

when he makes all the stones of the altars
like chalkstones crushed to pieces,
no Asherim or incense altars will remain
standing.

10 For the fortified city is solitary,
a habitation deserted and forsaken, like the
wilderness;

there the calf grazes;
there it lies down and strips its branches.

11 When its boughs are dry, they are broken;
women come and make a fire of them.

For this is a people without discernment;
therefore he who made them will not have
compassion on them;
he who formed them will show them no favor.

Final
Judgment
shown as
a great
ingathering

12 In that day from the river Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt
the LORD will thresh out the grain, and you will be gleaned one
by one, O people of Israel. 13 And in that day a great trumpet
will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria
and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come
and worship the LORD on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.

Judgment on Ephraim and Jerusalem

28 Ah, the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim,
and the fading flower of its glorious beauty,
which is on the head of the rich valley of those
overcome with wine!

2 Behold, the Lord has one who is mighty and strong;
like a storm of hail, a destroying tempest,

Ah = Woe

96 Even as God's vineyard is restored. The nation is cleansed of all
unclean worship. Idols are replaced with the living God. As with
so much of Isaiah placing this in time is extremely difficult as in
this chapter moves from the time beyond time vs. 1-5, to a
Time when the nation is restored and again worship God vs. 6.
To looking back at why Jacob was Punished so harshly vs. 7-8.

10 Following where this verse lies it continues that part of this
punishment to bring the people back "the fortified City" or Jerusalem
is deserted and forsaken. Wild animals live among its ruins.

11 Everything is dead and only good for firewood for women to gather
and burn. Because of their hard hearts and bad decisions God has
brought the full force against them.

9-11 is showing why they end up needing God's rescuing
and restoration.

12 No matter where they are the people of Israel will not be able
to escape God's Justice & Judgment. This is also a picture
of final Judgment when "every knee will bow".

13 THE TRUMPET of the horn will sound. 1 Thess
Here is the final call to all to appear before God.

1 Ephraim is the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The crown likely is
it's capital city of Samaria. It sat on a high hill overlooking a valley
filled with vineyards. Drunkards show their lack of self-control.
They are consumed by sinful habits. Samaria is as a flower that's
starting to wilt only a shadow of its former self.

2. Behold draws attention to one, either a nation or a person He
is preparing to use to bring judgment on the N. Kingdom. Young N. 2p266
points out that God "has at His disposal the armies of men. He is sovereign
to protect His people, but He is also sovereign to punish them as well."
This is compared to a storm that cannot be stopped. A hail storm
destroys everything, another image of something being unstoppable.

like a storm of mighty, overflowing waters,
 he casts down to the earth with his hand.
 3 The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim
 will be trodden underfoot;
 4 and the fading flower of its glorious beauty,
 which is on the head of the rich valley,
 will be like a first-ripe fig before the summer:
 when someone sees it, he swallows it
 as soon as it is in his hand.

5 In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of
 glory,
 and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his
 people,
 6 and a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment,
 and strength to those who turn back the battle
 at the gate.

7 These also reel with wine
 and stagger with strong drink;
 the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink,
 they are swallowed by wine,
 they stagger with strong drink,
 they reel in vision,
 they stumble in giving judgment.
 8 For all tables are full of filthy vomit,
 with no space left.

9 "To whom will he teach knowledge,
 and to whom will he explain the message?"

To Revere Leaders

2b) Much like the language used to describe THE NOAHIC FLOOD in Genesis 6:17 God is assuring the reader nothing can stop Him. Here the hand of God is directly referenced.

3) To be trodden under foot is a complete defeat. As with the king of Babylon in the 14th Chapter where his body is not buried but trampled by the enemy army.

4) The same image for the city of Sennacherib as used in vs. 1 is used here. Along with the image of a fig easily picked and eaten. This showing the ease of victory in defeating the city. These self-centered crooks are made to pay for relying on their riches and other nations for safety.

5-6) In contrast the faithful remnant will uphold God's name and be delivered. This remnant is a constant theme in Israel's storyline. All the self-centered and those drunk on carnal living are gone and those who are left seek God's help not man's. Here majesty is restored to the worship and relationship of man and God. The image of the messiah setting in judgment while restoring justice is dominant here. Here the deliverer restores them with new victories. Previously the city is taken as easily as a fig is plucked. Now with the one who sets in judgment victory comes at the gate and the enemy is repelled.

7) Returning to the present and coming judgment Israel speaks for God against the religious leaders. Here again is a picture of those drunk but this time it is on power and giving (false) judgment. They are so consumed and overcome they no longer serve God but themselves. Here wine is symbolic of being consumed by their own passions and lust for power. Too much of anything can consume and control the people. They are so consumed that they are no longer listening to God. Here drunkenness is the norm and not the exception. Sin is normal even among the religious leaders.

8) Everything is fouled. Everything is void of God. All stinks. It is so bad the people no longer smell or see their own life w/out God.

9-10) are not clearly understood, but appear to be the sinful priest and prophets mocking Israel. They appear to be saying, 'we are not babies and do not need to be taught these basics by you. Israel stands alone declaring God's truth. In fact others too are preaching this message.'

Those who are weaned from the milk,
those taken from the breast?

10 For it is precept upon precept, precept upon
precept,
line upon line, line upon line,
here a little, there a little."

11 For by people of strange lips
and with a foreign tongue
the LORD will speak to this people,
to whom he has said,

"This is rest;
give rest to the weary;
and this is repose";
yet they would not hear.

13 And the word of the LORD will be to them
precept upon precept, precept upon precept,
line upon line, line upon line,
here a little, there a little,
that they may go, and fall backward,
and be broken, and snared, and taken.

A Cornerstone in Zion

14 Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers,
who rule this people in Jerusalem!

15 Because you have said, "We have made a covenant
with death,
and with Sheol we have an agreement,
when the overwhelming whip passes through
it will not come to us,

Here is also a picture of
the Jewish people rejecting the
message of CHRIST & clinging to
to details of the law.

To Governmental
Leaders &
officials

10 They are saying they do not need to be taught 1, 2, 3, A, B, C.

11 Isaiah responds to their mocking him. Since the people would not listen to the message of God through his prophets he would use conquering armies and foreigners

12 Previously God has spoken to His people how to live but they have not listened.

13 So he will use these strangers to teach them His 1, 2, 3's and A, B, C's. They could have listened to Isaiah but since they would not the conquerors will be used of God to instruct them. They will be completely overcome by these teachings of God.

14 Therefore or because of what the people have done God is about to speak. Here God addresses the rulers who have led them astray. They are referred to as 'scoffers' see Prov. 29.8 This people binds them together for God's judgment. That Jerusalem is named leaves no doubt of who the message is intended.

15 Isaiah mocks them for making a covenant with Egypt to protect them. He declares it will lead to death and the pit of hell (shad) itself. He says their covenant of life will have to exact opposite result. Their defeat will be complete when under the enemies whip they live & eventually die.

for we have made lies our refuge,
 and in falsehood we have taken shelter";
 16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
 "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in
 Zion,
 a stone, a tested stone, *tested and without sin or lies.*
 a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: *→ or fixed, immovable. unshakable.*
 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'
 17 And I will make justice the line,
 and righteousness the plumb line;
 and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,
 and waters will overwhelm the shelter."
 18 Then your covenant with death will be annulled,
 and your agreement with Sheol will not stand;
 when the overwhelming scourge passes through,
 you will be beaten down by it.
 19 As often as it passes through it will take you;
 for morning by morning it will pass through,
 by day and by night;
 and it will be sheer terror to understand the message.
 20 For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on,
 and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in.
 21 For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim;
 as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused;
 to do his deed—strange is his deed!
 and to work his work—alien is his work!
 22 Now therefore do not scoff,
 lest your bonds be made strong;
 for I have heard a decree of destruction
 from the Lord GOD of hosts against the whole land.

15b) They use lies and deceit to their current advantage. They believe they have cheated death and are living in a false hope. They would have seen their deplomacy as shrewd, Isaiah calls it by its true names. "Lies, falsehood." Their confidence is not in God but in themselves and their crafty plans.

16) against their lies God draws attention to the foundation of all truth. This cornerstone (Jesus) is where men should put their trust. Behold this is not merely a figure of speech. This truth is real and can be seen. It is an act of faith that leads to real salvation, and deliverance. Men focus on building up, while God is focused on the foundation, the cornerstone. This stone is a foundation in Zion. It is from Heaven Truth, Real truth comes. This is 1st seen in Gen 49:24. Christ is this stone, and always has been such.

This stone (Christ) is essential to all that follows. Ps 118:22 haste will not be moved. Aligned and attached to the immovable cornerstone the believer is held firmly in place.

17) When compared to the foundation of God all else is shown as inferior and out of plumb. Here the horizontal (the line) and the vertical (plumb line) are related to the qualities of God, justice and righteousness. It is God's standards men will be judged by against the lies of men and water that seeks the easiest path will find them for judgment.

18) You cannot escape death and judgment. Egypt will not save the nation or the people. There is no hope left to turn to.

19) when this become clear the people will live in constant terror of the judgment upon them.

20) what the people have done to protect themselves is insufficient.

21) Two pictures of how God judges are used here. 1st 2 Sam 5:20 where David defeated Goliath 2nd Josh. 10:8-14 where the Canaanites were destroyed by hail. In both case a superior army was defeated. Israel may think the political alliances will protect them, but God does not count numbers but righteous & wicked. His way is not the usual way but the supernatural God way.

22) Those who do not listen will only strengthen God's resolve. He will punish all the more those who reject his word and his prophet. God has spoken, you can only make things worse by mocking, scoffing at God.

A lesson about God's Judgment. There is a time and a season when God chooses to act.

God deals w/ each one in a way to bring out the best of them. Not everyone responds to God in the same way.

23 Give ear, and hear my voice;
give attention, and hear my speech.

24 Does he who plows for sowing plow continually?
Does he continually open and harrow his
ground?

25 When he has leveled its surface,
does he not scatter dill, sow cumin,
and put in wheat in rows
and barley in its proper place,
and emmer as the border?

26 For he is rightly instructed;
his God teaches him.

27 Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge,
nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin,
but dill is beaten out with a stick,
and cumin with a rod.

28 Does one crush grain for bread?
No, he does not thresh it forever;
when he drives his cart wheel over it
with his horses, he does not crush it.

29 This also comes from the LORD of hosts;
he is wonderful in counsel
and excellent in wisdom.

The Siege of Jerusalem

29 **Ah**, Ariel, Ariel,
the city where David encamped!
Add year to year;
let the feasts run their round.

Ah = חֲבֵה

23) ISAIAH DECLARE HIS INTENTION TO SPEAK FOR GOD. HE IMPLORES THEY LISTEN. HE REPEATS THIS TO BRING HOME THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO PROCLAIM.

24) THE 2 QUESTIONS ARE ASKED KNOW THE ANSWER IS NO. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS TO FARMING THAT ALSO MUST BE DONE.

25) AFTER PLOWING OR BREAKING UP THE GROUND THE FARMER PLANTS NEW SEEDS. ISAIAH IS SHOWING JUDGMENT AND RESTORATION TOGETHER. EVEN AS GOD BREAKS UP OR JUDGES & DISCIPLINES HE HAS PLANS TO PLANT AND RESTORE WHAT WAS LOST.

26) REAL TRUTH COMES FROM GOD. THE GOD WHO CREATED IS THE ONE WHO INSTRUCTS ON HOW TO USE HIS CREATION.

27) THERE IS A WRONG WAY TO DO THINGS, AND A RIGHT WAY. SOME HARVESTING USES ONE METHOD, SOME ANOTHER. THE GOAL IS TO NOT HURT THE SEED. (EVERYONE DOES NOT RESPOND THE SAME WAY. WISDOM IS NEEDED)

28) THE PURPOSE OF THE HARVEST IS TO SEPARATE AND PREPARE THE GRAIN TO BE USEFUL. HE SEPARATES THAT WHICH HE WANTS FROM THAT HE DOES NOT WANT. WHEN THE ENEMY COMES GOD WILL PROTECT HIS GRAIN (PEOPLE) WHILE ALLOWING THE OTHER (CHAFF) TO BE BURNED. THUS THE WICKED WILL BE PUNISHED AS THE RIGHTEOUS ARE REWARDED.

29) GOD IS A SPIRITUAL FARMER. HE KNOWS WHEN TO PLOW, PLANT, HARVEST AND BAKE. HE ALSO DISCARDS ALL HE FINDS USELESS.

1) ARIEL IS A NAME GIVEN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM OF UNKNOWN MEANING. THE ENCAMPING MAY REFER TO 2 SAM 5:7-9 WHERE DAVID CONQUERED THE CITY AND MADE IT HIS OWN.

• ISAIAH MOCKS THE PEOPLE. YEAR IN AN YEAR OUT YOU HAVE YOUR FEAST AS IF NOTHING CAN HAPPEN. JUST KEEP IT UP YOUR DAY IS COMING. NO MATTER HOW LONG GOD WANTS HIS JUDGMENT WILL HAPPEN AT A TIME HE CHOOSES.