

The Battle of the Crowns

Text: Isaiah 28:1-6

Date: 9-5-21 @ 10:30 AM

The centerpiece of Isaiah 28 is primarily upon Jerusalem. While the chapter opens with judgment upon Samaria, Isaiah is “attempting to get the rulers of Judah to stop trusting “power politics” and international treaties and start trusting the Lord”.¹

Truth: The fleeting trust that man has in himself will come crashing down if he does not choose to first humble himself before God. All of the scheming, pleasure-seeking, lustful living, selfish-enjoyment, and trust in humanity will come crashing down. God will show that His kingdom, His ways, and His word will stand all the attempts to challenge them. Every day we choose between the crown of pride and the crown of glory. Upon which one will you place your affection?

I. Woe on Samaria for its prideful living and selfish attitudes (Isa. 28:1-6).

This flower of beauty which had been encased in pride had withered away and was ready to be trampled in the Lord’s judgment upon the nation.

Pride – Israel thought they were responsible for the booming economy. They stopped believing God was their provider. – Hosea 2:13; 5:5; 7:10; 13:1

Drunkenness – 2:11-12; 4:11; 7:5, 14

Lust – “The people’s passions burned without any marital or social constraint whatsoever. The old taboos of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, pedophilia and bestiality were torn down and replaced by San Francisco-style gay pride parades” (Jones 25). – 2:7, 13; 4:12-14; 5:3, 7; 8:9; 9:1; 13:2

Samaria, Ephraim, and Israel had catered to their fleshly appetites and would fade like a flower. Their materialistic desires, their love for alcohol, and their life of luxury led them to irresponsibility and ungodliness. “The possibility of material prosperity was great. However, the Northern Kingdom was throwing away the blessings of God as a drunkard throws away his money in the pursuit of **wine**”.²

God not only has the power to protect His own people, He also has at His disposal the ability to punish His people.

“Those who have received earth’s luxurious produce, and who enjoy the gifts of God, but despise the Giver, may expect such gifts to be soon cut off” (Young 268).

While Samaria had been described as a flower of beauty in verses 1 and 3, Isaiah now says *in that day* the Lord will be a *crown of glory and diadem of beauty*.

In the end that which the people had trusted in was swept away by God’s judgment, the people will recognize the true source of glory and beauty.

The picture is of the future repentance and restoration of God’s people who will finally and totally recognize that it is not the prosperous city but God who should be honored.

God’s plan is that we walk humbly and to live in a state of continual repentance. We must plead with God to show us hidden sins, blind spots, and areas where we lift ourselves above others or worse above Him. We must plead humbly to Jehovah asking that we might come to a place of pure thinking, holiness, fearing Him, and obedience. If the time comes where God deals directly with our pride, as we see with Israel, the outcome will be severe. In our daily lives we must sincerely desire the meekness and lowliness of the Lord Jesus (Matt. 11:29-30).

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Comforted* (p. 69). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Martin, J. A. (1985). *Isaiah*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1077). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Which crown do you want to follow?

Crown of Pride:

The beauty of the fading flower would be cast down and trampled by the Lord

This pictured the nation which believed it had its own power to make itself prosperous.

Through its own “technology”, wisdom, and strength the nation thought they could succeed on their own.

They trusted in their own ideas, plans, and work and when those were insufficient, they sought assistance from Egypt to help them defeat the Assyrian army.

An appropriate conclusion then can be made whereby Israel’s pride and feeble trust in man led to the shortness and brevity of the nation.

The crown of pride ended in justice, judgment, destruction, loss of life, captivity under the hand of God’s wrath.

No hope – Isa. 28:3-4

Defilement of the heart – Mark 7:20-23

Not wise – II Cor. 10:12

Not of God – I John 2:16

Opposition of God – James 4:6

Destruction – Prov. 18:12

Utter folly and failure - Prophets

Crown of Glory:

In that day of “adversity, humiliation, disgrace, and shame, *will Jehovah of hosts become a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty*” (Hailey 228). In order for the true crown of glory to be made known, it must displace all other forms of false glory.

Jehovah’s crown of glory will demonstrate His eternal and sovereign supremacy over those who think they are in control and have power.

Heavenly – Col. 1:1-4

Justice – Isa. 28:6

Brings strength – Isa. 28:6

Hope – Matt. 24:30

Overcoming – I Chron. 29:11

Secure foundation and protection – Isa. 58:8

Believers must trust in the power of God and

He will use us to display His glory in our lives – II Cor. 4:7

Conclusion

When we look at the nation of Israel and compare the people’s trust of themselves to God’s desire for them to trust in His work and plan, we find nothing of equal value. The facts remain that the Lord’s way is always the best way. Jehovah’s glorious crown will always prevail over the prideful crown. So, what is keeping you from releasing your crown of pride? Why continue to trust in something that will fade away and be humbled by God’s hand?

Isa. 66:1-2 says: Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. The Lord will honor those who trust in Him alone.