

# Isaiah 28:1–33:24

## *Will You Trust Man or God?*

July 24, 2022

**Introduction & Review:** (*Background analysis from Barry Ross, New Beacon Bible Commentary, Isaiah 1–39, Beacon Hill Press, 2016, pp. 201-202*). Isaiah has two main divisions, Chapters 1–39 and 40–66. To over simplify, the first section deals largely with God’s judgment of ungodly nations and His own wayward people; the second main division deals predominantly with the coming Messiah. In the first primary section we may further divide it into three subsections:

- 1–12 Isaiah’s prophecies concerning Israel and Judah during the reign of Ahaz when Assyria was in the prime of its power as a world force.
- 13–27 Prophecies against surrounding nations and world powers culminating in God’s ultimate triumph over the nations and the eschatological Messianic reign from Mt. Zion.
- 28–39 Returns once again, chronologically, to the threat of Assyria, now with Hezekiah on the throne in place of his father Ahaz.

Moreover, this final section may also be further subdivided into four units, the first of which we will begin to consider today:

- 28–33 Will Judah put her trust in the Lord, or will she turn to other potential allies (namely Egypt)
- 34–35 Eschatologically Edom (representing the nations of the world) is turned into a wasteland, while Judah is transformed into a “Lebanon, Carmel, Sharon-like garden.”
- 36–37 Details Assyrian king Sennacherib’s threat against Judah, Hezekiah’s trust in the Lord, and divine intervention miraculously sparing Judah and Jerusalem.
- 38–39 Finally, Hezekiah has a near death illness and is miraculously healed, after which he welcomes and favors a Babylonian envoy. Isaiah, as a consequence, prophecies Judah’s downfall and captivity by the Babylonians in 586 bc.

These sections prepare us for the restoration of Judah under Cyrus, the advent of Messiah (both first and second) and the ultimate restoration of an Edenic paradise in the millennial reign of the Messiah (40–66). These are exciting prophecies creating even for us a blessed hope in anticipation of the return of Jesus Christ to this earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### I. **Ephraim’s Drunken Leaders & God’s Judgment Against the Unfaithful in Judah (Ch 28)**

- A. (Vv. 1-13) Despite the fact that Damascus and Samaria have fallen to the Assyrians, leaving Ephraim with no real allies and no natural buffer to the north, Ephraim’s leaders continue to throw drunken parties and live in unreality.
- B. (Vv. 14-22) Isaiah now turn to the scoffers in Jerusalem who are trusting in deadly alliances and chastises them for their faithlessness and rebellion. They too will eventually succumb to captivity.
- C. (Vv. 23-29) The parable of the wise farmer; an analogy of those who trust in the Lord alone for deliverance.

### II. **A Lesson Learned: Our Trust Must Be In God Alone**

- A. As we move into this section of Isaiah’s prophecy, we find that he has a singular message that permeates all of his preaching and proclamation:
- B. God alone is our refuge, He alone is our Strong Deliverer,
- C. We must not place our confidence in the arm of the flesh, in mortal man, who is here today and gone tomorrow.
- D. God is our present help in times of trouble and He alone is mighty to save!