

Isaiah 28:1-29 **Warning against the Northern and Southern kingdoms**

Woe to Ephraim because of their pride

1 Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, Whose glorious beauty is a fading flower Which is at the head of the verdant valleys, To those who are overcome with wine!

2 Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one, Like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, Like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, Who will bring them down to the earth with His hand.

3 The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, Will be trampled underfoot; 4 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.

Glory for the remnant in the Kingdom

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, 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.

Priest and Prophet in Jerusalem Error because of drunkenness

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.

8 For all tables are full of vomit and filth; No place is clean.

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?

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, 12 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.

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.

14 Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scornful men, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, 15 Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, And 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."

A Cornerstone in Zion – Kingdom of righteousness

16 Therefore thus says the Lord God:

"Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.

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.

Pending Judgment

18 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. 19 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."

20 For the bed is too short to stretch out on, And the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it.

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.

22 Now therefore, do not be mockers, Lest your bonds be made strong; For I have heard from the Lord God of hosts, A destruction determined even upon the whole earth.

Listen to the Teaching of God

23 Give ear and hear my voice, Listen and hear my speech.

24 Does the plowman keep plowing all day to sow? Does he keep turning his soil and breaking the clods?

25 When he has leveled its surface, Does he not sow the black cummin And scatter the cummin, Plant the wheat in rows, The barley in the appointed place, And the spelt in its place?

26 For He instructs him in right judgment, His God teaches him.

27 For the 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.

28 Bread flour must be ground; Therefore he does not thresh it forever, Break it with his cartwheel, Or crush it with his horsemen.

29 This also comes from the Lord of hosts, Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, Whose glorious beauty is a fading flower Which is at the head of the verdant valleys, To those who are overcome with wine!

Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one, Like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, Like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, Who will bring them down to the earth with His hand.

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. [\[Isaiah 28:1-4\]](#)

✧ The Northern Kingdom of Israel is often referred to as Ephraim.

✧ Yahweh does not tolerate human pride and is able to humble mankind.

✧ No one is able to withstand the hand of Yahweh on the day of judgment.

✧ Though mankind attempts to hide himself with drunkenness, he will find that his blindness toward God will be of no help when the time comes for him to give account for his choices to Yahweh.

✧ The wicked will find themselves in Hell followed by the Lake of Fire.

Glory for the remnant in the Kingdom

- ✧ 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, For a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, And for strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate. [\[Isaiah 28:5-6\]](#)

- ✧ **In That day** refers to the time of the Kingdom when Yahweh purges out of His Kingdom all that offend him before He takes His seat on the Glorious Throne in Zion as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- ✧ The remnant of His people refers to the Saints that remain after the wicked are removed.
- ✧ They will see all the glory and Beauty that will surround the Lord.
- ✧ Yahweh will be known for true justice as He sits in judgment of mankind.
- ✧ He will also be known for His power to overcome all evil.

Error of priest and prophet in Jerusalem because of drunkenness

- ✧ 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.

For all tables are full of vomit and filth; No place is clean. [Isaiah 28:7-8]

- ✧ Priest and Prophet are influenced by drunkenness to the point that they are overcome and fall into error as they lead the people with false doctrine.
- ✧ In their drunken stupor they see false visions which cause them to stumble in judgment.
- ✧ Everything about them is defiled and unclean before the Lord.
- ✧ "Whom will He (Yahweh) teach knowledge? And whom will He (Yahweh) make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little." [Isaiah 28:9-10]
- ✧ With Prophet and Priest turned to intoxication, Yahweh asks by whom He might teach His ways.
- ✧ To understand the message, the messenger must approach the Word of God precept upon precept, and line upon line, here a little, and there a little, in the way it has been revealed in Scripture, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. [Isaiah 28:10, 13, 2 Timothy 2:15]
- ✧ 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.
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. [Isaiah 28:11-13]
- ✧ Yahweh will speak to the people by others than the prophets and priests of Israel who have turned from Him.
- ✧ Because to the prophets and priests the Word of God had become burdensome to search out and they were unwilling to approach it precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little as it was made available to them.
- ✧ God had given it to them that way to prove them, so they would fall backward, be broken and caught in the snare of their own rebellious carelessness.
- ✧ Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scornful men, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, And 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." [Isaiah 28:14-15]
- ✧ Call for repentance on the part of the prophets and priests who rule the people.
- ✧ In their scornful rebelliousness, the prophets and priests had turned from Yahweh in their humanistic pride and thought they were immune from the wrath of God, having made a covenant with death and Sheol.

- ✧ It is a dangerous thing when men turn from Yahweh and believe false messages from the deceiving leaders around us.
- ✧ God's judgment and wrath will prove the error of the False prophets and priests.

A Cornerstone in Zion – Kingdom of righteousness

- ✧ Therefore thus says the Lord God:

"Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.

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. [Isaiah 28:16-17]

- ✧ As usual, when Yahweh gives warning of pending wrath and judgment, He again looks forward to the time of the Kingdom to give hope through the time of wrath.
- ✧ The Kingdom age is God's greatest desire when righteousness and justice will reign resulting in perfect peace and prosperity.
- ✧ Jesus commanded that we include the Kingdom age in our prayers to Yahweh. [Matthew 6:10, Luke 11:2]
- ✧ The sure foundation is built on Jesus Christ Who is the Chief corner-stone. [Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 28:16, Zechariah 10:4, Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11, 1 Peter 2:6-7]
- ✧ In the Great Tribulation and at the Judgment Seat of Christ, the wrath of God will remove all security the false rulers thought they had in their deceptive covenant with death and hell, the false leaders will find no safety in their message, and no place to hide from the Wrath of God.
- ✧ True security is found only by those who believe the truth as revealed by Yahweh in the Scriptures.

Pending Judgment

- ✧ 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."

For the bed is too short to stretch out on, And the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it.

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.

Now therefore, do not be mockers, Lest your bonds be made strong; For I have heard from the Lord God of hosts, A destruction determined even upon the whole earth. [Isaiah 28:18-22]

- ✧ Yahweh will annul all the false doctrine and hope of men who think they can make a covenant with death and Sheol.
- ✧ The destruction of the Great Tribulation and Judgment Seat of Christ is determined by Yahweh Himself, and is called His awesome work, and His unusual act.
- ✧ Mockers and scoffers will certainly not escape all that is coming on the whole earth to test those who dwell on it. [Isaiah 28:22, 1 Thessalonians 5:3, Hebrews 12:25, Luke 21:36, Revelation 3:10]
- ✧ Call to repentance. [Isaiah 28:22]

Listen to the Teaching of God

- ✧ Give ear and hear my voice, Listen and hear my speech.
Does the plowman keep plowing all day to sow? Does he keep turning his soil and breaking the clods?
When he has leveled its surface, Does he not sow the black cummin And 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.

For the 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.

This also comes from the Lord of hosts, Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance. [\[Isaiah 28:23-29\]](#)

- ✧ Yahweh counsels all to listen to His instruction, for it is wisdom to the ones who hear and understand to take warning.
- ✧ This is the same kind of wisdom given to farmers to know when and how to work the fields to provide produce for the market.
- ✧ All true wisdom comes from God Almighty (El Shaday, Yahweh Tsebavta) The Lord of Hosts.