

Isaiah 28:1–29 — “A Sure Foundation in a Shaking Nation”

Woe to Pride and Numbed Consciences (Isaiah 28:1–8)

Isaiah addresses the Northern Kingdom (often labeled by its chief tribe, Ephraim):

*“Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim,
whose glorious beauty is a fading flower...
The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim,
will be trampled underfoot.”* (Isaiah 28:1, Isaiah 28:3)

Prosperity, pleasure, and pride dulled the people when they most needed clear eyes and steady hearts. Even priests and prophets “have erred through wine” so that “they err in vision, they stumble in judgment” (Isaiah 28:7). The result is filth and shame rather than wisdom and strength (Isaiah 28:8).

Application: When pressure rises, what do you reach for—God’s presence or numbing substitutes? Ask the Lord to free you from anything that clouds vision and ruins judgment (Ephesians 5:18).

Mocking the Message that Could Save (Isaiah 28:9–13)

The proud mock Isaiah’s simple, steady teaching—“precept upon precept, line upon line” (Isaiah 28:10). Yet God speaks precisely this way so ordinary people can understand and live. Isaiah adds:

*“For with stammering lips and another tongue
He will speak to this people...
yet they would not hear.”* (Isaiah 28:11–12)

The Apostle Paul later cites this line when correcting the misuse of tongues in Corinth (First Corinthians 14:21), showing that even striking signs cannot soften a will that refuses to listen.

Application: Do not trip over God’s simplicity. Build daily on clear truth—repent, believe, obey—“here a little, there a little.” Spiritual maturity grows by steady steps, not showy shortcuts.

False Covenants and a True Cornerstone (Isaiah 28:14–19)

Leaders in Jerusalem boast:

*“We have made a covenant with death,
and with Sheol we are in agreement...
we have made lies our refuge.”* (Isaiah 28:15)

God answers with a promise and a warning:

*“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.”* (Isaiah 28:16)

Every refuge built on lies will be swept away; only God’s foundation stands when the flood rises (Isaiah 28:17–19).

Christ in view: The New Testament identifies this cornerstone with Jesus Christ (Romans 9:33; First Peter 2:6–7). He is the tested, trustworthy foundation God has placed in Zion.

Application: Examine your foundations. Are you resting on Jesus Christ—His person, His cross, His resurrection—or on clever plans, politics, pleasures, or religious appearances? Only Christ endures the storm.

Counterfeit Rest Is Too Short and Too Thin (Isaiah 28:20)

*“For the bed is too short to stretch out on,
and the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it.”* (Isaiah 28:20)

All substitutes for God—ideologies, experiences, wealth, or ritual—promise rest but cannot truly cover guilt or quiet fear.

Application: Name your “short bed” and “narrow blanket.” Trade them for the real rest Jesus offers: *“Come to Me... and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28–30).

God’s “Strange Work” and Measured Ways (Isaiah 28:21–22)

*“The LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim...
that He may do His work, His strange work;
and bring to pass His act, His unusual act.”* (Isaiah 28:21)

Judgment is “strange” to God’s heart—He prefers mercy (Ezekiel 33:11)—but He will confront hardened evil. Therefore, Isaiah pleads: *“Now therefore do not be mockers”* (Isaiah 28:22).

Application: Take God’s warnings seriously. Mercy is still open; do not strengthen your chains by scoffing.

6) The Farmer’s Parable: Wisdom in Seasons (Isaiah 28:23–29)

Isaiah closes with a homely picture: a wise farmer plows, sows, threshes, and grinds **differently** for each grain. He is firm yet measured—and he learned this wisdom from the LORD (Isaiah 28:26, Isaiah 28:29).

The point: God’s dealings are neither random nor reckless. He plows hearts, plants truth, and applies pressure as needed—not to destroy but to produce a harvest of righteousness (Hebrews 12:11).

Application: Welcome God’s wise seasons. Ask, “Lord, what are You planting in me right now? What are You threshing away?” Trust His hand; He knows exactly how much pressure to apply—and when to stop.

Respond

- **God initiates** with grace, truth, warning, and a sure foundation—Jesus Christ.
- **We respond** freely and genuinely: repent, believe, obey, persevere.
- **God sustains** those who trust Him, shaping them through wise seasons.
This is neither fatalism (“I have no part”) nor self-salvation (“I secure it myself”), but a living relationship of trust and obedience.

Invitation: Build on the Cornerstone Today

There is only one foundation that will not crack when life shakes and judgment comes—Jesus Christ, God’s precious Cornerstone. He died for your sins, rose again, and reigns. Turn from sin and self-rule; come to Him for forgiveness, new life, and true rest—today.

Prayer:

“Lord Jesus, I believe You are God’s sure foundation. I turn from my sins and my false refuges. Thank You for dying for me and rising again. Please forgive me, cleanse me, and give me Your new life. I surrender to You as Lord. Keep me trusting and obeying You every day. Amen.”

If you prayed sincerely, tell a mature believer, be baptized in water, join a Bible-teaching study group, and begin a daily rhythm of “precept upon precept” in the Scriptures. *“Whoever believes will not act hastily”*—you will stand firm because your life is built on the Cornerstone (Isaiah 28:16).