

What is God Doing?

Text: Isaiah 28:16-29

Date: 9-26-21 @ 10:30 AM

Review/Truth: When man chooses to rely on himself for decisions, answers, and knowledge, he places himself above His Creator which is a very precarious place to be, and because He loves us and wants what is best for us, God must right the ship by bringing judgment upon our pride. The fact remains that the Lord's way is always the best way. Jehovah's glorious crown will always prevail over the crown of pride.

Truth: God's doings are beyond our human comprehension, yet God continues to make clear to His people that in His wisdom, justice, and eternal purposes, He works His plan for His glory. His plan centers on His Son who will carry out the Father's work of divine justice and opens the door for mankind to be reconciled with God. Today we get another glimpse of what God's plan is.

Isaiah then makes the truth clear: what folly to place your security in proud businessmen, godless rulers, and corrupt religious leaders when God is setting up a stone upon which all men can place their trust. It is a true foundation.

Who is this stone? Psalm 118:22 begins to give us some clues. Isa. 8:14. In the N.T. in Rom. 9:33 and I Pet. 2:8 we find quickly who this is a reference to: the Messiah.

- A tried stone – Isaiah stated that from the beginning, from the foundation, this stone was tested, tried, and was proven genuine. This stone is firm, unable to be moved, and is a permanent foundation of salvation, a true Rock of Ages.
- A precious cornerstone – The word *precious* means *rare, splendid, beloved, and valuable* and refers to a costly stone. The corner stone was the most important stone in the building.
- A sure foundation – This indicates a fixed foundation, one that could not be altered or moved.

Those who believe that God has laid this stone will not panic or falter. They will not act hastily; rather, he or she will trust God that His foundation is not only a much better option to trust in, it is the only foundation that will never fail. This means that the person places their faith in the stone, the Messiah, for their salvation and security can be confident in it.

When measured against God's justice and righteousness, the people of Judah had no hope. God will altogether destroy their refuge of lies and false foundational pretenses upon which they had built their nation and system. All of the nation's hopes that had been laid up in foreign allies would come crashing down and gush over like a massive flood.

With clear and precise language Isaiah once again states the case for the stupidity and extreme folly of confiding in man and his power. When faced with the omnipotent strength of Jehovah the nation will be overcome by a simple storm. What a lesson for each of us to learn: trusting in man for any spiritual advantage always ends in failure. Physically man will pass and fail. We must find our unquestioning resolution in God Alone.

Whereas God had been their protection and had taken care of them to get them to this place, He was now removing His presence and protection so that the enemies' devastating blows could overtake them.

Judgment is sure to come!

Isaiah now said that Jehovah would fight against – instead of for – His people.

God's work will be accomplished. Just as in the past, it will be in this time and in the future. The word *strange* means *foreign or alien*. This does not mean His work will be foreign nor does it mean that judgment is foreign to Him. God is a God of love, but He is also a God who is a consuming fire whose nature is His to hate sinful deeds. One important attribute of God is His justice and His justice demands payment for wrong. Isaiah meant that this was something unusual, especially against His own people. God does not want anyone to perish, and to punish His theocracy went against the normative of His work. God had promised hope and salvation for His people, but "yet now He is about to destroy that theocracy. Is not that going against His own purposes? Surely this would appear to be a strange work, one foreign to what God usually does" (Young 293)!

God would not help those He usually helped because those people didn't want His help.

IV. The parable of farming that teaches Jehovah's judgments have a purpose (Isa. 28:23-29).

God is not random or spiteful with His justice. Rather God desires a behavior which results in spiritual fruit being born. In His eternal purposes God uses His judgment to point His people back to a place where fruit bearing becomes possible again.

The farmer represents God. The soil is the nation. God is plowing the ground, breaking it up as he goes. He then prepares the ground exactly how it is needed for each crop (vs. 24-25). He plants each crop (v. 25) in the proper way.

Through God's word (v. 23) and His wisdom (v. 24) He knows exactly what is needed in this farming procedure.

The farmer then uses the proper tools to accomplish the task. If a farmer knows the proper way of farming through the wisdom of God, how much more does God properly know how to deal with the soil, His people?

Therefore God will use the necessary means of judgment upon His people to produce the necessary righteousness in the lives of His people.

Conclusion

Rom. 11:33

What should our response be to this passage?

- 1) In the midst of God's judgment we must recognize that this is His plan.
- 2) While judgment is full of painful experiences, we must believe that God is acting upon His eternal purposes for His glory and mankind's good.
- 3) In this midst of God's woven plan of glory comes the beautiful truth that the Messiah is the answer to mankind's sinful deeds (Isa. 9:5-6).
- 4) We must continue to live in faith that while we cannot understand all of God's plans, He will work them out for our benefit and His glory.