

# When Man Trusts Himself

Text: Isaiah 28:7-15

Date: 9-12-21 @ 10:30 AM

**Review:** When we look at the nation of Israel and compare the people's trust in self to God's desire for them to trust in His work and plan, we see the folly.

**Truth/Chapter 28:** 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.

## I. **Woe upon the religious leaders of Judah (Isa. 28:7-13).**

**\*\*The spiritual leaders were unbalanced in their drunken stupors.**

**Judah is guilty of the same sinful deeds as Israel. Therefore they must expect the same judgment as their northern counterparts.**

**The priests and the prophets who should have been examples of good leadership, right judgment, and spiritual truth were actually contributing to Judah's downfall.**

The drunken priests and prophets could not perform their duties as they were overcome with filthy orgies and so affected by alcohol that they staggered and reeled while attempting to perform their duties. Their vision and judgment was clouded, their decisions were clouded, and their drink was their master.

**\*\*The spiritual leaders mocked God and His prophet.**

**They most likely were in a drunken stupor uttering such childish language and mocking Isaiah's message.** They mocked Isaiah's *teaching upon teaching, line upon line, and a syllable here and a syllable here.*

"They are completely steeped in the intoxicants of the day and so overwhelmingly stupefied thereby that they cannot discern between true and false prophecy. In their slumbering indifference they cannot detect the warning from God. These prophets and priests of God's own people see themselves being beyond the need of God's revelation" (Hailey 230).

"Men who mock God's servants and message will ultimately be mocked [derided; anger and disrespect towards] in turn: delivered into the captivity of people who speak with what seems to be a stammering or mocking tongue (Isa 33:10)".<sup>1</sup>

Because the nation of Israel and then Judah had regarded God's prophet and his words as senseless talk, God would bring about judgment via people from other lands (Assyria and/or Babylon), a people whose language which could not be understood by the people of Judah and Israel.

Whenever the prophets spoke of repentance, rejecting sin, and restoration, they were effectively offering to the nation a place of rest and safety (Micah 2:10). True rest is only found then in obedience to God and His word. True spiritual rest can be only found in God alone.

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<sup>1</sup> Kaiser, W. C. (1999). [1118.397](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 481). Chicago: Moody Press.

**The babbling which they didn't hear would become babbling which they could not ignore.**

Those who had mocked God's word would now be mocked by God's word through the foreign judgment upon the nation.

The nation could and should have learned the message through people like Isaiah, yet in the end they would fall backward, be broken, snared, and captured by the enemy.

"The thundering message of deeds and judgment is the only language that some – whether nation, individual, or the church of God – will hear or understand. The school of experience is a hard one, but it is God's only alternative when ears are closed to His message in word" (Hailey 231).

**II. Woe upon the godless rulers of Judah (Isa. 28:14-22).**

The prophet then is saying that these rulers thought death couldn't harm them because they were in a pact together. These rulers were flaunting that death, Sheol, and judgment could touch them.

Isaiah adds that Judah's security was rolled up in their deceit and their hiding places were their false statements. They were hypocritical liars who would change their word to meet the need of the situation. They proclaimed their own standard of right and wrong and spoke to themselves the greatest of lies: we can speak out of any situation and be secure.

**Conclusion**

**One of the most dangerous places a believer can find himself or herself is in the place of self-confidence, self-will, self-reliance, and self-sufficiency. God is not threatened by our sovereignty, but we are. Those who are self-confident in the foreground have judgment looming in the background. Now is the time to bow and humbly come to the Lord and trust in Him.**

**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.