

## Life-Study of Isaiah Summary – Messages 16 to 20

### Jehovah's Punishment over Ephraim and His judgment on the Hypocrisy of Jerusalem's Worshippers

In Isaiah 28 we have Jehovah's punishment over Ephraim's drunkards. Jehovah destroyed the northern kingdom (represented by Ephraim) by the Assyrian army. This was done as a warning to Jerusalem. **This punishment issued in Jehovah's restoration.** His punishment over Ephraim's drunkards will usher in the **trustworthy Christ**. The trustworthy Christ is a stone laid by the Lord Jehovah in Zion as a **foundation, a tested stone**. The trustworthy Christ is also a precious **cornerstone** as a foundation firmly established. Chapter 29 reveals that Jehovah's judgment on the hypocrisy of the worshippers in Jerusalem also issues in the restoration.

If we are clean, clear, and full of understanding, we will realize that the situation among humankind today is of two aspects. First, **everyone is drunk**. Second, **people are not genuine**, not true. God's people may become drunken by loving things other than the Lord, and they may be hypocritical in their praying and testifying. Whenever this kind of situation invades God's elect, He must come in to **exercise His judgment upon the drunkards and upon hypocrisy in worship**.

### Jehovah's Dealing with Israel's Reliance on Egypt and His Dealing with the Nations Issuing in Israel's Turn to Him

God's chastisement of Israel and His judgment upon the nations who exercised excessive action upon Israel issues in **three things**: (1) Israel is brought back to God; (2) the created things are restored; and (3) the all-inclusive Christ is ushered in. This divine philosophy applies to us today. Our success never causes us to turn to God. But when we look at our failures, we are humbled, we realize that we have a need, and we repent, confessing that we are hopeless. Although we may not know what we need, we know that we need something. Eventually, **the all-inclusive Christ comes in to meet our need**.

Isaiah 30 and 31 speak of Jehovah's dealing with Israel's reliance on Egypt and the nations. In typology Egypt signifies the world. To go to Egypt, to rely upon Egypt, or to make an association with Egypt is sin. **No matter how low we may be, we should not go to the world**. Instead, we should look up. When we look up, the Lord has a way to bring us up. Jehovah's dealing with Israel's reliance on Egypt and His dealing with the nations issue in Israel's turn to Jehovah and Issues in Jehovah's return to Israel. With Jehovah's returns to Israel, He will return with the restoration. Jehovah's destruction of the nations is for Christ to be the King. As the King, Christ will bring in the restoration for Israel.

### An Example of Seeking After Jehovah and Trusting in Him

Chapters 36 to 39, Isaiah gives us an example in the person of Hezekiah, the king of Judah. **Hezekiah was a godly man, but he was not a man of God**, a God-man. Since Hezekiah was the king appointed by God and since he was a godly person, God answered his prayer and delivered him from the Assyrians. After this, Hezekiah became mortally ill and he prayed that God would heal him. After he was healed by God, Hezekiah did something foolish which shows that he was hasty.

After Hezekiah gained the victory in the Lord's healing, Hezekiah faced the temptation of people's gift. Although Hezekiah had victoriously passed through the sufferings of the other tests, here he became a failure. The **factors of Hezekiah's failure** include: (1) making a show of what he had, according to his flesh, (2) not being watchful, (3) not seeking after the Lord, (4) not praying, (5) not considering the issue, and (6) caring only for himself, not for God's kingdom on the earth.

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