

The Life and Times of Isaiah:

Woe to Ephraim and Judah, Isaiah 28

Judgment on Ephraim, 28:1-6

Isaiah 28:1 Woe to the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim, and to the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is at the head of the fertile valley of those who are overcome with wine!

Isaiah 28:2-3 Behold, the Lord has a strong and mighty agent; As a storm of hail, a tempest of destruction, like a storm of mighty overflowing waters, He has cast it down to the earth with His hand. The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim is trodden under foot.

Isaiah 28:4 And the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is at the head of the fertile valley, will be like the first-ripe fig prior to summer, which one sees, and as soon as it is in his hand, he swallows it.

Isaiah 28:5-6 In that day the Lord of hosts will become a beautiful crown and a glorious diadem to the remnant of His people; A spirit of justice for him who sits in judgment, a strength to those who repel the onslaught at the gate.

Judgment on the Leaders of Judah, 28:7-13

Isaiah 28:7 And these also reel with wine and stagger from strong drink: The priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are confused by wine, they stagger from strong drink; They reel while having visions, they totter when rendering judgment.

Isaiah 28:8-9 For all the tables are full of filthy vomit, without a single clean place. "To whom would He teach knowledge, and to whom would He interpret the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just taken from the breast?"

Isaiah 28:10-12 "For He says, 'Order on order, order on order, line on line, line on line, a little here, a little there.'" Indeed, He will speak to this people through stammering lips and a foreign tongue, He who said to them, "Here is rest, give rest to the weary," and, "Here is repose," but they would not listen.

Isaiah 28:13 So the word of the Lord to them will be, "Order on order, order on order, line on line, line on line, a little here, a little there," that they may go and stumble backward, be broken, snared and taken captive.

A Covenant with Death, 28:14-15

Isaiah 28:14-15 Therefore, hear the word of the LORD, O scoffers, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol

we have made a pact. The overwhelming scourge will not reach us when it passes by, for we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception.”

#### The Cornerstone, 28:16-17

Isaiah 28:16-17 Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the level; Then hail will sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters will overflow the secret place.”

Psalms 118:22-24 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This is the Lord’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Matthew 21:42-43 Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘The stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief corner stone; This came about from the Lord, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.

Acts 4:11-12 He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Ephesians 2:19-20 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone

1 Peter 2:6-7 For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.” This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone”

Isaiah 28:16-17 Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the level; Then hail will sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters will overflow the secret place.”

#### The Justice of God, 28:18-22

Isaiah 28:18 “Your covenant with death will be canceled, and your pact with Sheol will not stand; When the overwhelming scourge passes through, then you become its trampling place.”

Isaiah 28:19 “As often as it passes through, it will seize you; For morning after morning it will pass through, anytime during the day or night, and it will be sheer terror to understand what it means.”

Isaiah 28:20-22 The bed is too short on which to stretch out, and the blanket is too small to wrap oneself in. For the Lord will rise up as at Mount Perazim, He will be stirred up as in the valley of Gibeon, to do His task, His unusual task, and to work His work, His extraordinary work. And now do not carry on as scoffers, or your fetters will be made stronger;

The Wisdom of God, 28:23-29

Isaiah 28:23-25 For I have heard from the Lord God of hosts of decisive destruction on all the earth. Give ear and hear my voice, listen and hear my words. Does the farmer plow continually to plant seed? Does he continually turn and harrow the ground? Does he not level its surface and sow dill and scatter cumin and plant wheat in rows, barley in its place and rye within its area?

Isaiah 28:26-27 For his God instructs and teaches him properly. For dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is the cartwheel driven over cummin; But dill is beaten out with a rod, and cummin with a club.

Isaiah 28:28-29 Grain for bread is crushed, indeed, he does not continue to thresh it forever. Because the wheel of his cart and his horses eventually damage it, He does not thresh it longer. This also comes from the Lord of hosts, who has made His counsel wonderful and His wisdom great.