

## The Coming Day of the Lord ~ Part 2 Yesha'yahu 2:9-17

In my last post, we began to look at **The Coming Day of the Lord** in **Yesha'yahu 2:6-22**. I decided to switch gears for my blog for this series as I will be taking more of a verse-by-verse format. We only covered verses 6-8. In this post, we continue to look at **The Coming Day of the Lord** beginning in **Yesha'yahu 2:9-17**.

Why will God judge His people? We learned in Part 1 it was (and still is) because of their idolatry, covetousness, pride, and exploiting of the poor. Instead of holding to the truth of God's Word, they were **full of sorcerers**, not unlike many "religious seekers" today. The growth of Eastern religions in the modern Western world is a phenomenon that is both frightening and challenging. Even nonreligious people are practicing Eastern forms of meditation and relaxation, following techniques that are being taught in university classes and business seminars.

***<sup>9</sup> A person bows down, a man lowers himself — don't forgive them! <sup>10</sup> Come into the rock, hide in the dust to escape the terror of Adonai and the glory of his majesty.***

In the ancient world, a bright or flaming aura surrounding deity is the norm in depicting **the glory of his majesty**. It is especially evident in the divine warrior motif where the deity unveils his glory as he fights for his people.

***<sup>11</sup> The proud looks of man will be humiliated; the arrogance of men will be bowed down; and when that day comes, Adonai alone will be exalted. <sup>12</sup> Yes, Adonai-Tzva'ot has a day in store for all who are proud and lofty, for all who are lifted high to be humiliated; <sup>13</sup> for all cedars of the L'vanon that are high and lifted up, for all the oaks of the Bashan; <sup>14</sup> for all the high mountains, for all the hills that are lifted up; <sup>15</sup> for every high tower, for every fortified wall; <sup>16</sup> for every "Tarshish" ship, for every luxurious vessel. <sup>17</sup> The pride of man will be bowed down, the arrogance of men will be humiliated, and when that day comes, Adonai alone will be exalted.***

With the words **proud looks of man will be humiliated**, **Yesha'yahu** expressed one of the major themes of his book. Through judgment, God cuts down the sinful pretensions of His people.

The prophets of the **Tanakh** often spoke of a **Coming Day of the Lord** (Joel 1:15; Amos 2:1,11,31; 5:18,20; Zephaniah 1:7,14; Zechariah 14:1). This day is the judgment of sinners, which means the redemption of God's people. However, God's people in this verse were the object of His anger since they were rebelling against Him. While the **Day of the Lord** ultimately points to the final judgment, God's temporal punishments of His people are often understood to be anticipatory fulfillment of the final judgment. **L'vanon** and **Bashan** were well known for their fertile lands and their impressive trees. Thus, they are representative of arrogance built on abundance. God's judgment is against all kinds of pride.

The **cedars of the L'vanon** and the **oaks of the Bashan** were valued for their size, beauty, strength, and durability. They would be used in the building projects (such as gates and palaces) that were the sources of pride for nations and in which they would put their trust. The **cedars of L'vanon** and **oaks of Bashan** speak of men that are proud of their abilities. Who or what do we put our trust in? For my wife and I, it is the Lord and ADT Security.

The high mountains could speak of government. Walls and towers speak of military might. Walls of this period were solid and could be made of mud brick, fieldstone or ashlar [large square-cut] stone. While towers and walls were features of fortified cities, there were also many garrison fortresses built along trade routes and borders. In **Isra'el** both the fortresses and towers were rectangular. Since city walls have not been preserved to their original height, it is difficult to say how high they were. A width of fifteen to twenty feet was common

and judging from their massive foundations and the length of ladders used for scaling the walls, a height of thirty to forty feet would not be unusual.

Trade using seagoing vessels was already taking place in the first half of the third millennium BCE. Excavations of a sunken merchant ship (off the coast of Turkey) from the period gives a good idea of the variety of items being shipped. Trading ships of the first millennium were single-masted with a crow's nest and could feature either one or two banks of oars. A typical length would be about fifty feet, though larger ones are known. <sup>1</sup>

It is not idols, but only **Yeshua** who will ultimately be exalted. When He comes back to this planet, before He rules and reigns in the **Temple**, there will be a time of chastening and judging. As a result, people will take all that they once worshiped to the dump to be left to the rats because, at last, all idols will be seen to be meaningless.

In my next post, I will finish with this topic for now as we explore **The Coming Day of the Lord ~ Part 3 Yesha'yahu 2:18-22.**

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<sup>1</sup> The IVP Bible Background Commentary – Old Testament