

STONE GIVEN

Isaiah 28

INTRODUCTION: The last two chapters - closed with the goodness of God and encouragement.

The story of this chapter begins with "woe" unto Ephraim on the important tribes and richest lands. When 10 Tribes formed a separate kingdom, Ephraim was the principle tribe in it and sometimes the Kingdom was called Ephraim. It's capital Samaria, here called "the crown of pride".

Important events of this chapter.

- I. Sorry Sight - Verse 1-8.
- II. Scornful Men - Verse 9-15.
- III. Stone Given - Verse 16-22.
- IV. Sowing Parable - Verse 23-29.

I. Sorry Sight - Verse 1-8.

Verse 1 Fat - fruitful - harvest beautiful.

Made ill use of these good things.

1. Puffed up with pride - I Tim. 6:17.
2. Indulged in sensuality - notorious for drunkenness - excess.

(Pride crown) of the drunkards of Ephraim - Samaria.

Drunken with wine and intoxicated with pride!

Garlands or crowns of flowers have reference to profane drunkenness.

Use sprang up in Egypt at festive entertainments and reached a climax in Greece. Intention was to cover up wine breath. Wreaths bound round the head and made of flowers, shrubs, roses, violets, myrtle, and ivy, supposed to carry off the fumes of wine.

Later spread to Rome - regard for decency at first and revellers who appeared with their garlands in public were punished with imprisonment.

Fading flower - that crown of the drunkard's pride - not withstanding the beauty of flowers on the reveller's chaplet.

Fertile valleys - fair - luxury - pleasures - fading.

Mark of last days - formal religion - church membership - lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God. 2 Tim. 3:4.

First, SIN was to conquer them.

Second, wine would be their ruin.

✓ I Cor. 6:10 - "Not inherit the kingdom".

Verse 2 - Third, throw it down to the ground - how? Hail and flood.

Verse 3 - Fourth, trample it under foot - lie exposed to contempt and not be able to recover.

Verse 4 - Fifth, wither on the wine.

Sixth, first fig plucked and consumed.

Denunciation of the approaching ruin of Israelites by Shalmaneser (Mic. 1:6).

Compared to a tempest or flood and the fig that first gets ripe is sampled early.

Drunkard allows a thing he loves to overcome him and rob him of conscience plus reason. He soon has no regard for God. Deadens his sense of morals. Sorry sight.

Verse 5 - Favourable prognostication for 2 Tribes. For the moment - Judah and Benjamin.

"His people".

Promises Favour.

Assyrian army is laying Israel waste - those that wore the crown of pride looked upon God's people with disfavour.

Now - God acknowledged his people as his own.

"Diadem" of believer is of beauty - purity - self-control! (Contrast with drunkards crown).

Verse 6 - Believer has clear judgment - brave heart, turns the battle! Drunks of Ephraim could do nothing to oppose the invaders.

Verse 7 - Corruption found in Judah!

"Erred" - through wine. Some of these had walked in the same path of uncontrolled self-pleasing!

Priest - intoxicated with the falsehood they preach. Baseless hopes.

Scandal - Priest stumble in the law - reel - stagger.

Verse 8 - Disease - not one spot can be found that is clean - defiled with filth.

If not taken literal - it presents proud self-satisfied people!

What of our day? Are we repellent unto the Lord. Rev. 3:16.

II. Scornful Men - Verse 9-15.

Verse 9 - Transition - Prophets preached knowledge. Whom does he think he is teaching?

Mere children. Does he not know we are grown men. Ridicule.

To credit of the Prophets - they tried to teach.

Verse 10 - Took pains to teach - Precept.

A little by one Prophet. A little by another Prophet. Process of nature - power of little things - training and Christian work.

Verse 11 Deprived of plain preaching.

Show appreciation for the Gospel preaching. Quoted in I. Cor. 14:21.

Verse 12 - Forecast - Scornful will reject. Rest for weary - Grace. "Come unto me".

Matt. 12.

They would not hear - have no mind to hear or give serious attention. They kept on their old way. Ridiculed the Prophets preaching.

Verse 13 - God has not altered the style of His proclamation.

Simple = Precept on precept - line upon line. Go on their way and be broken.

Preaching of the cross - not be altered. Stumbling block to the Jew. Foolishness to Greeks, but it changes not, cannot be replaced, preach Christ and him crucified. Simple, clear words. Necessity of repetition of the Gospel.

Verse 14 - Hear - Addresses himself to the scornful men who ruled in Jerusalem.

Indictment of sin of rulers.

Verse 15 - Asleep in carnal security.

Challenged God to do his worst.

2 agreements: Covenant with death and Hell.

Prophets tell us about death and Hell. We will dance upon their graves, and no fear of Hell.

They were sure of their lives - made a bargain with death. Violence would not get them but old age!

Great folly - impenitent sinners to think they will fare better in the next world? But what have they trusted in? False - smooth words - these rulers hope to succeed better than others in the town.

Fellow dying in Rome prayed thus "O Lord, I have much desired to speak one word unto Thee before I die, not for myself, but for my wife and children, for I am hasting to Hell; neither is there anything to be done by Thee for me". And this he spoke, and those stood by heard it, with as much confidence as if he were but travelling to the next town.

### III. Stone Given - Verse 16-22.

Verse 16 A foundation stone -- you trust for your safety in your own delusions, now I lay a sure foundation!

Firm and lasting for faith - I Peter 2:6-8.

He is laid in Zion - the Holy hill - precious stone.

He that rests in this - believers - shall not run to and fro in a hurry like men at their wits end.

But fixed in heart quietly waiting to welcome the will of God.

One of titles given Jesus - Cornerstone.

We sing of "Rock of Ages".

Tried stone - Jesus Christ did not fail a single test during His lifetime. They could find no fault in Him. Satan tested him and found him upright. Wicked, unbelieving men tested him and found him upright. Contrite and broken hearts of every generation have tested him and found him equal to their needs. Have you tried Him?

Precious Cornerstone.

Solomon's Temple - Corners are more than 38 ft. long and weight more than 100 tons.

Jesus not accepted by the official builders. Matt. 21:42. Paul, Acts 4:11. Eph. 2:19-20.

Building cannot be weak at the Cornerstones.

Sure Foundation.

Supports the Load. Upholds the glory. Balances the burden.

Church ought to be sure.

St. Francis Dam near Los Angeles, California collapsed. Investigation showed that it was due to a defective foundation. 450 persons lost their lives. Faulty foundation. Explains moral collapse. House built on rock and sand.

Verse 17 - Set out judgment by line.

Set out justice by plummet.

In proportion to your offences, your punishment.

Expression borrowed from the builders -- church to be built upon the sure stone. Scornful men will be made ashamed of their vain hopes. Hail and floodtest.

Verse 18 - Boast of their covenant with death and Hell.

Death - disannulled.

Hell - trodden.

Luke 12 - The rich fool.

Re-emphasize the certain doom of the wicked, impenitent, unbeliever.

Verse 19 - How long vexation last? No avoiding it. Morning - Noon - Night.

Verse 20 - Bed - Homey illustration. That which they thought to repose themselves reaches not their expectations of comfort. It was not sufficient.

Adam - covering of the fig leaves.

Need - "Robe of righteousness". Rev. 19:8.

Matt. 22:12 "Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?

And he was speechless". *Family Durant, Okla. - had sleep in bed with, forgot one or 2 Boys - had 3 Boys - freeze one side - warm the other - like sleeping in ice box*  
Bed too short to permit them to stretch out - covering too narrow. *with door open.*

Verse 21 - Strange Work - God will and must be glorified in his work.

He must now deal with his people as with his enemies.

Professing members of God's church by their pride and scornfulness makes themselves like the Philistines or Canaanites and must expect to be dealt with as such.

2 Examples: David established in his Kingdom and Philistines spread themselves in the Valley of Rephaim and Jehovah burst forth upon them as the breaking forth of waters.

Joshua After his victory at Gileon, He cast hailstones on the fleeing foe.

Those judgements shall be repeated.

Deut. 2:11, Psalm 88:10, 2 Cor. 5:4.

Verse 22 - Mockers

They dare not ridicule the reproofs of God's Word -- or the approach of his judgment.

IV. Sowing Parable -- Verse 23-26.

Verse 23 - Sower went forth to sow.

Verse 24 - Husbandman.

1. Plough - in the hope of planting.
2. Harrow - break up clods.

Verse 25 - 3. Sowing of the grain. Various seeds.

Verse 26 - Waits for Harvest.

Verse 27 - Threshing - Get husk out.

Verse 28 - Not thresh it any longer than necessary!

Not go to and fro over it and bruise it.

Verse 29 - Is man wiser than his maker?

If the rod and staff will answer the need, Matt. 13:19. Than he will not make use of his cart-wheel and his horsemen.

Bruising the bread corn.

Helen Keller <sup>should have been</sup> - 88 yrs. - June 27.

"She died gently with a smile on her face".

Born - Tusconumbria, Ala. 19 mo. old \* Mysterious Fever left Blind & Deaf.

Teacher - Anne Sullivan Macy

Mark Twain said she was one of most interesting characters in 19th century - and Napoleon Bonaparte,

wild, unruly child; imprisoned in a world not communicate -

one day some water from the pump spilled on Miss Keller's hand. Miss Sullivan quickly tapped out the letters of the word.

There was a strange stir within Helen - "I understood it was possible for me to communicate with other people by these signs."

Progress was swift - Finger tapping language -

line on line - brail - learned to write - Blind School Landis -