

# Isaiah 28

*June 21, 2023*

Isaiah 28:1-4 NKJV

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.

- ✦ *VV 1-13 are a pronouncement against the Northern Kingdom (Samaria was such a fertile area it was known as the wreath)*
- ✦ *There seems to be a common theme here:*
  - ✦ *Pride*
  - ✦ *Drunkenness*
- ✦ *They won't last when judgment is unleashed ("in that day")*
  - ✦ *Like being washed away in a violent storm*
  - ✦ *Gone quickly like a flower or the first fruits of summer (early figs were considered a delicacy)*

Isaiah 28:5-6 NKJV

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.

- ✦ *Those who stayed true to the Lord will flourish  
(reversal of fortunes)*
- ✦ *Notice the word play= Jesus is the true crown of glory  
and diadem*
- ✦ *Justice will prevail in the kingdom*
- ✦ *Enemies will be kept outside the gate*

Isaiah 28:7-8 NKJV

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.

- ✦ *Their priests and prophets were drunken*
- ✦ *At tables with vomit*
- ✦ *They would supposedly see visions when in drunken stupor*
- ✦ *False prophecy!*
- ✦ *Judgment is sure*

Isaiah 28:9-10 NKJV

"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."



- ✦ *There is no depth to the knowledge of the priests of the Northern Kingdom*
- ✦ *Lack of study of Scriptures*
- ✦ *Lack of spiritual maturity*
- ✦ *The Word of God is to be studied thoroughly and systematically (2 Timothy 2:15)*
- ✦ *Precept upon precept*
- ✦ *Line upon line*

Isaiah 28:11-13 NKJV

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.

- ✿ *They were called to repent*
- ✿ *Message of the prophets were clear*
- ✿ *They would not listen*
- ✿ *They will now come under judgment by people with a foreign tongue*

Isaiah 28:14-15 NKJV

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."

- ✦ *The prophecy now turns to Judah (“who rule this people who are in Jerusalem”)*
- ✦ *They are described as scornful (not heeding the word of the LORD which was given through the prophets)*
- ✦ *They have (with their heads) made a covenant with death. (The curses which were promised would come if they did not keep the Law of Moses)*
- ✦ *They had put their trust in foreign gods and alliances*
- ✦ *They have rested in a false sense of security with their words that do not match their deeds (cf. with today’s church)*

Isaiah 28:16-17 NKJV

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.

- ✦ *God has laid the foundation for Israel's physical and more importantly spiritual salvation (the work of Jesus Christ)*
- ✦ *They have rejected the salvation provided by the LORD*
- ✦ *Instead they have chosen treaties*
- ✦ *Israel would reject Christ spiritually as well when the Messiah appears as a suffering servant.*
- ✦ *This stone (Christ) is tried, true, and precious to God the Father*

- ✦ *This stone will provide a sure foundation!*
- ✦ *The “plumb lines” used to build upon it are justice and righteousness*
- ✦ *This pictures (I believe) ultimately the millennial kingdom when Christ returns and rules in His kingdom.*
- ✦ *Because they have rejected the covenant that God had made with them judgment in the meantime will come upon them*



Isaiah 28:18-19 NKJV

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."

- ✦ *Their covenant of death (alliances) will come back to bite them*
- ✦ *They will be trampled as Israel was because they put their trust in wrong places and not upon God.*
- ✦ *The bad news will become like a flood*
  - ✦ *(everyday they will get news that is disturbing)*
  - ✦ *Ultimately they will fall captive*

Isaiah 28:20-22 NKJV

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.

- ✦ *The bed is too short and the covering is too*
- ✦ *This is a picture that I can physically identify with*
- ✦ *All their efforts will fall short*
- ✦ *They will be defeated*
- ✦ *God will bring judgment through foreign victory of foreigners over Israel*
- ✦ *He reminds them of the victory of David in these places*
- ✦ *Yet it was not David but God who provided the victory (1 Chronicles 14:11-16)*
- ✦ *Therefore do not mock the prophets but repent!*

Isaiah 28:23-25 NKJV

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?

Isaiah 28:26-29 NKJV

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.

- ✦ *In these verses God offers them hope if they will heed His Word (using an agricultural reference)*
- ✦ *This judgment would have an end*
- ✦ *“Various crops must be treated differently so no one step (plowing, harrowing, planting, or threshing) is done continuously.”*

✦ *“The judgment would last for only a short while as it was designed to purge the people. A farmer must crush his crops to get the desired results. For example, caraway and cummin, aromatic herbs, are beaten out with a rod or stick, not threshed, because their seeds are so small. Grain is ground by millstone, after the wheat stalks are threshed.”*

John A. Martin, [“Isaiah.”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1078.