did the Lord ask the people to do as a sign of repentance? (Is 22:12)
 - b. How did the people respond? (Is 22:13)
 - c. What is the cynical saying about life and death that is still often quoted today? (Is 22:13)
4. The Lord places the key to the house of David on the king's shoulder. (Is 22:22)
 - a. What do you think the key symbolizes? (Is 22:20-22)
 - b. Can you see a connection between the "key carried on the shoulder," and the current expression "carrying the weight of the world on his shoulder"?
5. In the New Testament, Jesus is the messianic King from David's line. To whom does Jesus give the "key" and why? (Matt 16:18-19)

Isaiah 24 Note: In this chapter, Isaiah is poetically describing the final days of Jerusalem's destruction preceding their journey into captivity in Babylon.

6. "The Lord lay waste the earth and make it desolate." (Is 24:1)
 - a. Why would the Lord lay waste the land? (Is 24:3)
 - b. Who does Isaiah say is responsible for the devastation? (Is 24:19-22)
7. *Reflection:* Can you see parallels in this chapter with current day warnings of the earth heating up, ocean levels rising, and overuse of fossil fuels and rare metals?