

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 140

August 25, 2024

Isaiah 22:18, *“He will surely violently turn and toss thee [like] a ball into a large country: there shalt thou die, and there the chariots of thy glory [shall be] the shame of thy lord's house.”*

In Isaiah 22 the burden of the valley of vision is being declared. Of the things said that the LORD would do to them, one is that He would toss them like a ball. This is the only time in the Bible the word “ball” is used.

When I was growing up, I spent a lot of time outside playing ball with the neighborhood boys and girls. There were no video games, very little TV, and certainly no Internet or cell phones. Much of our playing was done out in the yard and street. We would toss baseballs back and forth. We were fortunate enough to have a basketball goal in the back yard. Tossing a ball of one kind or another was almost a daily routine in my childhood.

One of the things that would often happen is that the ball would get lost in an area of tall grass. Sometimes it would end up on a roof and in a gutter. Sometimes we would never be able to find the ball at all and it was simply lost. I can remember finding a few balls after many

years, but some of the lost balls were lost for good and are to this day.

I think this is the point Isaiah was making. There were some that the LORD would toss like a ball into a large country. They would be lost and not found. There they would die.

When we toss a ball there are a few results that can happen.

1. **The ball is never lost.** I’m sure most of the balls we tossed were caught or quickly picked up and then safely taken back into the house at the end of the day. I pray that all of us are in this situation. We are safe in the LORD and never lost. Unlike the ball, this decision is up to us. We choose to keep ourselves faithful to the LORD and are never tossed into a large country.

2. **The ball is lost but found.** Often when playing ball we would fail to catch it and it would roll into a field with taller grass. If we just walked away when a ball rolled into the tall grass, the longer we waited to search, the less likely we were to find it. As soon as a ball would roll into the grass there were clues. We saw the direction. We would see the path where the ball entered the grass. The quicker we started looking, the greater the chance of finding the ball.

In the same way, as soon as we see family and friends become lost, we need to seek to “find” them and bring them back. This could be by an encouraging word or offering to do what we can to help them. The longer we wait, the less likely they are to come back.

It’s interesting that a ball is used in so many games and the object is to win the game. In bringing souls to the LORD the word “win” is used. Proverbs 11:30, *“The fruit of the righteous [is] a tree of life; and he that winneth souls [is] wise.”*

continued on next page...

Munfordville Church of Christ
104 Back St — P.O. Box 322
Munfordville, KY 42765

Marty Edwards, Minister
(270) 528-1298

www.munfordvillechurchofchrist.com

martywedwards@gmail.com

Sunday 9am, 10am, 12pm; 6pm (Online) — Wednesday 6pm (Online)

...continued from previous page

The more valuable something is, the more effort we put into finding it. I remember I had a baseball from a professional minor league game. I had lost it for a while, and I remember putting more effort into finding it because it was more valuable than the other baseballs I had.

Each soul is precious and worth more than all the world, and we need to do our best to bring back each lost person. Ultimately, it's their own decision, but we need to try to rescue them.

3. **Some balls stay lost.** I'm sure there were many balls that we tossed that became lost and were never found. Sometimes they were located weeks later by a lawn mower, but they were destroyed at that point. If the ball didn't meet this fate, with time and weathering it would still be destroyed.

It's deeply sad that most people will be lost. How sad for those who were once in the LORD to become lost and never found. They will suffer eternal destruction. II Peter 2:20-21, ²⁰*For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.* ²¹*For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*"

Though a ball is not mentioned, Zechariah 8:5 talks about boys and girls playing. *"And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof."* Perhaps they could have been tossing a ball or just simply running and playing. If they had an object with which to play, it was important not to lose it. I'm sure in Biblical times play items were hard to come by. They would have protected those items from being lost. *continued on next page...*

Sunday, August 18, 2024		
Classes	12	Luke 13:18-28
Preaching	23	Genesis 3; Revelation 20 (Deceived)
Contribution	\$1,002.00	
Evening	13	I John 4:11-21; Genesis 20:1-18

Bible Quiz

God came to Abimelech how?

Last Week's Answer— The sun (Genesis 19:23)

★ ★ ★

...continued from previous page

In the same manner, let's put forth the utmost effort to keep ourselves, and those about us, from being tossed by sin away from the LORD.

The next time you see a ball being tossed or you toss one yourself, consider if you are safely in the hand of the LORD or have been tossed into a large country. Let's live our lives in such a way that we remain firmly in the grip of the only One who can save our eternal souls.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God's Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)