

Isa 28 - 29

Sep 5, 2021

Prophetic warnings concerning Judah and the nations, but restoration and salvation in Zion Isa 28 - 35

Overview: The section of 28:1 - 35:10 contains five woes on Israel and the nations (28:1; 29:1, 15; 30:1; 31:1). that focus primarily on Jerusalem. A sixth "woe" is found in 33:1 and interspersed with these "woes" of judgment are promises of restoration and glory. God used Assyria (28:11 and 33:19) to judge Israel for her alliances with Egypt.

Prediction of Ephraim's captivity and warning to Judah (Isa 28:1-29)

Ephraim was the chief tribe of the northern kingdom of Israel. As the people mocked Isaiah's prophecy as nonsense (28:9-10), so they would get their fill of the nonsensical language of the Assyrians (28:11).

Messianic prophecy (28:5)

Isa 28:5 In that day the LORD of hosts will become a beautiful crown And a glorious diadem to the remnant of His people;

This contrasts with Ephraim's "fading flower of its glorious beauty" (20:1-5).
Due to their pride and drunkenness.

Messiah becomes to the remnant
a beautiful crown
a glorious diadem
a spirit of justice and strength

Isa 62:2-3 The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name Which the mouth of the LORD will designate. 3 You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Description of the spiritual condition of Israel in the days of Jesus (28:9-13).

Isa 28:9 "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? 10 "For He says, 'Order on order, order on order, Line on line, line on line, A little here, a little there.'" 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.

Paul used 28:11 in 1Cor 14:21 to demonstrate the purpose of tongues - as a sign to unbelievers.

"Here is rest," and, "Here is repose," but they would not listen (v. 12).

Heb 4:9-11 So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. 11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience. [Rest is a main topic in Hebrews, it is used 10 times in chapters 3 & 4.]

Jesus wanted to give them rest but they would not listen. He spoke to them in an orderly sequence, still they could not understand and were broken. (Mt 13:14-15; Mk 4:12; Lk 8:10; Jn 12:38-41; Ac 28:26-27; Rom 11:8-11)

Messiah – the cornerstone (28:16)

Isa 28:16 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.

Jesus is the cornerstone

Ps 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone.
(Isa 8:14; Mt 21:42; Mk 12:10-11; Lk 20:17; Ac 4:11; Eph 2:20-22; 1Pt 2:4-6, 7-8)

Jesus the cornerstone makes us into a dwelling of God

Eph 2:19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

He who believes in it (Him) will not be disturbed (disappointed).

Rom 9:30-33 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, “BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”

Rom 10:9-11 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” (1Pt 2:4-8)

Parable of the farmer (28:23-29)

Isa 28:23 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. 29 This also comes from the LORD of hosts, Who has made His counsel wonderful and His wisdom great.

The seed is sown for the sake of the crop which it will produce. God is continually gathering in his crop by a process analogous to that of farmers. He needs good grain for his garner, and to obtain this he must separate the grain from the husks and chaff with which it is accompanied. As men use various methods to do this, some gentler, some harsher, so does God in the purifying of his grain, he has many treatments. To each kind of grain, he applies the treatment that is best. Some kinds are lightly beaten, as with slender rods; others more heavily, as with stout staves; some, on the other hand, are threshed, as it were, with spiked drags and rollers, to clear them of their encumbrances. No more force, however, is applied in any case than is necessary, nor is any force applied for a longer time than is needed. And even in the severest treatment there is gentleness. God has a care that the good grain shall never be “bruised.”

A time of refreshing of renewal and regeneration (Isa 29:17-24)

17 Is it not yet just a little while Before Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field, And the fertile field will be considered as a forest? 18 On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, And out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. 19 The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the LORD, And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. 20 For the ruthless will come to an end and the scorner will be finished, Indeed all who are intent on doing evil will be cut off; 21 Who cause a person to be indicted by a word, And ensnare him who adjudicates at the gate, And defraud the one in the right

with meaningless arguments. 22 Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall not now be ashamed, nor shall his face now turn pale; 23 But when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, They will sanctify My name; Indeed, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob And will stand in awe of the God of Israel. 24 "Those who err in mind will know the truth, And those who criticize will accept instruction.

The change in human nature - Isaiah prophesies of the transformation of the nature of man.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
(Rom 12:2; Eph 4:22-23; Col 3:10)

The turning of waste land into cultivated fields is typical of the regeneration of human life.

Lebanon (a forest land) will be turned into a fertile field.

The untilled land will become a cultivated country, and the fields will produce an abundance.

Evidences of new life

The deaf will hear (Isa 35:5; Ac 26:18; Eph 1:17-19; 1Pt 2:9; Rev 3:18)
words of a book (Ps 119:18; Jn 5:39; Ac17:11; Lk 24:45; Heb 8:10)

Gloom and darkness disappear.

The afflicted will increase their gladness in the LORD,

The needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

The ruthless will come to an end and the scorner will be finished,

Fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant

"who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob" (v. 22)

Gal 3:6-9 Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. (Rom 4:13-16)

Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

No more shame **"Jacob shall not now be ashamed"** (Zph 3:19; Heb 8:12)

"They will sanctify My name" (v. 23)

Heb 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

References Used:

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