

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

- I. God’s *Denunciation* of Judah (1:1-12:6)
- II. God’s *Denunciations* against other Nations (13:1-23:18)
- III. Isaiah’s *Description* of End Time Events (24:1-27:13)

IV. Isaiah’s *Dire Warnings* to Ephraim and Judah (Chapters 28-35)

A. Pronouncing *Woe* upon the Leaders of Ephraim and Judah (28:1-29)

1. The *Destruction* of Samaria (28:1-4)

28 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!*

² 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*.

³ The proud crown of the *drunkards* of Ephraim is trodden under foot.

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.

2. The *Declaration* of a Future Crown of Glory (28:5-6)

⁵ *In that day* the LORD of hosts will become a beautiful crown
And a glorious diadem to the *remnant* of His people;

⁶ A spirit of justice for him who sits *in judgment*,
A strength to those who repel the onslaught at the gate.

3. The *Drunken Decadence* of Judah’s Leaders (28:7-8)

⁷ And these (Judah) 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.

⁸ For all the tables are full of filthy vomit, without a single clean place.

4. The **Defiant Mockery** of Isaiah's **Instructions** (28:9-10)

⁹ "To **whom** would He (Isaiah) **teach** knowledge,
and to **whom** would He **interpret** the message?

Those just weaned from milk?
Those just taken from the breast?

¹⁰ "For He says, 'Order on order, order on order,
line on line, line on line, a little here, a little there.'"

5. The **Disciplinary Punishment** of Judah (28:11-15)

¹¹ Indeed, He will speak to this people
Through **stammering lips** and a **foreign tongue**,

¹² He who said to them, "Here is **rest**, give **rest** to the weary,"
and, "Here is **repose**," but they would **not listen**.

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**.

¹⁴ Therefore, hear the **word** of the LORD, O scoffers,
Who **rule** this people who are in Jerusalem,

¹⁵ 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**."

6. The **Divine** placement of a "**Cornerstone**" in Zion (28:16-17)

¹⁶ 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**.

¹⁷ “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.

7. The *Diminishment* and *Discomfort* of Judah (28:18-22)

¹⁸ “Your covenant with death will be *anceled*,
and your pact with Sheol will *not stand*;

When the *overwhelming scourge* passes through,
then *you* become its *trampling place*.

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.”

²⁰ The *bed* is *too short* on which to stretch out,
and the *blanket* is *too small* to wrap oneself in.

²¹ 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*

8. The *Description* (by *Parable*) of the Wisdom and Knowledge of God (28:23-29)

²² And now *do not* carry on as *scoffers*,
or *your fetters* will be *made stronger*;

For I have *heard* from the *Lord GOD* of hosts
of *decisive destruction* on *all the earth*.

²³ Give *ear* and *hear my voice*, *listen* and *hear my words*.

²⁴ Does the farmer *plow continually* to *plant seed*?
Does he *continually* *turn* and *harrow* the *ground*?

²⁵ Does *he* not *level* its *surface* and *sow dill* and *scatter cummin*
and *plant wheat* in *rows*,
barley in *its place* and *rye* within *its area*?

²⁶ For *his God* *instructs* and *teaches* him *properly*.

²⁷ 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*.

²⁸ *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.

²⁹This also comes from the **LORD of hosts**,
Who has made ***His* counsel** wonderful and ***His* wisdom** great.

Summary Observations

Tonight *we saw* the “**Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**”

1. In tonight’s chapter **we saw** the ***predicted* destruction** of **Samaria**; the “**proud crown**” of **Ephraim (Israel)** – a once **glorious city** now **characterized by drunkenness**. (28:1-4)

However, **we also saw** the ***predicted* coming** of a “**beautiful crown**,” the **LORD of hosts**, who will be a “**glorious diadem**” to the **remnant of Israel**, and provide them with **justice and strength**. (28:5-6)

2. Tonight **we saw judgment pronounced** on a **decadent** and **disobedient kingdom of Judah**. (28:7-22)
 - a. ***Who*** were being **ruled** and **guided** by a **drunken, confused leadership** (28:7-8)
 - b. ***Who*** had **rejected** and “**mimicked**” the **words** and **instructions** of **God’s prophet** (Isaiah) (28:9-10)
 - c. ***Who*** would soon be **forced** to **obey** the “**stammering**” **instructions** of a **foreign invader** (28:11-13)
 - d. ***Who*** had **foolishly** made a so-called “**covenant with death**,” by **aligning themselves** with an **unreliable nation** (**Egypt**) *against Assyria* (28:14-15)
 - e. ***Who*** will continually face the “**overwhelming scourge**” and **terror** of future **Assyrian incursions** (28:18-21)

However, **we also saw** the **Lord GOD** *firmly placing* in **Zion** a **stone**, a **tested stone**, a **costly cornerstone** for a **sure foundation**. He that **believes** will not (need to) **move in *haste*** (28:16)

3. Tonight **we had *presented*** to us, in **parable form**, that there is **divine knowledge** and **wisdom** manifested in the **works** and **judgments of God**. (28:23-29)
 - a. **Which** are ***likened*** to the **farmer’s knowledge** and **wisdom** in ***tilling* the ground**
 - b. **Which** are ***likened*** to the **knowledge** and **wisdom** in the ***planting* of various seeds**
 - c. **Which** are ***likened*** to the **knowledge** and **wisdom** in using the proper ***threshing* instruments** for ***each* type of grain** (28:24-25a, 25b-26, 27-29)

Closing Comments