

Segment 13– Isaiah 28:1ff-29:1ff

The Fall of Ephraim (Northern Israel) and Warning to Jerusalem/Judah

Isaiah 28:1

Ephraim = Israel

Proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim

- Proud crown – rulers of Israel/the city of Samaria
- Drunkards – not sober-minded

Isaiah 28:2

The Lord has a strong and mighty agent – the king of Assyria (Shalmaneser/Sargon)

Isaiah 28:3-4

The proud crown is trodden under foot.

Samaria was defeated, taken captive, and carried away to Assyria.

II Kings 17:1ff – They were influenced by other gods/idolatry.

Isaiah 28:5-6

In that day, Yahweh of hosts will become a beautiful crown to the remnant of His people.

Isaiah 28:7-8

Again - the proud drunkards of Ephraim – they reel with wine and strong drink.

They are confused by wine.

They stagger from strong drink.

They reel, having visions.

They totter when rendering judgment.

The tables are full of vomit.

Isaiah 28:9-10

Those just weaned from milk, just taken from the breast

“Order on order, order on order, Line on line, line on line, A little here, a little there.”

(These are Hebrew monosyllables: *Sav lasav, sav lasav, Kav lakav, kav lakav, Ze'er sham, ze'er sham*, like the babbling of a child.) This first use is a mocking.

Isaiah 28:11-13

God will speak to these people in gibberish as they are going into captivity in a foreign nation. And there in a foreign tongue, He will speak to His people –“Order on order, order on order, Line on line, line on line, A little here, a little there.”

This was a sign of their unbelief (I Corinthians 14:21).

Isaiah 28:14

The word of Yahweh now goes out to the rulers in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 28:15-21

God would lay in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be ashamed.

- This stone that God is to lay in Zion will be the chief cornerstone. Those who believe in this firm foundation will not be disappointed. (Ps 118:22; Mt 21:42-44; Mk 12:10-11; Jesus is this chief corner stone: Acts 4:11-12; Ephesians 2:20-21)
- For those who reject God and don't believe, rather than a cornerstone to build upon, this one will be a stone of stumbling (Is 8:14-15; Rom 9:32-33; I Pet 2:4-8).

Isaiah 28:22-29

Don't carry on as scoffers. Give ear and hear! Listen and hear!

God's counsel and wisdom are compared to the plowman. These are agricultural terms used in sowing and threshing various kinds of seed.

Isaiah 29:1

Ariel, the city, is Jerusalem.

Isaiah 29:2-4

The city will be besieged, encircled by the enemy's camp. Jerusalem will be brought low.

Isaiah 29:5-8

But God will bring punishment on the enemies of Jerusalem. Those who wage war against Ariel/Mount Zion will be like a dream, a vision in the night.

Isaiah 29:9-14

Although Isaiah's vision has been made known, the people would not understand. It will be like a sealed book. Although they go through rote traditions, their hearts are far from God (Mt 15:8-9; Mk 7:6-7).

Isaiah 29:15-16

Woe to those who think they can hide themselves from Yahweh!

Isaiah 29:17-24

In a little while, the name of God will be sanctified. They will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

Segment 14 – Isaiah 30:1ff – 31:1ff

No Alliance with Egypt; Deliverance from the Assyrian Foretold

Don't seek Egypt for help, safety, or shelter.

Both chapters 30 and 31 give admonition about making an alliance with Egypt or seeking Egypt for help. God warns His people not to rely on Egypt for their deliverance.

- Egypt has a long history with Israel that continues to this day. Some of the dealings with Egypt were for good, but many times, these allegiances with Egypt caused severe consequences. This was especially so when God's people made ill-advised alliances with Egypt or, even worse, went whoring after the gods of Egypt.
- Abraham went to Egypt when there was famine in the land (Gen 12:10-20).
- The children of Israel moved to Egypt for hundreds of years, which ended in bondage (Ge 46:1-7; Ex 1:1ff).
- In the wilderness, Israel desired the gods of Egypt (Ex 32:1ff; Acts 7:39; Ez 20:5-16).
- Solomon made ill-advised alliances with Egypt (I Ki 3:1; 11:1).
- Jeroboam brought the gods of Egypt into the Northern Kingdom of Israel (I Ki 12:25-33).
- Northern Israel sought Egypt for help against Assyria (II Ki 17:3-5).
- Under King Hezekiah, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was tempted to rely on Egypt for help (II Ki 18:21)
- During the time of Jeremiah, the people were warned not to seek refuge in Egypt (Je 42:1ff – 46:1ff).

God vividly warned Judah of the fate that would come upon the Egyptians (Is 20:1-6).

Isaiah 30:1-17; 31:1-3

Woe to the rebellious children...who proceed down to Egypt to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh. Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help.

God promises deliverance from the Assyrian.

Isaiah 30:18-33; Isaiah 31:4-9

Topheth

The deliverance from the Assyrian in these chapters relates to Topheth. This is the place of human sacrifice where the people would burn their children in the fire to the god Molech. In Jerusalem this was done in the valley of Hinnom (Jeremiah 19:1ff – the valley of slaughter). In the New Testament, the Greek word *gehenna* is often translated “hell fire” and represents the final destruction in the lake of fire. This word has Hebrew roots meaning “the valley of Hinnom.” This was the location of Topheth. This is the final location where the beast will be destroyed, as well as all who suffer in the “second death” (Revelation 19:20; 20:14-15).