

Isaiah

Part Five

The Folly of Trusting the nations (chapters 28 - 35)

The Big Picture

- **Six Woes**
 - **Woes 1 – 2**
 - **Foolish leaders and false counsel**
 - **Woes 3 – 5**
 - **Their solution – depend on Egypt**
 - **The King and Woe 6**
 - **The true solution – God in their presence**
- **A Woe Oracle is a Lament**

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:1-6 Ephraim's Leaders Failed**
 - **28:1-4 Woe Oracle**
 - **Samaria is their proud crown; rich city; good economy**
 - **God calls it a “fading flower”**

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:1-6 Ephraim's Leaders Failed**

- **28:1-4 Woe Oracle**

- Samaria is their proud crown; rich city; good economy
- God calls it a “fading flower”

- **28:5-6 Salvation Oracle**

- God should have been their proud crown
- The remnant will have a glorious crown
- The remnant will exercise justice

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:7-13 Judah's Leaders also Failed**
 - **28:7-8 Judah's Priests & Prophets Fail as Leaders**

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:7-13 Judah's Leaders also Failed**
 - **28:7-8 Judah's Priests & Prophets Fail as Leaders**
 - **28:9-10 Priests and Prophets Mock Isaiah**
 - **May mean “order on order, line on line” as translated, or may refer to the babbling of a young child**
 - **Who do you think you're talking to Isaiah?**
 - **Listen to him – blah, blah, blah**

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:7-13 Judah's Leaders also Failed**
 - **28:7-8 Judah's Priests & Prophets Fail as Leaders**
 - **28:9-10 Priests and Prophets Mock Isaiah**
 - May mean “order on order, line on line” as translated, or may refer to the babbling of a young child
 - Who do you think you're talking to Isaiah?
 - Listen to him – blah, blah, blah
 - **28:11-13 God's New Method of Instruction**
 - Call Isaiah's message gibberish, and you'll hear real gibberish

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:14 -- 29:24 Jerusalem – Two covenants**
 - **28:14-15 Their covenant – death based on lies**
 - **Treaty with Assyria, but deceptively going to Egypt**

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:14 -- 29:24 Jerusalem – Two covenants**
 - **28:14-15 Their covenant – death based on lies**
 - **Treaty with Assyria, but deceptively going to Egypt**
 - **28:16-17a God's foundation**
 - **God's foundation – not lies, but a costly cornerstone**
 - **A foundation laid with justice and righteousness**

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:14 -- 29:24 Jerusalem – Two covenants**
 - **28:14-15 Their covenant – death based on lies**
 - **Treaty with Assyria, but deceptively going to Egypt**
 - **28:16-17a God's foundation**
 - **God's foundation – not lies, but a costly cornerstone**
 - **A foundation laid with justice and righteousness**
 - **28:17b-20 Results of their covenant**
 - **A bed too short**
 - **A blanket too small**

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:14 -- 29:24 Jerusalem – Two covenants**
 - **28:17b-20 Results of their covenant**

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:14 -- 29:24 Jerusalem – Two covenants**
 – **28:17b-20 Results of their covenant**

	Verse 15	Verses 17-18
Refuge of lies	Falsehood is our refuge	Hail will sweep it away
Secret place	Deception conceals us	Waters will overflow
Covenant with death	We have covenant	It will be canceled
Overwhelming scourge	Will not reach us	You will become its trampling place

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:14 -- 29:24 Jerusalem – Two covenants**
 - **28:21-22 Surely God will Arise!**
 - **How do you know?**
 - **Look at David's great victory over the Philistines at Mount Perazim (2 Sam 5:17-25; 1 Chron 14:16)**
 - **Look at Joshua's great victory over the Amorites in the valley of Gibeon (Josh 10:10-11)**
 - ***BUT, this time Judah is on the wrong side!***

Woe # 1 – Drunkards of Ephraim

28:1-39

- **28:14 -- 29:24 Jerusalem – Two covenants**
 - **28:23-29 Parable of the Farmer**
 - **First view – God does just what is necessary at the right time to achieve his purposes**
 - **Second view – They should learn from God how to behave at the right time, just as the farmer does**
 - **God is magnificent in wisdom – listen to Him!**

Woe # 2 – Ariel, the Altar Hearth of God 29:1-14

- **29:1-4 Woe oracle**

- **Three Surprising Things...**

- He gives Jerusalem a very unusual nickname *Ariel* (“altar hearth”) because of its consistency in keeping the sacrifices
- Then, shockingly, He says (literally) Ariel, you’ll be an Ariel, an altar-hearth
- Most shocking of all, God said “I will set siege works against you.” David once camped against the city; now God has to camp against His own city to take it back!

- **What’s the problem?**

- They believed right worship would substitute for a right heart
- They didn’t practice justice and righteousness

Woe # 2 – Ariel, the Altar Hearth of God 29:1-14

- **Do we ever...**
 - become satisfied with religion so long as the church doors are open on Sunday morning?
 - ignore the needy, but feel satisfied because we've taken the Lord's Supper on Sunday?
 - ignore the rest of the world dying without knowing Christ, because we've come Sunday morning and sung the songs that make us feel good?
 - live our lives all week without thinking about the weightier matters of justice, mercy, and faithfulness because we're content to have heard a good sermon on Sunday?

Woe # 2 – Ariel, the Hearth of God

29:1-14

- **29:5-8 Salvation Oracle: the Ruthless like Chaff**
 - God sent Assyria, yet he defeats them?
 - Remember that Assyria was the rod of God's anger, a tool that he used (10:5, 15)
 - Remember that God sent them only to loot and plunder but they intended to destroy (10:6-7)
 - A tool should not exalt itself over the one who uses it

Woe # 2 – Ariel, the Hearth of God

29:1-14

- **29:9-14 Unbelief made the Siege Necessary**
 - **29:9-12 Their Spiritual Condition**
 - **Astonish yourselves and you will be stunned**
 - **Blind yourselves and you will be blind**
 - **Blindness means no one is there to give God's word**

Woe # 2 – Ariel, the Hearth of God

29:1-14

- **29:9-14 Unbelief made the Siege Necessary**
 - **29:9-12 Their Spiritual Condition**
 - Astonish yourselves and you will be stunned
 - Blind yourselves and you will be blind
 - Blindness means no one is there to give God's word
 - **29:13-14 Lip Honor; Distant Hearts**
 - Jesus applied this message to the people of His day in Matt 15:1-9

Woe # 3 – Those Who Hide Plans from the Lord 29:15-24

- **29:15-16 Woe Oracle: Those who Hide Plans**
 - They ask who knows or who sees
 - Absurd picture: Pot says “this potter doesn’t know anything”
 - They turn things upside down



NIV Isaiah 29:16 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"?

Woe # 3 – Those Who Hide Plans from the Lord 29:15-24

- **29:17-24 Salvation Oracle: Rejoicing in God**
 - **29:17-18 The Deaf will Hear, the Blind will See**

Woe # 3 – Those Who Hide Plans from the Lord 29:15-24

- **29:17-24 Salvation Oracle: Rejoicing in God**
 - **29:17-18 The Deaf will Hear, the Blind will See**
 - **29:19-21 The Afflicted & Needy will Rejoice**
 - **Why? Because God has judged the ruthless, the scoffer, and one with an eye for evil!**

Woe # 3 – Those Who Hide Plans from the Lord 29:15-24

- **29:17-24 Salvation Oracle: Rejoicing in God**
 - **29:17-18 The Deaf will Hear, the Blind will See**
 - **29:19-21 The Afflicted & Needy will Rejoice**
 - **Why? Because God has judged the ruthless, the scoffer, and one with an eye for evil!**
 - **29:22-24 Jacob's New Situation**
 - **Trust God because He redeemed Abraham**
 - **Jacob no longer ashamed**
 - **Jacob acknowledges God's holiness**

Woe # 4 – The Rebellious Children

30:1-33

- **30:1-17 Woe Oracle: Trusting Worthless Egypt**
 - **30:1-7 The Ambassadors to Egypt**
 - Assyria is a huge threat and people want security
 - Huge political pressure to enlist Egypt's help
 - But, Isaiah warns, Egypt never lives up to her promises

Woe # 4 – The Rebellious Children

30:1-33

- **30:1-17 Woe Oracle: Trusting Worthless Egypt**
 - **30:1-7 The Ambassadors to Egypt**
 - Assyria is a huge threat and people want security
 - Huge political pressure to enlist Egypt's help
 - But, Isaiah warns, Egypt never lives up to her promises
 - **Who is Rahab?**
 - A monster of Middle East myth often a symbol of Egypt
 - Egypt is “Rahab Do Nothing”

Woe # 4 – The Rebellious Children

30:1-33

- **30:1-17 Woe Oracle: Trusting Worthless Egypt**
 - **30:8-11 Sons who Refuse to Listen**

Woe # 4 – The Rebellious Children

30:1-33

- **30:1-17 Woe Oracle: Trusting Worthless Egypt**
 - **30:8-11 Sons who Refuse to Listen**
 - **30:12-17 Rejecting God for a Wall that Collapses**
 - **30:11 “Let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel”**
 - **30:12 Therefore, thus says the Holy One of Israel**
 - Listening to their leaders – a wall that collapses
 - Salvation in repentance and rest, quietness and trust
 - Their alternative – fast horses – won’t help

Woe # 4 – The Rebellious Children

30:1-33

- **30:18-26 Salvation Oracle: God is Gracious**
 - **30:18-19 God – Compassion and Justice**
 - God shows compassion because He is a God of justice
 - Justice moves God to compassion
 - Unlike the nations, they will live in their capital
 - Then they will weep no more
 - God will wait for them until they accept his compassion

Woe # 4 – The Rebellious Children

30:1-33

- **30:18-26 Salvation Oracle: God is Gracious**
 - **30:18-19 God – Compassion and Justice**
 - God shows compassion because He is a God of justice
 - Justice moves God to compassion
 - Unlike the nations, they will live in their capital
 - Then they will weep no more
 - God will wait for them until they accept his compassion
 - **30:20-22 They'll Understand God's Ways**

Woe # 4 – The Rebellious Children

30:1-33

- **30:18-26 Salvation Oracle: God is Gracious**
 - **30:18-19 God – Compassion and Justice**
 - God shows compassion because He is a God of justice
 - Justice moves God to compassion
 - Unlike the nations, they will live in their capital
 - Then they will weep no more
 - God will wait for them until they accept his compassion
 - **30:20-22 They'll Understand God's Ways**
 - **30:23-26 God will Send Rich Blessings**

Woe # 4 – The Rebellious Children

30:1-33

- **30:27-33 Assyria's Destruction is Sure**
 - 30:27-29 Seeing God brings Joy
 - 30:30-31 God's Victory over Assyria
 - 30:32-33 God's Burning Pit for Assyria

Woe # 5 – Those Who Go to Egypt for Help 31:1-9

- **31:1-3 Woe Oracle: Seek Egypt rather than God**
 - **Military might is no substitute for God – Ps 127:1**

Woe # 5 – Those Who Go to Egypt for Help 31:1-9

- **31:1-3 Woe Oracle: Seek Egypt rather than God**
 - Military might is no substitute for God – Ps 127:1
- **31:4-5 Two Choices**
 - God will do battle with Mount Zion like a lion
 - God will protect them like birds hovering over a nest

Woe # 5 – Those Who Go to Egypt for Help 31:1-9

- **31:6-9 Salvation Oracle**
 - **31:6-7 A Plea to Return**
 - **31:8-9 Assyria will Fall**

Assignment for This Week

Read Isaiah 32 – 36

CREDITS

Pottery photo courtesy of Quentin C. Keele.

Pottery photo © 2012 Quentin C. Keele. Used by Permission. No use outside this presentation except by express permission of photographer.