

ISAIAH 28

- Tale of
 - As his
 - the
 - In when the
 - There of men]
 - FIRST

and
can
YAH
LORD

- The there

right]

the
will

- they
the
late!

- Promises
 - The
 - those come

Two cities...
Isaiah concluded
APOCALYPSE
[ἀποκάλυψις] of
nations...
that day [בַּיּוֹם] -
Jesus will JUDGE
whole world...
will be TWO kinds
CITIES [groups of

- the city of God -
where SALVATION
[יְשׁוּעָה] is the
WALLS that
protect the
people...

- Whose
GATES are open -
the RIGHTEOUS
come TRUST in
[יְיָ] - who is the
[יְהוָה]
UPRIGHT wait
- SEEKING the
judgement of God
[make the world

- SECOND -
CITY of MEN - that
be ground into the
DUST...

- Though the
WICKED are
shown GRACE [חֶסֶד]
will NOT turn to
LORD till it is too

of God...
LORD gives
PROMISES to
who CHOSE to
to the City of
GOD...

- PEACE - because the LORD is the one who does all the work...
- RESURRECTION - though the RIGHTEOUS will die - they will LIVE again [first resurrection]
- REFUGE - the RIGHTEOUS will be HIDDEN during the coming JUDGEMENT!
- Fruit or fire...
 - Leviathan [satan] will be JUDGED - cast into the Lake of Fire - **Matthew 25:41**
 - Those who CHOSE to be planted in the VINEYARD of God - will be FRUITFUL...
 - But those who CHOSE to stand with the ENEMY - will join him in the FIRE!
- **1ST - WOE TO EPHRAIM... vs. 1-6**
 - 1st - Their Pride... vs. 1
 - The outline...
 - The outline of the FIRST half of the book of Isaiah...
 - Isaiah 1-12 - the Judgement and Hope for Judah
 - Isaiah 13-23 - the ten BURDENS of the Nations
 - Isaiah 24-27 - the Apocalypse [judgement of the whole world]
 - Isaiah 28-35 - the six WOES - and the coming King
 - Isaiah 36-39 - the proof - the fall of Assyria
 - Drunk...
 - Woe to the crown of pride - to the drunkards of Ephraim!
 - Having given the TEN burdens concluding with the Apocalypse [final judgement]
 - He turns again to His people - and gives the FIRST of SIX woes...
 - WOE [הוי] - a Hebrew interjection that often precedes a pronouncement of JUDGMENT...
 - To the CROWN of PRIDE [גָּאוֹן] - the one who rises up [self-confident]
 - The EVIDENCE of the PRIDE of EPHRAIM - was them getting DRUNK!
 - Fading...
 - Whose glorious beauty is a fading flower which is at the head of the verdant valley.
 - To those who are overcome with wine!
 - Ephraim should have been the most BEAUTIFUL flower in a GREEN [fat] valley...
 - But they were FADING - because they had been STRUCK [הָלַם] by WINE...
 - The Northern Kingdom was in DECLINE - because of their moral decline!
 - There are TWO possibilities to the TIMING of this WOE...
 - Most place it before 722 B.C. - when Israel [Ephraim] fell to Assyria - **II Kings 17:18**
 - But it is possible this was written AFTER the diaspora of Israel...
 - Isaiah looking back at what happened to ISRAEL as a warning to Judah!
 - **Proverbs 23:31-32** - "Do not look on wine when it is red when it sparkles in the cup - it swirls around smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent - and stings like a viper!"
 - Many people try and live by the POWER of alcohol - to get through the day...
 - They drink to forget how terrible life is - but it makes them bitter in the end...
 - Because the moment they sober up the reality of their poor choices are there to greet them...
 - Too many lives - too many families - have been ruined by DRUNK decisions - **Ephesians 5:18**
 - 2nd - The storm... vs. 2-4
 - Flood... vs. 2
 - Behold the Lord has a mighty and strong one - like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm.
 - A flood of mighty waters overflowing who will bring them down to the earth with His hand!
 - BEHOLD - the Lord [אֵלֹהִים] is going to send a MIGHTY nation against Israel [Ephraim]

- Isaiah described them STORM [three ways] - HAIL - DOWNPOUR - FLOOD...
- An ACT of God that His hand would bring upon the earth...
- Referring to the nation of Assyria that would decimate the nation of Israel!

▪ Ripe... vs. 3-4

- The crown of pride - the drunkards of Ephraim - will be trampled underfoot.
- And the glorious beauty is a fading flower which is at the head of the verdant valley.
- Like the first fruit before the summer which an observer sees.
- He eats it up while it is still in his hand!
- When Assyria came they would TRAMPLE [niph'al] underfoot the DRUNKARDS of Ephraim...
- [Sequential] when Assyria came - they will be the one to cause their FLOWER to fade...
- Like [בָּרִיךְ] the FIRST fruit that comes before SUMMER...
- Assyria would come into Israel [Ephraim] and consume all of their people!
- When I was growing up we have a RASPBERRY patch in the backyard...
- As soon as the FIRST batch would ripen - I would always eat them right away!
- When we are PRIDEFUL - living for the FUN of this world [drunk]
- BEHOLD the Lord is getting ready to send a STORM upon our lives - **Matthew 7:27**
- He wants to wake us up - get our attention - so that we LOOK up!

○ 3rd - Better crown... vs. 5-6

▪ Remnant... vs. 5

- In that day the LORD of hosts will be for a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty.
- To the remnant of His people!
- In that DAY [בַּיּוֹם] - when the devastating STORM comes [Assyria]
- There will NO longer be a CROWN of PRIDE - and a DRUNKEN people...
- Instead the LORD of HOSTS [צְבָאוֹת] will be [imperfect] the CROWN...
- To the REMNANT [שְׁאֵר] - the few who were left - those who were HIS people [עַמּוֹ]!
- Watch what people POST on social media - what is their CROWN...
- When life is going GREAT - they post the PARTIES [wine in hand]
- When life is FALLING apart - they post the PRAYER [looking to the Lord]!

▪ Result... vs. 6

- For a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment.
- And for strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate!
- There were TWO results to the people looking to the LORD as their CROWN...
- FIRST - the JUDGES [sit in judgement] were given a spirit of JUSTICE...
- SECOND - the SOLDIERS were given STRENGTH to turn away the ENEMY at the gate!
- WISDOM and STRENGTH do NOT come from the world [or alcohol]
- They are the RESULT of putting Jesus FIRST [crown] in our lives...
- Then we will know WHAT to do [wisdom] - and have the ABILITY [strength] to do it!

● 2ND - THE WARNING... vs. 7-13

○ 1st - The leaders... vs. 7-8

▪ Priest and prophets... vs. 7

- But they also have erred through wine - and through intoxicating drink are out of the way.
- The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink.
- They are swallowed up by wine. They are out of the way through intoxicating drink.
- They err in vision - they stumble in judgment!
- The MORAL collapse of Israel [Ephraim] was not just the people...

- Those who should have been LEADING them - were also DRUNK [wine and hard liquor]
- The PRIESTS [כֹּהֲנִים] and PROPHETS [נְבִיאִים] were CONSUMED [niph'al] by alcohol...
- As a RESULT - they had ERRED [שָׁגָה] in THREE ways:
- FIRST - they were OUT of the way [תָּעָה] - SPIRITUALLY lost...
- SECOND - they had ERRED [שָׁגָה] - and could not THINK straight...
- THIRD - they stumbled [פָּיַק] - and could not STAND physically!
- Unclean... vs. 8
 - For all tables are full of vomit and filth. No place is clean!
 - The result of DRUNK priests and prophets - they VOMIT over everything...
 - Their filth covers EVERYTHING [כָּל] - no place is CLEAN...
 - That was true PHYSICALLY - but just as true SPIRITUALLY!
 - The Bible does NOT say it is wrong to drink [we CANNOT get drunk]
 - The ONE exception is for PASTORS - they are NOT to drink - **I Timothy 3:2**
 - Because a DRUNK pastor is off SPIRITUALLY - confused MENTALLY - and unable to STAND...
 - The Pastor is an example to the church - therefore he is NOT to drink alcohol!
- 2nd - The complaint... vs. 9-10
 - Simple... vs. 9
 - Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message?
 - Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts?
 - The Priest and Prophets of Israel were QUESTIONING the LORD...
 - Who did the LORD think He was teaching [יָרָה] - giving His message to [בָּיִת]
 - They were NOT toddlers who had just been WEANED from MILK!
 - Rules... vs. 10
 - For precept must be upon precept - precept upon precept.
 - Line upon line - line upon line. Here a little - there a little!
 - [כִּי] because - the LORD was giving them COMMAND after COMMAND [צִו]
 - LINE after LINE - boundaries they were to stay within...
 - STEP by STEP - giving them just a LITTLE at a time...
 - But they thought they were more MATURE - and should NOT be treated like little kids!
 - **Hebrews 5:12** - "By this time you ought to be teachers... [but] you have come to need milk and not solid food."
 - It is cute to bottle feed a young infant - no surprise - when they mess their diapers...
 - But it is NOT cute - when a grown adult is still on the bottle - still wearing diapers!
 - When we first come to Jesus - we are going to be like LITTLE children...
 - We are going to make LOTS of mistakes - and will need to be guided step by step...
 - But we should NOT stay that way - as we listen to His Word - we should GROW...
 - Becoming MATURE in the Lord - as we exercise our FAITH - get to KNOW our God!
- 3rd - Rejected... vs. 11-13
 - No rest... vs. 11-12
 - For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people.
 - To whom He said: This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest.
 - And: This is the refreshing yet they would not hear!
 - What was God saying - He told a WEARY people that they must [imperative] REST...
 - But they would NOT [לֹא] listen and be REFRESHED...

- Israel thought they were too MATURE for MILK...
- Therefore -[כִּי] because they would NOT listen to His simple COMMAND [find rest]
- He told them He would speak [piel] to them in ANOTHER [אַחֵר] language...
- They would instead hear the commands of the ASSYRIANS in a foreign language!
- Paul quotes this verse in relation to speaking in tongues - **I Corinthians 14:21**
- Exhorting the church to NOT be babes - but to be MATURE!

▪ Broken... vs. 13

- But the word of the LORD was to them. Precept upon precept - precept upon precept.
- Line upon line - line upon line. Here a little - there a little.
- That they might go and fall backward - and be broken and snared and caught!
- [Sequential] - the reason why the WORD of the LORD seemed unnecessary to Israel...
- COMMAND after COMMAND [צִוִּי] - LINE after LINE - STEP by STEP...
- Was so that they might [sequential] FALL - be BROKEN - CAPTURED - and TAKEN [niphāl]
- We know that as Christians we should READ our Bible - come to Church...
- We might argue it is the SAME message - things we already KNOW...
- But the moment we stop loving the WORD - hearing the COMMANDS of the Lord...
- We set ourselves up for a FALL - being BROKEN - taken captive to SIN!
- **Philippians 3:1** - "I never get tired of telling you these things - I do it to safeguard your faith." [NLT]

● 3RD - THE CORNERSTONE... vs. 14-29

○ 1st - The contrast... vs. 14-15

▪ The Word... vs. 14

- Therefore hear the word of the LORD.
- You scornful men who rule this people who are in Jerusalem!
- YES [כֵּן] - the leaders of JUDAH also needed [imperative] to hear this...
- The BOASTING rulers in the city of Jerusalem...
- This is where we see the focus of this WOE from Isaiah...
- Ephraim was the EXAMPLE for Judah of what happens when a people do NOT listen...
- Just as the Northern kingdom was BROKEN - so the Southern could also FALL!

▪ The lie... vs. 15

- Because you have said: We made a covenant with death - with Sheol we are in agreement.
- When the overflowing scourge passes through it will not come to us.
- For we have made lies our refuge and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves!
- [כִּי] - because the leaders of Judah had made a COVENANT [בְּרִית]
- A deal they thought would allow them to avoid DEATH [מָוֶת] and HELL [שְׁאוֹל]
- But they were putting their TRUST [refuge] in LIES - hiding in something that was NOT true!
- The leaders of Judah had made an agreement with Egypt - **II Kings 18:21**
- And they assumed Egypt was strong enough to defeat Assyria...
- But instead Isaiah tells them they have made a deal with DEATH and HELL!
- There are only TWO options as to who we LISTEN to...
- Either we listen to the LORD - and He gives us the words of LIFE...
- Or we listen to the lies of this WORLD - and we make a deal with DEATH and HELL!
- **James 3:15** - "This wisdom does not descend from above but is earthly - sensual - demonic."

○ 2nd - Foundation... vs. 16

- Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation.

- A tried stone - precious cornerstone - sure foundation. Whoever believes will not act hastily!
- Therefore [כֵּן] - in contrast to the LIES of this world that lead to DEATH and HELL...
- The Lord [אֲדֹנָי] who is GOD [יְהוָה] - put the STONE in ZION as the [piel] only FOUNDATION [יְסֹד]
- The STONE that has been TESTED [בִּחָן] - the CORNERSTONE that is valuable [קִרְיָה]
- And whoever BELIEVES [hiphil] in Him [Jesus] - will NOT be ASHAMED [καταισχύνω]!
- **I Peter 2:6** - "Behold I lay in Zion [Jerusalem] a chief cornerstone – elect – precious. And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."
- Will NOT – [οὐ μὴ subjunctive] – the most powerful negation in Greek...
- IMPOSSIBLE for those put their trust [present] in Jesus to be disappointed...
- To those who BELIEVE in Him – He is an unshakable FOUNDATION!
- We will NEVER be disappointed when we choose to make Jesus our FOUNDATION...
- That does not mean things will always turn out the way we expect...
- But we can be certain – that whatever happens – we are UNSHAKABLE - **Matthew 7:24**
- 3rd - Not covered... vs. 17-20
 - Measuring line... vs. 17
 - Also I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plummet.
 - The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies - and the waters will overflow the hiding place!
 - [Sequential] - then God will show Judah the difference...
 - He would make his MEASURING line justice [מִשְׁפָּט] - and His LEVEL righteousness [צֶדֶק]
 - The STORM of Assyria would come - and sweep away the LIE [trust in Egypt]
 - And the people would see that their FOUNDATION should be the LORD!
 - Terrified... vs. 18-19
 - Your covenant with death will be annulled and your agreement with Sheol will not stand.
 - When the overflowing scourge passes through - then you will be trampled down by it.
 - As often as it goes out it will take you. For morning by morning it will pass over.
 - And by day and by night it will be a terror just to understand the report!
 - The [pual] COVERING [כִּפְיָה] of their COVENANT [בְּרִית] with death and hell would NOT stand...
 - Just as the LORD had warned them [naked Isaiah] - Egypt would NOT save them - **Isaiah 20:3**
 - The scourge of Assyria would COME - and TRAMPLE them down...
 - Again and again the Assyrians would COME - morning and night - to take them away...
 - And the message of the CONQUEST of Judah would TERRIFY them!
 - Too short... vs. 20
 - For the bed is too short to stretch out on.
 - And the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it!
 - The PROBLEM with Egypt [world] - is it could NOT cover them...
 - Isaiah uses the imagery of a BED and BLANKET - both too SHORT...
 - When they stretched out their feet shot off the BED - and the blanket was too SMALL...

- They were left EXPOSED - not COVERED [כָּפַר] from the terror that was coming!
 - People try and COVER this SIN in a lot of different ways...
 - They try RELIGION - good WORKS - some even try to DENY God exists...
 - The problem is all of their LIES come up SHORT - and do NOT cover [כָּפַר] their SIN...
 - They are left EXPOSED to the TERROR that is coming [judgement of God]
- 4th - Act of God... vs. 21-22
- Unusual act... vs. 21
 - For the LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim. He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon.
 - That He may do His work - His awesome work - and bring to pass His act - His unusual act!
 - In contrast - the LORD gives two UNUSUAL [זָר] examples of what He can do...
 - FIRST - the LORD would rise up like at Mount PERAZIM [פְּרָצִים]
 - When the Philistines attacked David shortly after becoming king - **II Samuel 5:20**
 - He sought the Lord - and God gave to him the VICTORY...
 - So David called the place Baal PERAZIM [פְּרָצִים] - the Lord broke through [פָּרַץ]
 - SECOND - the LORD will get angry like He did in the Valley of Gibeon [גִּבְעֹן]
 - When the FIVE armies of the Amorites attacked Joshua...
 - And he asked the SUN to stand still - and God rained down HAIL on them - **Joshua 10:11-12**
 - God would likewise deliver Jerusalem from the hand of Assyria...
 - He would NOT do it through military might [David] - or even NATURAL disaster [Joshua]
 - Instead He would use ONE angel to wipe out there WHOLE army - **Isaiah 37:36**
 - Do not mock... vs. 22
 - Now therefore do not be mockers lest your bonds be made strong.
 - I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts - a destruction determined upon the whole earth!
 - Therefore PLEASE [jussive] do NOT mock the Word of God...
 - [כִּי] because the Lord [אֱלֹהֵי] the LORD of hosts [צְבָאוֹת]
 - Has decided [niphil] to consume the WHOLE [כָּל] land [Judah]
 - And if the people were NOT careful - their BONDAGE would be WORSE [stronger]!
 - When students in a classroom do NOT pay attention to the teacher - they FAIL the test...
 - And they end up having to REPEAT the lesson [or the whole grade]
 - When God is teaching us a LESSON - we are wise to pay attention...
 - We do NOT want to have to REPEAT it - because it is always harder the SECOND time!
- 5th - The Example... vs. 23-28
- Listen... vs. 23
 - Give ear and hear my voice - listen and hear my speech!
 - In light of the CONTRAST - the lies of this WORLD and the power of the WORD...
 - We MUST [imperative] cause [hiphil] our ear to LISTEN to the voice of the LORD...
 - We MUST [imperative] pay attention [hiphil] and LISTEN to His WORD!
 - Planting... vs. 24-26
 - Does the plowman keep plowing all day to sow? Does he [turn] his soil and [break] the clods?
 - When he has leveled its surface - does he not sow the black cummin - scatter the cummin.
 - Plant the wheat in rows - the barley in the appointed place - and the spelt in its place?
 - For He instructs him in right judgment. His God teaches him!
 - To emphasize why it is so important we LISTEN to the LORD - Isaiah gave an EXAMPLE...
 - The FARMER works ALL [כָּל] day [הַיּוֹם] long to PLOW his field...
 - He works tirelessly to break [piel] up the chunks of hard soil...

- When the field is FLAT [piel] - he plants the CUMMIN [3x - only here in OT]
 - He then plants the WHEAT in rows - the BARLEY in their place - and the BUCKWHEAT [spelt]
 - The FARMER knows how to PLANT the various seeds because God [אֱלֹהִים] taught him [piel]!
- Harvesting... vs. 27-28
- Black cummin is not threshed with a threshing sledge. Nor is a cartwheel rolled over the cummin.
 - But the black cummin is beaten out with a stick - and the cummin with a rod.
 - Bread flour must be ground. Therefore he does not thresh it forever.
 - Break it with his cartwheel or crush it with his horsemen!
 - When it comes time to MILL the CUMMIN [קָצַח]
 - It is NOT done in the same way as the WHEAT [sledge - grinding]
 - The CUMMIN is more delicate and needs a rod or staff - or else the farmer will damage it...
 - But the WHEAT must be crushed - if the farmer used a stick it would take forever!
 - The point is subtle - but powerful - God knows how to work with His people...
 - He knows how MUCH we can take - He knows how to BREAK us...
 - And for those who are DELICATE [cummin] - he can be GENTLE...
 - But for those who are HARD [wheat] - He knows how to GRIND us down!
- From the Lord... vs. 29
- This also comes from the LORD of hosts.
 - Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance!
 - The point is the LORD of Hosts [צְבָאוֹת] is the one we should LISTEN to...
 - Because He gives WONDERFUL [hiphil] advice - and EXCELLENT [hiphil] wisdom!
 - We have the EXAMPLES [Ephraim - Judah - the farmer]
 - But we still have to make the CHOICE - who do we LISTEN to...
 - Do we run to the WORLD - to alcohol - to the LIES that cannot COVER us...
 - Or do we run to the CORNERSTONE - and have wonderful and excellent life!