

We will begin with the fifth lecture of the book of Isaiah. / We will begin with chapter 28.

/The title of the chapter is "Treasure." / First, God punishes the arrogance of Ephraim. / Verses 1-4. / Second, God encourages those who are left behind. / Verses 5-6. / Third, Judah's disobedience and punishment. / Verses 7-21. / Fourth, God protects his chosen people in times of hardships. / Verses 23-29.

/Read verse 1. / Woe to that wreath, the pride of Ephraim's drunkards, to the fading flower, his glorious beauty, set on the head of a fertile valley-- to that city, the pride of those laid low by wine!

/ "Ephraim" is Israel of the north. / The capital city is Samaria.

/It refers to Israel. / "Ephraim" represents northern Israel.

/Israel got richer and arrogant. / Therefore, God punished them to humble them.

/ Whoever is arrogant and depraved will collapse. / It happened in the times of Noah and also in times of Sodom and Gomorrah.

/Verses 2-3. / See, the Lord has one who is powerful and strong. Like a hailstorm and a destructive wind, like a driving rain and a flooding downpour, he will throw it forcefully to the ground. That wreath, the pride of Ephraim's drunkards, will be trampled underfoot.

/ The "one who is powerful and strong" refers to the army of Assyria. / God used Assyria's army as his rod. / Isaiah 10:5 / God punished Israel through Assyria no matter how rich they were because they became arrogant.

/Verse 4. / That fading flower, his glorious beauty, set on the head of a fertile valley, will be like a fig ripe before harvest-- as soon as someone sees it and

takes it in his hand, he swallows it.

/There was a ripe fig before harvest. / Those who were waiting for fig to ripen took the fruit right away to eat it. / This means that the enemies of Israel will come as if they have waited for a long time.

/Verses 5-6. / In that day the LORD Almighty will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath for the remnant of his people. He will be a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, a source of strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

/The “remnant of his people” is those among the Israelites who repented and stood in faith. / God became the glorious crown for them. / God blesses believers when they walk righteously in faith.

/Verses 7-8. / And these also stagger from wine and reel from beer: Priests and prophets stagger from beer and are befuddled with wine; they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when rendering decisions. All the tables are covered with vomit and there is not a spot without filth.

/The people of Judah also staggered from wine. / Judah was located in the south. / Prophets and priests also staggered from wine. / They were not able to judge fairly.

/Prophets must properly teach the will of God. / However, they wrongly taught the revelation. / They did not deliver the truth to the people. / Their spiritual eyes were in darkness.

/Verse 9. / "Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast?

/The corrupted people of Judah mocked the true prophet Isaiah. / They thought

Isaiah's teachings were childish.

/They thought they were all grown up. / They thought they knew the Bible well. / Therefore, people of Judah insisted not to be treated like children.

/Verse 10. / For it is: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there."

/Here, the people of Judah continued to mock the prophet Isaiah. / Isaiah told the people over and over again. / Isaiah had to repeat his words because the people of Judah did not obey the word of God. / The people of Judah did not like to hear what Isaiah repeatedly told them.

/Verse 11. / Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people,

/The people did not listen to the word of God spoken through prophets. / Therefore, God told them that other nations would come and invade them. / Foreign armies would invade them.

/Verse 12. / to whom he said, "This is the resting place, let the weary rest"; and, "This is the place of repose"-- but they would not listen.

/Prophets delivered God's word. / God's words were a blessing and spiritually healing. / However, the people of Judah did not like to listen to the prophets.

/Verse 13. / So then, the word of the LORD to them will become: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there-- so that they will go and fall backward, be injured and snared and captured.

/Because they did not listen to God, God would discipline them through the foreign nation of Assyria. / God disciplines us if we do not listen to him. / We

must pay attention to the word of truth and obey.

/Verse 14-15. / Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem. You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place."

/ Here, "scoffers" refer to the arrogant. / They were the corrupted leaders of Judah. / They say there would be no disasters. / They were confident that there was nothing to worry about. / However, God led them.

/Verse 16. / So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

/God placed a stone in Zion. / It symbolized that Christ would come in the future. / This "stone" symbolizes Christ. / Christ will be the stone of judgment.

/Also Jesus is the foundation of salvation. / Whoever believes in Christ and obeys will be blessed. / 1 Peter 2:6 / Romans 9:33 / It says, "the one who trusts will never be dismayed." / This means to "hurry."

/Those who trust in Christ and obey will remain calm in times of hardships. / We will have victory in hard times.

/Verse 17. / I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.

/God weighs man with fairness and justice. / He judges if they do not make the cut. / Daniel 5:24-31 / We must make God our refuge. / However, the wicked consider lies as their shelter.

/"Hail" and "water" are God's measuring tools. / God would judge the leaders of Judah with hail and water.

/Verse 18. / Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the grave will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it.

/The people of Judah thought they were secure. / However, God brought disaster upon them. / God told them that he would send Assyria.

/Verse 19. / As often as it comes it will carry you away; morning after morning, by day and by night, it will sweep through." The understanding of this message will bring sheer terror.

/Their enemies would invade all day. / It says, "The understanding of this message will bring sheer terror." / The people of Judah had fear when they heard the word of God. / They will now be scared even when they hear news of disaster.

/Verse 20. / The bed is too short to stretch out on, the blanket too narrow to wrap around you.

/The short bed and narrow blanket means that there is nowhere to flee to. / They disobeyed God. / Therefore, they will not be able to flee from disaster.

/Verse 21. / The LORD will rise up as he did at Mount Perazim, he will rouse himself as in the Valley of Gibeon-- to do his work, his strange work, and perform his task, his alien task.

/During the times of David, God scattered the Philistines at Mount Perazim. / 2 Samuel 5:20 / 1 Chronicles 14:11 / God will be filled with wrath as he did in

the Valley of Gibeon. / 1 Chronicles 14:13-16.

/Verse 22. / Now stop your mocking, or your chains will become heavier; the Lord, the LORD Almighty, has told me of the destruction decreed against the whole land.

/This means that they must not mock God's word and judgment.

/Verses 23-26. / Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil? When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cummin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way.

/This means that God will discipline his people and then take care of those who are left behind. / God bandages the wounds of his people after he punishes them because he loves them. / Job 5:18

/"Caraway and cummin" are seeds used as fragrance. Also, there is "wheat" and "barley."

/Verses 27-29. / Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over cummin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cummin with a stick. Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not go on threshing it forever. Though he drives the wheels of his threshing cart over it, his horses do not grind it. All this also comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.

/When God disciplines us, he does not want us to be completely ruined. / God does not leave his people to become ashes. / God disciplines us with just the right amount and then takes care of us.

/God only gives us trials that we can endure. / God disciplines his people and then protects them.

/Now, we will proceed with chapter 29. / The title is "Salvation."

/First, God hits Israel to humble them. / Verses 1-4. / Second, those who attack Israel will have no benefit. / Verses 5-8. / Third, the corruption of prophets and the people of Judah. / Verses 9-16. / Fourth, the promise of Israel's restoration. / Verses 17-24.

/Read verses 1-2. / Woe to you, Ariel, Ariel, the city where David settled! Add year to year and let your cycle of festivals go on. Yet I will besiege Ariel; she will mourn and lament, she will be to me like an altar hearth.

/Here, it says "Ariel." / Ariel. / This is God's city. / This is also an altar. / There are these meanings. / It indicates Jerusalem.

/ It says "cycle of festivals go on." / The people of Jerusalem kept annual festivals. / The Passover, The Feast of Harvest, and The Feast of Ingathering. / However, they served God ritually, not wholeheartedly.

/They kept all kind of festivals but did not keep the laws. / God said, "I will besiege Ariel." / This means that they will become like God's altar. / God will set fire to Jerusalem just as fire is set to an altar.

/When the Israelites served God in Jerusalem, Jerusalem was a huge city. / However, after the people of Judah became corrupted, the city became a place of fire.

/Verses 3-4. / I will encamp against you all around; I will encircle you with towers and set up my siege works against you. Brought low, you will speak from the ground; your speech will mumble out of the dust. Your voice will come ghostlike from the earth; out of the dust your speech will whisper.

/God would discipline Jerusalem by sending the army of Assyria. / Jerusalem will become humble like dust after they receive God's discipline.

/Verses 5-6. / But your many enemies will become like fine dust, the ruthless hordes like blown chaff. Suddenly, in an instant, the LORD Almighty will come with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with windstorm and tempest and flames of a devouring fire.

/Assyria will come suddenly. / However, many enemies will become like fine dust. / It means that the Assyrian army will collapse. / God will use the Assyrian army as a temporary rod. / Isaiah 10:5

/However, after God disciplines Jerusalem, he will destroy Assyria.

/God will make Assyria like fine dust. / God will blow away all enemies as if they are like fine dust.

/Verses 7-8. / Then the hordes of all the nations that fight against Ariel, that attack her and her fortress and besiege her, will be as it is with a dream, with a vision in the night-as when a hungry man dreams that he is eating, but he awakens, and his hunger remains; as when a thirsty man dreams that he is drinking, but he awakens faint, with his thirst unquenched. So will it be with the hordes of all the nations that fight against Mount Zion.

/It says the enemies of Israel will go back to their meaningless places. / The dreams of eating and drinking will be useless. / In the same way, there is no gain for those who persecute church today. / There is no gain in persecuting the church or believers in whatever the generation.

/Verse 9. / Be stunned and amazed, blind yourselves and be sightless; be drunk, but not from wine, stagger, but not from beer.

/The people of Judah staggered from drinking. / The reason was because they left God who was their living water. / Whoever is away from God will be confused in his heart.



/Our spirits grow dark if we leave God. / Wisdom gets dark. / We become foolish.

/Verse 10. / The LORD has brought over you a deep sleep: He has sealed your eyes (the prophets he has covered your heads (the seers)).

/ "A deep sleep" refers to a god that makes faith fall asleep. / It is g worldly God. / 1 Corinthians 4:4

/It says, "He has sealed your eyes (the prophets he has covered your heads (the seers))." / Prophets must play the role of eyes and heads to the people. / They need to rebuke the sins of people.

/ They must lead them down the righteous way. / However, the prophets' hearts were asleep. / Their eyes were dark. / Hence, they were not able to lead the Israelites well. / The blind led the blind. / Matthew 15:14

/Verses 11-12. / For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I can't; it is sealed." Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I don't know how to read."

/ The "whole vision" means God's special revelation. / It refers to the Bible. / It was given to someone who could read, but he said, "I can't; it is sealed."

/ It was then given to someone who could not read, and he said, "I don't know how to read." / This means that people did not make attempts to know the Bible.

/The people's spirits grew dark. / They did not seek the truth. / They did not

pursue the truth even when they found it. / Therefore, they did not go the right way, but became wanderers. / They became foolish.

/Verse 13. / The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.

/The Israelites kept God closer with their words and respected God with their lips.

/However, their hearts were far away from God. / God looks at the heart. / We must serve him in spirit and in truth. / Isaiah 1:12

/ Whoever does not obey the words of the prophets but say that they serve God are all liars.

/ The wicked say that they fear God but they accept the teachings of men. / Hence, they do not keep God's commands but follow man's teachings. / Matthew 15:1-20

/Verse 14. / therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."

/God takes away the wisdom and intelligence of the Israelites. / The Israelites left God and therefore, their wisdom became dark. / This was God's punishment. / Their spiritual eyes grew dark.

/Verse 15. / Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?"

/People make plans according to their own thoughts. / They try to hide it from

God. / Therefore, they will receive God's judgment.

/Verse 16. / You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?

/God is like the potter. / God is the Creator. / We humans are like clay. / We are creations. / Therefore, we cannot say anything against God.

/Verse 17. / In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?

/"Lebanon" symbolizes arrogant foreign nations. / The "fertile field" refers to Judah. / Therefore, the arrogant foreign nations will become like a flatland.

/However, God cares for Judah, who is like a fertile field. / God lifts Judah up. / Therefore, God will bring down the arrogant and lift up the humble.

/Verse 18. / In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

/The deaf become wise when they receive the gospel. / When the spiritually deaf receive the gospel, their spiritual eyes are opened. / Whoever believes in Jesus will gain bright spiritual eyes.

/Believers can see the spiritual world. / They see heaven. / They see God the Father. / They look upon the world of truth.

/Verse 19. / Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

/The "needy" refers to those who are poor in spirit, who are the believers. / God reveals himself to those who are poor in spirit. / These believers rejoice in God.

/Verses 20-21. / The ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear, and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down-those who with a word make a man out to be guilty, who ensnare the defender in court and with false testimony deprive the innocent of justice.

/God judges the ruthless and the mockers. / However, believers trust in God. / Believers rejoice in the spiritual world.

/Verses 22-24. / Therefore this is what the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, says to the house of Jacob: "No longer will Jacob be ashamed; no longer will their faces grow pale. When they see among them their children, the work of my hands, they will keep my name holy; they will acknowledge the holiness of the Holy One of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction.

/This refers to Israel's restoration. / God who redeemed Abraham will also redeem the descendants of Abraham. / Believers will not be ashamed.

/It prophesies that Christ will save the chosen believers. / Believers will participate in salvation through faith. / They will gain understanding. / They will become holy. / They will overflow with Thanksgiving.

/We become wise by faith in Jesus. / We become holy by believing in Jesus.

/Here we will conclude the fifth lecture on Isaiah. / Thank you.