

WILL YOU BE A PILLAR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?



Early seventh century BC, Isaiah declared that throughout the nation of Judah, pop culture had won the day, and the people were responsible for rejecting the Lord (Isa. 22:1-14). It is in this passage that the phrase “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die” surfaces for the first time in Scripture.

But were the people capable of discerning their culture’s disintegration, and should they have been able to hear God’s call to mourn over the situation? God thought so! (See verses 12-14.) Instead, put in today’s language, the people saturated themselves with video games, surfing the Internet, sexual perversion, and endless viewing of sensual and violent entertainment; they were absorbed in sports, food, drugs, alcohol, and chasing after other “gods”—anything to make them feel good, all the while ignoring God’s plan for lasting fulfillment.

As their disdain for the Lord increased, He removed His hand of blessing—essentially vacating the premises—leaving the people to their own devices. But instead of turning to God, the people depended on their own ingenuity and military strength (vv. 8-11). In the end (605–586 BC), Isaiah’s devastating prophecy of the “valley of vision” took place, and the party was over.

Was There Hope?

However, before this judgment became reality, a man named Eliakim emerged with eternal purposes in his heart and the promises of God on his life!

Not the king but a trusted servant (Isa. 36:3; 2 Kings 18:18), Eliakim was a hero to whom we can relate. He was remembered as a “peg” of righteousness driven into the cultural soil by God and was a “father” figure to many (Isa. 22:20-24). Eliakim was exemplary not only for the people of his day, but for ours.

A Foreshadowing of Jesus

However, the account of Eliakim’s life does not end here. The last verse of this chapter says, “The peg that was fastened in a secure place will give way . . . and the load that was on it will be cut off” (22:25 *ESV*). Traumatically, as the apostasy continued, Eliakim was no longer able to support the weight of his nation’s sins.

What do we do with this account of a godly person who was such a force for good, who in the end lost his position of influence and his nation to degeneracy? At this point it becomes clear that Eliakim was foreshadowing Jesus. Jesus was righteous in all His ways and an unstoppable force for good, but He went to the cross for our sins. *Indeed, He was the peg broken for us.*

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Similar to Jesus, Eliakim was profoundly unselfish, blameless before God, and intent on helping everyone he could, including those who didn’t want it. Unfortunately, like our nation today, most were only interested in a feel-good moment, simply wanting to extend the party a little longer. Sobering, isn’t it?

What About You?

Are you willing to be a force for good? Even in a culture that would rather silence you than thank you? In the end, are you willing to be like Eliakim, a peg that is broken off, while those around you believe you wasted your life? Are you willing to be a pillar of righteousness and leave the results to God?

If so, sign “The Eliakim Challenge” card provided or download one at www.ForerunnersOfAmerica.org.