

# INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

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## CHAPTER TWENTY

### **THEME:**

The Burden of Egypt (continued). Egypt to be Invaded in 3 years by Assyria.

### **REMARKS:**

This brief chapter continues the burden of Egypt. The last chapter closed on the high note of future blessing for Egypt in the Millennial Kingdom. Because of future blessing, there was a danger of Israel looking to Egypt for help in the immediate crisis. Assyria in the north came against them.

Isaiah was to make it clear to God's people that there was no real assistance to be expected from Egypt, as she likewise would be at the mercy of Assyria. Egyptians were to suffer at the hands of Assyria and were to be carried into captivity as well as Samaria (10 northern tribes of Israel). This was to take place in three (3) years. The last chapter closed with the far view. This chapter opens and closes with a near view.

The last chapter looks into the dim and distant future.

This chapter looks at the coming current events which prove the reliability of Isaiah as a prophet of God.

This chapter puts the microscope down on the times in which Isaiah lived.

Another impressive feature about this brief chapter is the reference in verse 1 to Sargon.

This is the only place that he occurs in the Bible. Up to comparatively recent times he was unknown in secular history. This caused able commentators of the past to conclude that this was another son of Shalmaneser mentioned in II Kings 18, now Sargon's name and record have been found on the monuments and he is established in secular history, he succeeded Shalmaneser but was not his son, he was the father of Sennacherib.

It is indeed consoling to have archaeology establish the historicity of a man only mentioned once in the Scripture and nowhere in profane literature up to recent times.

However, the reverent student of Scripture does not need this confirmation to establish the accuracy of Scripture. Rather, Scripture establishes the accuracy of archaeology and history. Faith does not, nor can it, rest upon the inspiration of the pick and shovel, nonetheless, the believer expects the stones to cry out a glad amen.

## **OUTLINE:**

This chapter contains only one thought—the Burden of Egypt (see THEME).

## **COMMENT:**

**Verse 1—In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it;**

- “**Tartan**” was a general in the Assyrian army (II Kings 18:17).
- “**Ashdod**” was a city in Samaria (10 northern tribes).
- Sargon succeeded Shalmaneser (II Kings 17:3 See REMARKS above.)

**Verse 2—At the same time spake the Lord by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.**

Isaiah was to become a walking parable to Israel as a warning not to become confederate with Egypt.

Isaiah was not asked to go in the nude. Clothing was and is so essential to the customs of the East and nudeness is so revolting that it is obvious that this was not intended. Isaiah was to lay aside his outward tunic of mourning. This would attract immediate and startling attention to the prophet. It would enable Isaiah to make his point publicly. It is well to note the words of Delitzsch at this point, “what Isaiah was therefore directed to do, was simply opposed to common custom and not to moral decency.”

**Verse 3—And the Lord said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia;**

Isaiah probably did not go three (3) years without his outer garment of mourning, but rather in three (3) years this would happen to Egypt.

Ethiopia is included in this parable in action.

**Verse 4—So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.**

Egypt could not protect herself or Ethiopia. She would not be a reliable ally for Israel. Both Egypt and Ethiopia were invaded by Sargon and there came this shame upon Egypt.

Verse 5—**And they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation, and of Egypt their glory.**

From the humiliation of this defeat and great shame Egypt never fully recovered.

Verse 6—**And the inhabitant of this isle shall say in that day, Behold, such is our expectation, whither we flee for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria: and how shall we escape?**

By “**Isle**” is meant “**coast**.” The reference is to Israel. Israel would be driven to desperation and frustration in that day because of misplaced confidence.

~ end of chapter 20~

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