1. **Intro:**
   1.1. Sherri Youngward -
   1.2. Daniel Bollochowski – Russia Trip.
   1.3. **Intro:** What more judgments? What did Habakkuk do with them?
       1.3.1. See Hab.3:2 (ch.2 was 5 woes - He let them affect himself personally!)

2. **BABYLON! (21)**
   2.1. **Babylon is Bounced!** (1-4)
   2.2. (1) “Wilderness/desert by the sea” – Babylonian plain by the Tigris & Euphrates rivers.
   2.3. (2) Elam = Ancient name for Persia.
       2.3.1. Medes & Persians would come against Babylon like a storm across the desert (1,2).
   2.4. (3,4) Isaiah saw this & was filled with horror.
       2.4.1. I believe every man has been warned about relating “anything” to child birth! – And I highly respect that!
       2.4.1.1. And I believe Isaiah was not speaking in hyperbole here!
       2.4.1.2. I believe he was in that much trauma over this.
   2.5. (4) Oh, for one calm evening!
   2.6. **Banqueting Belshazzar!** (5-9)
   2.7. (5) Isaiah has a vision of the sinful Banqueting Belshazzar in Dan.5.
   2.8. (6) God instructed Isaiah to post a watchman on the city wall to watch for eastern invaders.
   2.9. (7) The watchman saw the invading forces.
   2.10. (8) He warns them of attack!
       2.10.1. Apply 8b to prayer!
       2.10.2. Q: Do you spare time to wait on God?
   2.11. (9) Then he sees & says, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen!”
       2.11.1. Probably speaking both historically & prophetically.
           2.11.1.1. Rev.14:8; 18:2.
2.12. **Babylon is Threshed!** (10)

2.13. Not a pretty image!

2.14. **Edom!** (11,12)

2.15. **Edom** – South of the Dead Sea. Edom means “red” signifying the red sandstone of the Edomite desert.

2.16. **Seir** – A synonym for Edom. Means “hairy” & refers to the rugged mountain range rising in Edom.

2.17. **The question? How long will Edom suffer?**
   2.17.1. **Answer?** The deliverance for Israel would come, but Edom would continue to suffer.

   2.17.2. (11) – When will the day dawn & the shadows flee away?

   2.17.3. The watchman looks for the morning to break but it is just again followed by nightfall (i.e. no change).

     2.17.3.1. *Cat Stevens*(1972) captured this “new morning” thought when he sang, *“Morning has broken like the first morning\nBlackbird has spoken like the first bird\nPraise for the singing, praise for the morning\nPraise for them springing fresh from the word.”*

   2.17.4. (12) Seems to indicate repentance! – “Return! Come back!”

2.18. **Arabia!** (13-17)

2.19. The Assyrians would also inflict punishment on the nomadic Arab tribes of the desert.

2.20. (13) **Dedanites** – came from Abraham & Keturah, who settled in Edom.

2.21. (14) **Tema** – an Oasis on the Arabian Peninsula.

2.22. (16) The glory of Kedar – south of Israel & East of Egypt.

   2.22.1. They were known for their beautiful black tents.

2.23. (17) **History records:** In 715 **Sargon II** wrote that he had defeated a number of Arabian tribes & had then deported to Samaria.

3. **JERUSALEM!** (22)

3.1. **Jerusalem Devastated!** (1-14)

3.2. Jerusalem is surrounded by valleys on 3 sides (Tyropoeon, Kidron, Hinnom).

   3.2.1. So this is addressed to the **Valley of Visions**.
3.3. Isaiah describes the **Babylonian invasion** & siege against **Jerusalem** led by Nebuchadnezzar in 588-586bc. (2 Kings 25)

3.4. (2) Jerusalem is **tumultuous/boisterous** because people from the surrounding villages/towns have sought refuge behind her walls.

3.5. (2b)** Famine** (2 Kings 25:3)

3.6. (3) The city is captured as King Zedekiah flees (2 Kings 25:5)

3.6.1. The inhabitants are captured.

3.7. (4) Isaiah was beyond comfort.

3.8. (6) **Elam**(Persia) & **Kir**(Aramean city) are now allied w/Babylon.

3.9. (7) Kidron Valley is filled w/chariots.

3.10. (8-11) **Depending on your defenses!**

3.10.1. Their walls are breached.

3.10.2. The people of Jerusalem attempt to preserve their **water supply**.

3.10.3. They also tried to **shore up** the **broken walls**. Show Pic in Israel.

3.10.3.1. But to no avail! – Why? They failed to trust the Lord(11b).

3.10.4. Sometimes when we encounter a problem we’ll try **every conceivable way**…except the **right way**.

3.10.4.1. But when we’re dealing with **sin**…there is only **one resolution**!

3.10.5. (11b) Ps.127:1 “**Unless the LORD builds the house,** They labor in vain who build it; **Unless the LORD guards the city,** The watchman stays awake in vain.”

3.10.5.1. So many will spend big bucks in the building materials of a house, & forget to build the spiritual infrastructure of what makes that house a HOME!

3.10.6. **Q:** Do you pray regularly for the **public officials** in your city?

3.10.7. **Q:** Do you for **God’s sovereign intervention** in their leadership?

3.10.7.1. President, Judges, Police, Fire, Building dept., Border patrol, Code Enforcement(Linda Mejia/They removed 200 tons of trash from our watershed areas), Vector Control(Mosquito problem), Mayor, City Council(esp. w/this whole recall issue), School Board?

3.10.7.2. **Just pray** while you **watch the news** regarding different countries!
3.10.8. Yes, houses & cities…but also…
Unless the Lord builds your company…your sweat is pointless.
Unless the Lord leads your ministry…your time is worthless.
Unless the Lord has brought her/him into your life…that relationship is in vain.
Unless the Lord builds our church…our work is fruitless.
Unless the Lord builds our families…someone will breach our family’s walls!

3.10.9. Q: Are you fortifying your own walls?
3.10.9.1. Reminds me of the commercial of a man sweeping a hall next to the shark aquarium. The broom hits the tank, & it starts to crack. He quickly plasters himself against the enormous glass to stop the inevitable!

3.10.9.2. Q: Are you fortifying your own walls?

3.11. (12) The only resolution? Repentance!
3.11.1. God called them to repentance & to exhibit it by shaving their heads & putting on sackcloth.

3.12. (13) Instead they choose Revelry…instead of Repentance!
3.12.1. The people had adopted the pagan philosophy “eat, drink, & be merry for tomorrow we die anyways!!!”
3.12.1.1. “Often in times of crisis there is a dedication to pleasure at all costs because of the insecurity of the future.”
3.12.1.2. It is either despair or self-indulgence.
3.12.2. Isaiah says regarding Israel’s irresponsible leaders 56:12(NIV), “Come,” each one cries, “let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better.”
3.12.3. Jesus giving a parable about a rich man used this, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose”
3.12.4. Paul used this, “If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!“ (1 Cor.15:32)
3.12.5. James(5:5) said it a little bit differently, “You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.”
3.12.6. Instead of calling for a Fast they decided to Feast!
3.12.7. Q: Isn’t this same spirit prevailing today?
3.12.7.1. Fortify your own Walls! And, Life is a Party!

1 Philip Hacking; Isaiah; Pg.63
3.13. (14) Their sin would **not** be forgiven!!!
3.13.1. Wow what was happening w/Isaiah’s heart NOW?

3.14.1. Not only is God in control of **nations** but **leaders** also!

3.15. (15-19) **Shebna** – a government official, 2nd only to the king.
3.15.1. He was pro-Egyptian(sought their alliance)
3.15.2. He used his office for personal gain! (caution)
3.15.3. In taking inventory of **the city’s resources**, somebody uncovered his deceit & exposed him.
   3.15.3.1. So, instead of enjoying retirement, security, & a fine burial; he experienced captivity, exile, & a lonely death.²

3.15.4. He was replaced with Eliakim.

3.16.1. **Lovely Titles:**
   3.16.1.1. He was a **Servant**!(serve, not lord it over).
   3.16.1.2. He was like a **Father** to them(protect, provide, lead, love, release, trust).
   3.16.1.3. He could be **trusted** w/authority**keys**
      3.16.1.3.1. Of course this reminds us of **our responsibility** w/the keys we hold, given 1st to Peter, then generally to all disciples (Mt.16:19; 18:18).
   3.16.1.4. He was like a **strong peg** in which the nation could hang their burdens.

3.16.2. **These are the qualities a leader still needs today!**
3.16.2.1. Mical & I saw a car in front of us the other day w/3 bumper stickers! [Jesus was a Liberal – W.ho W.ould J.esus B.omb? – Vote for John Kerry]

3.16.3. But even **Eliakim** would be brought down, because of the countries impending judgment.

3.16.4. **Q: So, what titles would be placed upon you? Upon your position?**
3.16.4.1. Would they be considered “Lovely” or “Ludicrous”?²

² Warren Wiersbe; pg.466