

“I LAY IN ZION A STONE FOR A FOUNDATION”

Isaiah 28-29

Introduction

- 1) God’s way is associated with having a solid foundation on which to stand and build (Lk. 6:48; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:19)
- 2) Only those faithful to God will stand on a solid foundation of eternal truth and love

I) Woe to Ephraim and Jerusalem (28:1-22)

- A) Woe to the crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim – *Samaria*, the capital of Israel, was a staggering, fading flower (v. 1)
 - 1) God has a mighty and strong one to bring them down – the Assyrians (vv. 2-4)
 - 2) To the faithful remnant, God will be the crown of glory and beauty (vv. 5-6)
- B) “They also have erred...” – *Jerusalem*, the capital of Judah, is overcome with wine and intoxicating drink – could not understand and apply God’s revelation in their sin (vv. 7-8)
 - 1) Disrespectful leaders of Judah mocked the teaching of God’s word as simplistic and foolish: “precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little” (vv. 9-10)
 - a) Like mockings today: “Book, chapter, verse” “Thou shalt not’s” “Do’s and don’t’s”
 - 2) Because of their mocking rejection of His offer of rest, God would speak to them with stammering lips and another tongue – Assyrian language in captivity (vv. 11-13; Deut. 28:49; 1 Cor. 14:21)
 - 3) Because they had made a “covenant with death” and took refuge in their lies, God would respond by laying in Zion a tried, sure, and precious cornerstone for a foundation, to judge with justice and righteousness (vv. 14-17a)
 - a) When the terrible scourge comes, their lies, falsehoods, and mockery will provide no refuge from God’s judgment on sin (vv. 17b-22; cf. Gal. 6:7-8)
 - b) This promise of a tried and precious cornerstone laid in Zion for a sure foundation is a prophecy of the Christ and His divine rule (Rom. 9:33; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:6-8); those who put their trust in Him will be steadfast in truth and never be ashamed!

II) The Parable of the Farmer (28:23-29)

- A) The farmer [plowman] uses planning, purpose, and wisdom in the various ways of planting and sowing his crops (vv. 23-28)
- B) God deals with his people in various ways with divine planning, purpose, and wisdom (v. 29)

III) Woe to Jerusalem (29:1-24)

- A) Woe to Ariel [Hearth of God], where David dwelt – *Jerusalem* (v. 1a)
 - 1) Though festive, Ariel [Jerusalem] will be distressed and brought low (vv. 1b-4)
 - 2) The Lord will eventually punish the nations that fight against Mount Zion (vv. 5-8)
 - a) Will happen suddenly like awakening from a dream and a nightmare
- B) They stagger [like a drunkard] at the message and cannot understand it – they show outward devotion but follow the commandment of men (vv. 9-12; Matt. 15:8-9)
 - 1) God will do a marvelous work and the wisdom of the wise will perish (v. 13; 1 Cor. 1:19)
- C) The futility of trying to hide our plans from God (vv. 15-16)
- D) “In that day” God will cause the deaf to hear and blind to see – rejoice in the Holy One of Israel and hallow the name of the God of Israel (vv. 17-24)
 - 1) Restoration of the physical remnant to land and spiritual remnant to God in Christ

Conclusion

Clear contrasts given between the shaky unstable ways of man and the solid foundation of God’s way of truth! We need to see that God’s ways are the only ones that will bring rejoicing!