

## Isaiah 28

- ✓ **Isaiah 28:1** is speaking to the northern kingdom, Ephraim, but as a prophet to the southern kingdom, Judah (in both cases the name of a single tribe represents the whole). **Isaiah 28:2-8** paints a sad and graphic picture of their condition, literally drunk? Probably, but also spiritually. **Isaiah 28:9** shows that there is a great need for maturity. We start with milk, but we shouldn't stay with milk, it's one thing to be immature early on, very understandable, but to still be immature 20 years later. **Isaiah 28:10** speaks about all the important teachings which are scattered all through the Scripture. The more important the idea the more prevalent it is in the Scriptures, literally scattered everywhere. The Bible is an integrated message system, such that every detail is there by design. There are 66 books, 40 something authors, but only one Designer behind all of it.

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- ✓ Verse 11 frames God's judgement this way, another country and people will come upon them and take them over and they will hear God's message by the tongue of foreign invasion. Having a foreign tongue in their land was a sign of judgment. Paul quotes this verse in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:21**, the tongues or languages were a sign of God working but then keeping them from understanding. Because they do not listen, **Isaiah 28:12-13**, He speaks to them with words they cannot comprehend, **Matthew 13:10-15**. If we do not listen, over and over there will come a time when we will not be able to hear Him even if we wanted to. "If you will not hear plain language then I will send these words to you in a language you will not be able to understand."

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- ✓ Covenant with death?, **Isaiah 28:14-15**. Who created death?, **Revelation 1:18**. "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil", **Hebrews 2:14**. The power of death but not the ownership of it, Satan is a tenant on this earth as are we. He is allowed to have control of certain things, but the ownership has never been anything other than God's. Death is pictured as a serpent with a bite or sting, **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:56**; Satan is also pictured as a serpent, he tempts us to sin. Notice, this is something that is repeated in the New Testament, but that was already spoken in the Old: That death would be swallowed up and that every tear would be wiped away. Very few things in the New Testament are actually new. On a similar note, Mexican cartels have a god they pray to called Santa Muerte who they claim protects them from death. A similar concept that the Jews were trying to pull off.

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- ✓ Like a golden nugget in the midst of all this gloom!, **Isaiah 28:16**. One of the most quoted and referred to verses throughout the rest of Scripture. This "stone" reference is a great study in and of itself throughout the Bible; get an exhaustive concordance and track down where it appears. You will find that, when used symbolically, the stone is used consistently to refer to Jesus or His teachings. The word "rock" is another similar study that will show similar results. Not literally Christ but symbolically so, **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:1-4**, the life-giving waters come from Christ; **John 7:37-39**; **John 4:10**. Jesus quotes **Psalms 118:22** to the Pharisees as referring to Him and His teachings, **Luke 20:19-20**. The symbols, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:6-9** and how they are used gives us perspective on the layout of Scripture, every detail is there by design from one Designer.

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- ✓ Mount Perazim referenced in **Isaiah 28:17-21** and **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 5** references the battle of David with the Philistines; the valley of Gibeon is also referenced in **Joshua 10**. In both cases God intervenes on behalf of His people to bring victory.
- ✓ The point is that the farmer knows in **Isaiah 28:22-29**, that each one of these types of plants are dealt with differently. Each are handled differently, and the farmer knows that. Similarly, God knows how to deal with each one of us and each situation: to the Rich Young Ruler, Jesus gives him the Law; to the woman at the well, Jesus tells her He's the Messiah; to Matthew He just says, "come, follow Me."

## Isaiah 29

- ✓ The name "Ariel" means the "lion of God", but it is not to be confused with Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, **Isaiah 29:1-2**. Ariel is also another title for the city of Jerusalem. **Isaiah 29:3-8** predicts that all the nations will come against, Jerusalem, the world will fight against God and His people, how deceived can a person be?

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- ✓ So grateful that what was sealed, **Isaiah 29:9-12** is now becoming unsealed; Revelation or apocalypses means "an unveiling." Revelation is the only book of the Bible that has an overt command to read it. We would not have known these things about Jesus had God not revealed them, but the strange thing is that there is nothing new in Revelation! It was all in the Old Testament, but it was in code and God has now decoded it for us. If God hides something, it cannot be found, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:10-12**. If God seals something up, that seal cannot be broken **Daniel 12:4**.

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- ✓ The passage in **Isaiah 29:13-15** was the one that Jesus applied directly to the Pharisees, Sadducees and the scribes. We often act as if this isn't true, that God cannot see some things that we do. If we were really conscience of His presence and knowledge of our activities, we wouldn't do some things that we do. God loves us so much that He cannot take His eyes off of us. God knows us, our lives, the good, and the bad, and our struggles, **Isaiah 29:16**. How could He begin to cause all things to work together for good if He first didn't know all those things. "Where does the grizzly bear sleep in the forest?", wherever he wants! God's sovereignty is a comfort and assurance; it's the sovereignty of man that's the scary thing. God allows us to decide, but if we are smart, we will hand it all back to Him.

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- ✓ The characteristic of this age is the denial of intelligent design; we would never say our wrist watch happened by chance, but we confidently say that the arm it is on, came about by chance. Design demands we look for the Designer. The most insulting idol to date is our willingness to give credit to randomness and nothingness for our existence and to deify the existence of an intelligent designer!

**Not many?, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:26. The queen of England famously said, "I was saved by an 'm'." Instead of "Not any" it is "not many". Those that think much of what they know often eliminate themselves from God's grace because they will not submit to it because it requires them to humble themselves, Isaiah 29:17-24.**

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