

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 1, 2023

Passage: Isaiah 28:1-29

Memory Passage: Isaiah 28:5-6

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 28:1-29.** The next section of Isaiah is marked out by a six-fold occurrence of “woe” (“ah” in ESV, 28:1; 29:1, 15; 30:1, 31:1; & 33:1) interspersed with messages of assurance and hope. As you read the first (28:1-29), write down repeated words or phrases, where the shifts to assurance occur (look for changes in tone), who is speaking and spoken to, and any NT citations or fulfillments that come to your mind.

(b) Who is Ephraim? To whom does v. 2 refer? How do these identifications help you date this woe?

(c) How do vs. 3-4 further explain v. 1?

(d) What message does v. 5 give to the remnant, and in what ways does it directly connect with vs. 1-4?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 28:1-29.** What groups of people are added to the political drunkards (v. 1) in v. 7ff?

(b) As many commentators point out, vs. 7-10 read like a first-hand recollection of a live event. Do they refer to an actual event in which the religious leaders join the political leaders in a drunken party, or is drunkenness a metaphor for actions?

(c) Who is speaking in vs. 9-10 (notice the quotation marks)? Explain what they say.

(d) By whom will Yahweh speak to His people (v. 11), what has He already said, (v. 12), and how will they respond (v. 12)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 28:1-29.** What does the word “therefore” (v. 14) tell us about the relationship between vs. 1-13 and vs. 14-29?

(b) Describe a “scoffer” (cf., Ps. 1:1; Prov. 1:22; 9:7-8; 13:1; 14:6; 15:12; 21:24; 22:10; 24:9; 29:8; 2 Pet. 3:3; Jude 18)?

(c) Explain what Jerusalem has done (v. 15) that causes Isaiah to demand they “hear the word of Yahweh” (v. 14). With whom have they made this “covenant with death?”

(d) What has God done because Jerusalem found its refuge and shelter in lies and falsehoods (vs. 16-19 begin “therefore”)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 28:1-29.** What two reasons are given for God’s actions in vs. 16-19 (vs. 20 & 21 both begin with “For”)? Don’t miss the connection between vs. 20 & v. 12, and don’t forget to check the Biblical history (e.g., 1 Chron. 14:11-16).

(b) What should Jerusalem’s leaders do in light of Yahweh’s actions (v. 22; also notice the inclusion formed with v. 14)?

(c) A parable of sowing (vs. 23-24) and a parable of reaping (vs. 25-29) conclude. Explain each parable, how they are related to each other, and how they function as the conclusion to this first “woe.”

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 28:1-29.** Though not the primary point of this passage, what do you learn about the dangers of drunkenness?

(b) What do you learn about the priority of the word of the Lord (and the peril of rejecting it) in chapter 28? What needs to be changed, strengthened, re-prioritized, forsaken, or otherwise modified concerning the priority of the word in your life?

(c) In what do you seek shelter and refuge other than Christ? How have you been strengthened to move toward trusting Christ in these areas?

(d) Write down what Isaiah expected his hearers to understand from the parables in vs. 23-29, then write down three applications for your own life from these parables.

(e) In what ways does Christ provide for you the benefits of vs. 5-6, and how do you apply those benefits daily?

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Of Crowns, Covenant, and Cornerstone