

10. The phrase is often best rendered in common English simply as meaning: "a day is coming when the following events will happen." Verse 25 merely stresses the certainty that the rebuke against Shebna will be fulfilled.

Thus this passage has dealt with the affairs of two individuals who were very prominent in Isaiah's day, but who to us are merely names. Its importance doubtless was very great at that time. To us today its significance lies simply in showing God's great interest in all the affairs of life, His oversight in everything that happens, and the insecurity of all earthly positions apart from Him.

With chapter 22 we finished the long series of related chapters which began with chapter 17.

### **Chapter 23: The Burden of Tyre**

Tyre was one of the principal cities of ancient Phoenicia -- the region along the coast of the Mediterranean sea, just north of Israeli. This region is quite different from most other sections of the ancient world. Its claim to prominence rests, not on military prowess, but on trade and commerce. This development was one which might be expected in view of the geographical situation of Phoenicia, so different from that of Palestine. In Palestine the coastline is generally straight and rough. There are no good natural harbors, and few that deserve even to be called secondary ones. An attractive country stretches eastward from the Mediterranean, but there is little to attract men to venture the dangers of the western sea. As a result the Mediterranean has little part in the events of the Old Testament.

Phoenicia is quite the opposite. To the east it is shut in by towering mountains and the fertile land is narrow in extent and often poor in quality, but the coast is cut up into little bays and harbors, making navigation less difficult and luring the people out to sea. The Phoenicians soon became great navigators and traders. Their land possessed articles with great commercial value, and commerce was necessary for survival. Once fairly begun, it provided a means of outstanding progress and achievement.

Tyrian purple early achieved preeminence as a dye; Canaanite wool became known throughout the Near East; and