

God's Persistence In Teaching His People

Isaiah 28

God's Persistence in Teaching His People

- God was teaching Samaria a lesson about pride, drunkenness and dependence on God

Isaiah 28:1–4 (NKJV)

Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, Whose glorious beauty is a fading flower Which is at the head of the verdant valleys, To those who are overcome with wine! **2** Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one, Like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, Like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, Who will bring them down to the earth with His hand. **3** The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, Will be trampled underfoot; **4** And the glorious beauty is a fading flower Which is at the head of the verdant valley, Like the first fruit before the summer, Which an observer sees; He eats it up while it is still in his hand.

God's Persistence in Teaching His People

- God was teaching Samaria a lesson about pride, drunkenness and dependence on God
- God hoped a gentler lesson would be sufficient for Judah

Isaiah 28:5–6 (NKJV)

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

God's Persistence in Teaching His People

- God was teaching Samaria a lesson about pride, drunkenness and dependence on God
- God hoped a gentler lesson would be sufficient for Judah
- But Judah's rulers were as unteachable as Samaria's

Isaiah 28:7–8 (NKJV)

But they also have erred through wine, And through intoxicating drink are out of the way; The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, They are swallowed up by wine, They are out of the way through intoxicating drink; They err in vision, they stumble in judgment. **8** For all tables are full of vomit and filth; No place is clean.

God's Persistence in Teaching His People

- God was teaching Samaria a lesson about pride, drunkenness and dependence on God
- God hoped a gentler lesson would be sufficient for Judah
- But Judah's rulers were as unteachable as Samaria's
- They mocked God's law and were dissatisfied with the teaching of His prophets

Isaiah 28:9–10 (NKJV)

“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? **10** For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.”

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- God was teaching Samaria a lesson about pride, drunkenness and dependence on God
- God hoped a gentler lesson would be sufficient for Judah
- But Judah's rulers were as unteachable as Samaria's
- They mocked God's law and were dissatisfied with the teaching of His prophets
- So God would give them an instructor that they could not fail to understand, a foreign conqueror

Isaiah 28:11–13 (NKJV)

For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, **12** To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would not hear. **13** But the word of the LORD was to them, “Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little,” That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught.

God's Persistence in Teaching His People

- Their deceptive plans and schemes would utterly fail because they were a rejection of the One True Refuge that was available to them

Isaiah 28:14–15 (NKJV)

Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, **15** Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.”

Isaiah 28:16–19 (NKJV)

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily. **17** Also I will make justice the measuring line, And righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will overflow the hiding place. **18** Your covenant with death will be annulled, And your agreement with Sheol will not stand; When the overflowing scourge passes through, Then you will be trampled down by it. **19** As often as it goes out it will take you; For morning by morning it will pass over, And by day and by night; It will be a terror just to understand the report.”

God's Persistence in Teaching His People

- Their deceptive plans and schemes would utterly fail because they were a rejection of the One True Refuge that was available to them
- It was unusual for God to work military victories on behalf of Israel's enemies, but if it would help them learn, He would

Isaiah 28:20–22 (NKJV)

For the bed is too short to stretch out on, And the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it. **21** For the LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim, He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon— That He may do His work, His awesome work, And bring to pass His act, His unusual act. **22** Now therefore, do not be mockers, Lest your bonds be made strong; For I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts, A destruction determined even upon the whole earth.

God's Persistence in Teaching His People

- Their deceptive plans and schemes would utterly fail because they were a rejection of the One True Refuge that was available to them
- It was unusual for God to work military victories on behalf of Israel's enemies, but if it would help them learn, He would
- Just as the farmer uses many different techniques to accomplish his purposes of a fruitful harvest, so does God

Isaiah 28:23–29 (NKJV)

Give ear and hear my voice, Listen and hear my speech. **24** Does the plowman keep plowing all day to sow? Does he keep turning his soil and breaking the clods? **25** When he has leveled its surface, Does he not sow the black cummin And scatter the cummin, Plant the wheat in rows, The barley in the appointed place, And the spelt in its place? **26** For He instructs him in right judgment, His God teaches him. **27** For the black cummin is not threshed with a threshing sledge, Nor is a cartwheel rolled over the cummin; But the black cummin is beaten out with a stick, And the cummin with a rod. **28** Bread flour must be ground; Therefore he does not thresh it forever, Break it with his cartwheel, Or crush it with his horsemen. **29** This also comes from the LORD of hosts, Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance.

What is God Trying to Teach You?

- He will use His word to teach
- But if we will not hear that, He will use other means
- His purpose is for us to be built on the rock God has laid in Zion, so we can safely weather the storms of life and the day of judgment
- Whatever it takes to produce that result in our lives is worth it
- So do not despise the chastening of the Lord

Hebrews 12:5–11 (NKJV)

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; **6** For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.” **7** If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **8** But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. **9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. **11** Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.