

Isaiah 28

Judgment on Ephraim and Jerusalem

Ah, the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim,
and the fading flower of its glorious beauty,
which is on the head of the rich valley of those overcome with wine!

² Behold, the Lord has one who is mighty and strong;
like a storm of hail, a destroying tempest,
like a storm of mighty, overflowing waters,
he casts down to the earth with his hand.

³ The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim
will be trodden underfoot;

⁴ and the fading flower of its glorious beauty,
which is on the head of the rich valley,
will be like a first-ripe fig before the summer:
when someone sees it, he swallows it
as soon as it is in his hand.

⁵ In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of glory,
and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people,
⁶ and a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment,
and strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

⁷ These also reel with wine
and stagger with strong drink;
the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink,
they are swallowed by wine,
they stagger with strong drink,
they reel in vision,
they stumble in giving judgment.

⁸ For all tables are full of filthy vomit,
with no space left.

⁹ “To whom will he teach knowledge,
and to whom will he explain the message?
Those who are weaned from the milk,
those taken from the breast?

¹⁰ For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept,
line upon line, line upon line,
here a little, there a little.”

¹¹ For by people of strange lips
and with a foreign tongue
the LORD will speak to this people,

¹² to whom he has said,

“This is rest;
give rest to the weary;
and this is repose”;
yet they would not hear.
¹³ And the word of the LORD will be to them
precept upon precept, precept upon precept,
line upon line, line upon line,
here a little, there a little,
that they may go, and fall backward,
and be broken, and snared, and taken.

A cornerstone in Zion

¹⁴ Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers,
who rule this people in Jerusalem!
¹⁵ Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death,
and with Sheol we have an agreement,
when the overwhelming whip passes through
it will not come to us,
for we have made lies our refuge,
and in falsehood we have taken shelter”;
¹⁶ therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
“Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion,
a stone, a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:
‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’
¹⁷ And I will make justice the line,
and righteousness the plumb line;
and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,
and waters will overwhelm the shelter.”
¹⁸ Then your covenant with death will be annulled,
and your agreement with Sheol will not stand;
when the overwhelming scourge passes through,
you will be beaten down by it.
¹⁹ As often as it passes through it will take you;
for morning by morning it will pass through,
by day and by night;
and it will be sheer terror to understand the message.
²⁰ For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on,
and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in.
²¹ For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim;
as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused;
to do his deed—strange is his deed!
and to work his work—alien is his work!
²² Now therefore do not scoff,
lest your bonds be made strong;

for I have heard a decree of destruction
from the Lord GOD of hosts against the whole land.

- ²³ Give ear, and hear my voice;
give attention, and hear my speech.
- ²⁴ Does he who plough for sowing plough continually?
Does he continually open and harrow his ground?
- ²⁵ When he has levelled its surface,
does he not scatter dill, sow cumin,
and put in wheat in rows
and barley in its proper place,
and emmer as the border?
- ²⁶ For he is rightly instructed;
his God teaches him.
- ²⁷ Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge,
nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin,
but dill is beaten out with a stick,
and cumin with a rod.
- ²⁸ Does one crush grain for bread?
No, he does not thresh it forever;
when he drives his cart wheel over it
with his horses, he does not crush it.
- ²⁹ This also comes from the LORD of hosts;
he is wonderful in counsel
and excellent in wisdom.

Isaiah 29

The siege of Jerusalem

- Ah, Ariel, Ariel,
the city where David encamped!
Add year to year;
let the feasts run their round.
- ² Yet I will distress Ariel,
and there shall be moaning and lamentation,
and she shall be to me like an Ariel.
- ³ And I will encamp against you all around,
and will besiege you with towers
and I will raise siege-works against you.
- ⁴ And you will be brought low; from the earth you shall speak,
and from the dust your speech will be bowed down;
your voice shall come from the ground like the voice of a ghost,
and from the dust your speech shall whisper.

⁵ But the multitude of your foreign foes shall be like small dust,
and the multitude of the ruthless like passing chaff.

And in an instant, suddenly,

⁶ you will be visited by the LORD of hosts
with thunder and with earthquake and great noise,
with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire.

⁷ And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel,
all that fight against her and her stronghold and distress her,
shall be like a dream, a vision of the night.

⁸ As when a hungry man dreams, and behold, he is eating,
and awakes with his hunger not satisfied,
or as when a thirsty man dreams, and behold, he is drinking,
and awakes faint, with his thirst not quenched,
so shall the multitude of all the nations be
that fight against Mount Zion.

⁹ Astonish yourselves and be astonished;
blind yourselves and be blind!

Be drunk, but not with wine;
stagger, but not with strong drink!

¹⁰ For the LORD has poured out upon you
a spirit of deep sleep,
and has closed your eyes (the prophets),
and covered your heads (the seers).

¹¹ And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed.
When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." ¹² And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read."

¹³ And the Lord said:

"Because this people draw near with their mouth
and honour me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

¹⁴ therefore, behold, I will again
do wonderful things with this people,
with wonder upon wonder;
and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,
and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."

¹⁵ Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel,
whose deeds are in the dark,
and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"

¹⁶ You turn things upside down!
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,

that the thing made should say of its maker,
“He did not make me”;
or the thing formed say of him who formed it,
“He has no understanding”?

¹⁷ Is it not yet a very little while
until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?

¹⁸ In that day the deaf shall hear
the words of a book,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.

¹⁹ The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD,
and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

²⁰ For the ruthless shall come to nothing
and the scoffer cease,
and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off,

²¹ who by a word make a man out to be an offender,
and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate,
and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right.

²² Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob:

“Jacob shall no more be ashamed,
no more shall his face grow pale.

²³ For when he sees his children,
the work of my hands, in his midst,
they will sanctify my name;

they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob
and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

²⁴ And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding,
and those who murmur will accept instruction.”

Cross References

Proverbs 23 v 29 to 35:

Who has woe? Who has sorrow?
Who has strife? Who has complaining?
Who has wounds without cause?
Who has redness of eyes?
³⁰ Those who tarry long over wine;
those who go to try mixed wine.
³¹ Do not look at wine when it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup

and goes down smoothly.
³² In the end it bites like a serpent
and stings like an adder.
³³ Your eyes will see strange things,
and your heart utter perverse things.
³⁴ You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea,
like one who lies on the top of a mast.
³⁵ “They struck me,” you will say, “but I was not hurt;
they beat me, but I did not feel it.
When shall I awake?
I must have another drink.”

Ephesians 5 v 18: And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit...

Romans 13 v 13: Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness...

1 Corinthians 5 v 11: But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

1 Corinthians 6 v 10: nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 11 v 21: For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk.

Galatians 5 v 21: ... envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Peter 4 v 3: For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

Luke 21 v 34 to 36: ³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

John 2 v 1 to 11: On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴ And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.” So they took it. ⁹ When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.”

¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Mark 14 v 22 to 26: ²² And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."²³ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And he said to them, "This is my blood of the^[c] covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Matthew 11 v 19: The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

1 Timothy 5 v 23: (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.)

1 Peter 2 v 6, 7: ⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone..."

Acts 4 v 11: This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

Matthew 21 v 42: Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is marvellous in our eyes'?"

2 Samuel 5 v 20: And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood." Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim.

Joshua 10 v 11: And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

Matthew 15 v 7 to 9: You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

⁸ "This people honours me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;

⁹ in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

1 Corinthians 1 v 21 to 25: ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Romans 9 v 19 to 21: ¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is moulded say to its moulder, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honourable use and another for dishonourable use?