

## Isaiah

### The Revelation within Isaiah

#### Chapters 28-29

**Review:** “In chapters 1-12, Isaiah looked at the people of God in that little land which we call the Holy Land. Then he began to stretch out in time and space, and the next eleven chapters, 13-23, were concerned with the whole of what we call the fertile crescent. Not only was he stretching his vision in space he was stretching it in time, from the present to the immediate future. Then in chapters 24-27 he stretched his vision to the whole wide world, right out to the limits of the earth itself, and even included heaven in a side look. He looked at the whole earth, the whole universe, and he looked to the distant ultimate future, the end of the world.”

“But with chapter 28 He zooms right in again to His own nation, back to his own day, and in chapters 28-33 we have a series of sermons that Isaiah preached, probably in the open marketplace, or in the courts of Jerusalem, about the difficulties of his own day and his own people.” David Pawson, *Come with Me Through Isaiah*, p. 114, 115

#### Chapter 28 NKJV

**Ephraim=Northern Kingdom of Israel=Capital is Samaria**

“1 **Woe** to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of **Ephraim**,

Whose glorious beauty is a fading flower

Which is at the head of the verdant valleys,

To those who are overcome with wine!

*2 Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one,*

*Like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm,*

*Like a flood of mighty waters overflowing,*

*Who will bring them down to the earth with His hand.*

3 The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim,  
Will be trampled underfoot; **(II Kings 17)**

4 And the glorious beauty is a fading flower  
Which is at the head of the verdant valley,  
Like the first fruit before the summer,  
Which an observer sees;  
He eats it up while it is still in his hand.

5 In that day the Lord of hosts will be  
For a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty [Heb. 2:9; Phil. 2:8-11]  
To the remnant of His people,  
6 For a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment,  
And for strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

7 But they also have erred through wine,  
And through intoxicating drink are out of the way;  
**The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink,**  
They are swallowed up by wine,  
They are out of the way through intoxicating drink;  
They err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

8 For all tables are full of vomit and filth;  
No place is clean.

9 “Whom will he teach knowledge?  
And whom will he make to understand the message?  
Those just weaned from milk?  
Those just drawn from the breasts?

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept,

Line upon line, line upon line,  
Here a little, there a little.”

“Isaiah went into the temple one day and he saw a most horrible sight. Isaiah said that he went into the house of God and the sacred tables were covered with vomit. Can you imagine anything worse in the house of God?”

“Furthermore, this drunken people, when they heard Isaiah’s preaching, mocked and scoffed and criticized it. In Hebrew the priests were criticizing Isaiah for his alliteration. They thought it was childish. Who does he think he is teaching, that he has to rhyme it all up for us line upon line, here a little, there a little?”

“But the truth of God is essentially simple, it is essentially for those who become as little children who are prepared to be taught as children.” David Pawson, *Come with Me Through Isaiah*, p.117, 118

***“3 and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3 NKJV***

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue

He will speak to this people, [A foreign language of the Assyrians. See also: Deut. 28:49; I Cor. 14:21-22]

12 To whom He said, “This is the rest with which

You may cause the weary to rest,”

And, “This is the refreshing”; [Matthew 11:28-30; Heb. 4:9; Acts 3:19; Romans 12:2]

Yet they would not hear. [Isa. 29:10; Ezek. 12:2, Luke 8:10, Romans 11:8]

13 But the word of the Lord was to them,

“Precept upon precept, precept upon precept,

Line upon line, line upon line,

Here a little, there a little,”

That they might go and fall backward, and be broken and snared and caught.

“Because the foreigner will speak in a foreign language you will have to take it as a child would, line upon line upon line, here a little, there a little, because you can only take in a foreign language like that. That was fulfilled. They laughed at Isaiah’s prophecy of doom, but one day the Assyrians surrounded Jerusalem and they shouted taunts at the people of God in there. They used the Assyrian language and the Jews had to ask each other, ‘what does that mean?’ And they had to learn it line upon line, here a little, there a little. So much for the intellectualism of those priests and prophets. They were superior. They wanted philosophy, they wanted elaborate oratory.” David Pawson, *Come with Me Through Isaiah*, p.118

14 Therefore ***hear the word of the Lord, you scornful men,  
Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem,***

15 Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death,  
And with Sheol we are in agreement.  
When the overflowing scourge passes through,  
It will not come to us,  
For we have made lies our refuge,  
And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.”

### **A Cornerstone in Zion**

“16 ***Therefore thus says the Lord God:***

***“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, [Heb. 12:22]***

***A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; [Matthew 7:24-29; Psalm 118:22,23; Acts 4:11, 12; Eph. 2:20; Rev. 21:19-20]***

***Whoever believes will not act hastily. [I Peter 2:6]***

***17 Also I will make justice the measuring line,***

***And righteousness the plummet; [A lead weight at the end of a string used to secure a perpendicular line for a carpenter.] Amos 7:7, 8; Zech. 4:10***

“Buildings in the Middle East ...you will see at the bottom the largest ‘stone’ of all, which holds up the corner, the chief cornerstone. Everything else rests on that, the security of the building is on it; if you pulled that out, the whole thing

would collapse. But if there is a good cornerstone well-laid, the whole building is secure. The chief cornerstone of Solomon's temple weighed 113 tonnes; it holds up the entire corner above the Hebron Valley and you can still see it today. The meaning is: don't go rushing off to Assyria to make a pact, don't go rushing off here, there and everywhere, stay right where you are in Zion; in Zion I am going to lay a chief cornerstone and if you build on that you won't panic, you won't make haste, you won't be ashamed of yourself later."

Christ our cornerstone....

"If you build on Jesus Christ, you have security, you have 'rest' that holds everything else up." David Pawson, *Come with Me Through Isaiah*, p.118

### **Romans 9:33 NKJV**

*"33 As it is written:*

*"Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense,  
And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."*

### **I Peter 2:1-12 NKJV**

*"The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People*

*4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,*

*"Behold, I lay in Zion*

*A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,*

*And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."*

*7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who [b]are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,"*

*8 and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense."*

*They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.*

*9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

*Living Before the World*

*11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”*

The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,

And the waters will overflow the hiding place. [Can represent a Divine judgment. See: Isa. 28:2, Ex. 9-10; Joshua 10:11; Psalm 18:12-13; 148:8. Isa. 32:19; Rev. 8:7; 11:19; 16:21]

**18 *Your covenant with death will be annulled,  
And your agreement with Sheol will not stand;***

When the overflowing scourge passes through,

Then you will be trampled down by it.

19 As often as it goes out it will take you;

For morning by morning it will pass over,

And by day and by night;

It will be a terror just to understand the report.”

20 For the bed is too short to stretch out on,

And the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it.

[TPT notes: The bed is a metaphor for their confidence in lies – resting in illusions, not the truth. Those who trust in lies will not be comfortable. The covering being too narrow means their ‘nakedness’ (like hiding in fig leaves) will still be exposed. They will be too cramped and too cold. Every resting place and shelter will fail them. P. 74]

Our trust must be in God and Jesus Christ for us to have true rest.

21 For the Lord will rise up **as at** Mount Perazim,

He will be angry **as in** the Valley of Gibeon – [In this valley the Lord rained down hailstones on the Amorites. Joshua 10:8-14]

That He may do His work, His awesome work, [James 2:13, Heb.12]

And bring to pass His act, His unusual act.

## **The Battle at Mount Perazim**

Perazim refers to the battle outside of Jerusalem in the valley of the Rephaim (giants) when David took on the Philistines. The Lord initiated a supernatural victory and was heard moving over the tops of the mulberry trees. (II Samuel 5:19-25)

David called the place Baal-Perazim, which means the “Lord of the breaking forth” or “Lord of the breakthrough.” David’s victory was sudden and unexpected by his enemies, and God was using this example to warn Judah that their defeat would occur as suddenly as David’s victory had. This action is called a ‘strange work’, as it seemed strange that God would temporarily forsake and allow defeat and desolation for His own people.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1069

### **Micah 2:12-13 NLT = The Breaker will go out before you**

12 “Someday, O Israel, I will gather you;

I will gather the remnant who are left.

I will bring you together again like sheep in a pen,

like a flock in its pasture.

Yes, your land will again

be filled with noisy crowds!

13 Your leader will break out

and lead you out of exile,

out through the gates of the enemy cities,

back to your own land.

Your king will lead you;

the Lord himself will guide you.”

22 Now therefore, do not be mockers,

Lest your bonds be made strong;

For I have heard from the Lord God of hosts,

A destruction determined even upon the whole earth.

Listen to the Teaching of God

23 Give ear and hear my voice,

Listen and hear my speech.

24 Does the plowman keep plowing all day to sow?

Does he keep turning his soil and breaking the clods?

25 When he has leveled its surface,

Does he not sow the black cummin

And scatter the cummin,

Plant the wheat in rows,

The barley in the appointed place,

And the spelt in its place?

26 For He instructs him in right judgment,

His God teaches him.

27 For the black cummin is not threshed with a threshing sledge,

Nor is a cartwheel rolled over the cummin;

But the black cummin is beaten out with a stick,

And the cummin with a rod.

28 Bread flour must be ground;

Therefore, he does not thresh it forever,

Break it with his cartwheel,

Or crush it with his horsemen.

**29 This also comes from the Lord of hosts,**

**Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance. [Romans 11:33-36]**

“Having told them that God is going to come with destruction for the land, Isaiah must temper that warning with a word of comfort, and he uses two very simple parables from country life. Does a ploughman go on ploughing the soil all year round? Does he go on churning and breaking it up forever? No. He only does it until he has got a good seed bed, and then he sows.”



“God is not going to plough up His people forever and ever. The judgment will be limited.”

“The other picture is threshing. He said that you have to be very careful when you thresh that you use the right instrument.”

“In other words you must be limited in your threshing or you will destroy what is good.”

“He is going to bring the thresher over you, but only just enough to separate good from evil.”

“God has a purpose even when He chastises His people.” David Pawson, *Come with Me Through Isaiah*, p.121-122

### **Hosea 10:12 NKJV**

“12 Sow for yourselves righteousness;  
Reap in mercy;  
Break up your fallow ground,  
For it is time to seek the Lord,  
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

### **Hebrews 12:5-11 NKJV**

“5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,  
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,  
And scourges every son whom He receives.”

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but **He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.** 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward **it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**”

### **Revelation 3:19 NKJV**

“19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

### **Chapter 29 NKJV**

### **Woe to Jerusalem – ‘Ariel’**

29 “**Woe** to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! [Ariel = ‘the lion of God’; ‘altar hearth’]

Add year to year;

Let feasts come around.

2 Yet I will distress Ariel;

There shall be heaviness and sorrow,

And it shall be to Me as Ariel.

3 I will encamp against you all around,

I will lay siege against you with a mound,

And I will raise siegeworks against you.

4 You shall be brought down,

You shall speak out of the ground;

Your speech shall be low, out of the dust;

Your voice shall be like a medium’s, out of the ground;

And your speech shall whisper out of the dust.

“The Lord reveals that the people can continue to routine of the sacrifices year after year, but their offerings will not change God’s mind concerning His decree for their destruction.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p 1070

“In the temple at Jerusalem there was a large, square altar. It had horns at the four corners and inside was a grate, and the fire was kept burning there – the

smoke went up. They would lay the carcasses of the animals on the fire for the burnt offering and the ashes would drop down in the bottom of the altar. And this was called God's hearth, God's fireplace, or in the Hebrew language, 'ariel'. God predicts that Jerusalem, the whole city, will become God's fireplace." David Pawson, *Come with Me Through Isaiah*, p.121-122

5 "Moreover the multitude of your foes

Shall be like fine dust,

And the multitude of the terrible ones

Like chaff that passes away;

Yes, it shall be in an instant, suddenly.

6 *You will be punished by the Lord of hosts*

*With thunder and earthquake and great noise,*

*With storm and tempest*

*And the flame of devouring fire.* [Earthquakes, winds, floods and fires: See: Gen. 19:1-29; Gen. 7:11-24; Rev. 11:13, 19, 16:18; Matthew 24]

7 The multitude of all the nations who fight against Ariel,

Even all who fight against her and her fortress,

And distress her,

Shall be as a dream of a night vision.

8 It shall even be as when a hungry man dreams,

And look—he eats;

But he awakes, and his soul is still empty;

Or as when a thirsty man dreams,

And look—he drinks;

But he awakes, and indeed he is faint,

And his soul still craves:

*So the multitude of all the nations shall be,*

*Who fight against Mount Zion."*

The Blindness of Disobedience

9 Pause and wonder!

Blind yourselves and be blind!

They are drunk, but not with wine;

They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink.

10 For the Lord has poured out on you

The spirit of deep sleep,

And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets;

And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.

“God gave the rulers and prophets a ‘deep sleep.’ When King Saul fell into a deep sleep, David was able to seize the king’s spear and water bottle (I Samuel 26:12). When we sleep spiritually, we are left unguarded and the enemy can steal our spiritual weapons, leaving us without a defense.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1070

11 The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, “Read this, please.”

And he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.”

12 Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, “Read this, please.”

And he says, “I am not literate.”

**13 Therefore the Lord said:**

***“Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths***

***And honor Me with their lips,***

***But have removed their hearts far from Me,***

***And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,***

“Isaiah says the people were drawing near to God with their lips but not with their hearts. In **Matthew 15:7-9**, Christ repeats this phrase when rebuking the religious leaders who were rejecting His ministry. God deals with people to a certain point, but eventually His Spirit will not continue to deal with them (See Gen. 6:3). Ultimately their eyes (understanding) become dull, their ears (hearing) become deaf, and their discernment is blurred.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1070.

**14 Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work**

**Among this people,**

**A marvelous work and a wonder;**

**For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,**

**And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden.”**

See: I Cor. 1:18-31

15 **Woe** to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord,

And their works are in the dark;

They say, “Who sees us?” and, “Who knows us?”

16 Surely you have things turned around!

Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay;

For shall the thing made say of him who made it,

“He did not make me”?

Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it,

“He has no understanding”?

#### Future Recovery of Wisdom

17 Is it not yet a very little while

Till Lebanon [TPT note: Isaiah used Lebanon as a metaphor for mighty ones and those with great influence (Isaiah 2:13; 10:34; 35:2) shall be turned into a fruitful field,

And the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest? [TPT note: This phrase refers to a restoration of God’s people who have experienced humiliation.]

18 **In that day** the deaf shall hear the words of the book,

And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

19 The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord,

And the poor among men shall rejoice

In the Holy One of Israel.

20 For the terrible one is brought to nothing,  
The scornful one is consumed,  
And all who watch for iniquity are cut off—  
21 Who make a man an offender by a word,  
And lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate,  
And turn aside the just by empty words.

**22 *Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob:***

***“Jacob shall not now be ashamed,  
Nor shall his face now grow pale;  
23 But when he sees his children,  
The work of My hands, in his midst,  
They will hallow My name,  
And hallow the Holy One of Jacob,  
And fear the God of Israel.***

***24 These also who erred in spirit will come to understanding,  
And those who complained will learn doctrine.”***

## **Chapter 28 TPT**

Ephraim’s False Hope

28 Woe to the pride of Israel’s drunkards,  
worn like a garland on their heads!  
Their glory is but wilted flowers,  
worn like a crown on the heads of those

bloated with rich food and overcome by wine.

2 Behold! The Lord has one who is strong and mighty,  
and he will come like a hailstorm and like a destroying wind!  
With a storm of massive, flooding waters,  
his mighty power will knock it to the ground.

3 That proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim  
will be trampled underfoot,

4 and the glory of these proud leaders will fade and disappear  
like the first figs of the season, which are picked and eaten  
as soon they are ripe.

5 In that day, Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies,  
will be a crown of glory and a diadem of beauty  
for the remnant of his people.

6 He will be a Spirit of justice  
for judges to render right decisions.  
And he will be strength and bravery  
for those who turn back the battle at the gate.

#### Judah's Drunken Prophets

7 Moreover, the prophets and priests are drunk.  
They stagger because of wine  
and stumble around because of strong drink.  
They are confused with wine,  
stumbling because of strong drink.  
They're too drunk to understand their prophetic visions.  
They're too drunk to render right decisions in judgment.

8 All of their banqueting tables are covered with filthy vomit;  
vomit is everywhere!

9 They say,

“Who does this prophet think he is to try to teach us?

Who really cares about his message?

It’s only good for babies just learning to talk.

10 Do, do this, and do, do that,  
a rule about this and a rule about that,  
here a little, there a little.”

11 Since they won’t listen to me,  
God will use another mouthpiece to speak to them.  
With stammering lips  
and in a foreign language, he will speak to this people.

12 For he has said to them,  
“This is your rest, so let the weary rest;  
this is your comfort”—but they would not listen.

13 Therefore, the word of Yahweh will be to them  
“Do, do this, and do, do that,  
a rule about this and a rule about that,  
here a little, there a little,”  
in order that they will stumble backwards  
and be broken and captured.

#### A False Covenant with Death

14 Therefore, listen to the word of Yahweh,  
you scornful jesters—rulers of Jerusalem.

15 For you have said,  
“We have made a covenant with death  
and a pact with the underworld,  
so when the overwhelming scourge sweeps over us,  
it will not harm us.

For we have made lies our refuge



and find our shelter in falsehood.”

### Zion’s Foundation Stone

16 Here’s what the Lord God says:

“Behold, I set in place in Zion a Foundation Stone,  
fully tested and proven to be faithful and secure.

And written upon this precious cornerstone is this:

‘Those who trust in him will not act in haste.’

17 I will set justice as the true measurement  
and integrity its plumb line.

My hailstorm will sweep away your refuge of lies,  
and my floodwaters will overwhelm your hiding place.

18 Then your covenant with death will be annulled  
and your pact with the underworld will not stand.

And when the overwhelming scourge sweeps over you,  
it will sweep you away!

19 As often as disaster passes by, it will carry you away;  
morning by morning, day after day, it will sweep you away!”

When you fully understand this message,  
it will bring nothing but terror to you!

20 Your bed is too short to stretch yourself out on,  
and your covering is too narrow to wrap yourself in.

21 The Lord Yahweh will suddenly arise  
as on Mount Perazim[v] and in the valley of Gibeon.

He arises to accomplish his strange work—peculiar as it is—  
his strange work of judgment?

22 So do not mock, or your bonds will grow tighter.

For I have heard the decree from my Lord Yahweh,  
Commander of Angel Armies.

He spoke a decree of destruction against the whole land.

### The Wonderful Ways of God

23 Hear my voice, listen to my words,

and pay close attention to my parable.

24 Does a farmer plow continually at planting time

and never plant a crop?

Does he continually break open the clods of the ground

and never sow his seed?

25 Once he has leveled its surface, does he not sow dill and cumin,

planting his wheat in rows, his barley in its proper place,

and his rye in a patch?

26 Yes, his God has instructed him

and taught him the right way of farming the land.

27 Dill, a small seed, is not threshed with a threshing sledge,

nor is a wagon wheel rolled over cumin.

Dill is beaten with a rod and cumin with a stick.

28 Grain is crushed and milled for bread,

but it is not threshed endlessly.

One drives the wagon's wheels over it,

but his horses' hooves do not pulverize it.

29 This counsel also comes from Lord Yahweh,

Commander of Angel Armies.

For his guidance is unfathomable,

and the heavenly wisdom he imparts is magnificent.

## Chapter 29 TPT

## The Siege of David's City

29 "Woe to Ariel—Ariel, the town where David encamped!

Go ahead—keep your annual feasts,  
and year after year celebrate your annual festivals.

2 I will bring distress to Ariel and there will be great mourning.

Jerusalem will be to me like what the name Ariel means—a burning altar hearth.

3 I will lay siege to you on all sides, encircling you with towers  
and raising up my siege works against you.

4 Brought low, you will speak from the dust of the earth.

Your voice will be heard speaking from the ground,  
and like the voice of a ghost, you will whisper out of the dust.

5 Then suddenly, in an instant, your ruthless enemies

will become nothing more than dust in the wind  
and your vile tyrants like wind-driven chaff!

6 She will be visited by the Lord Yahweh,

Commander of Angel Armies,  
with thunder, earthquake, and deafening noise,  
with whirlwind, tempest, and the blaze of a consuming fire!

7 As quickly as a fading dream or as fleeting as a vision of the night,

so will all the vast hordes of all the nations fade away  
and all who war against Ariel and her fortress disappear.

8 Just as a hungry man dreams that he is eating

but wakes up still hungry,  
or as a thirsty man dreams that he is drinking  
but wakes up weak and still longing for water,  
so it will be for the vast hordes of all the nations  
that fight against Mount Zion."

Insensitive to God

9 Be totally shocked and amazed by what I am about to say to you:

“Blind yourselves—and be totally blind!

(They are drunk but not from wine.

They stagger but not from hard liquor.)

10 For Yahweh has poured out over you

the spirit of a deep, deep sleep—

putting the covers over your slumbering seers

and rocking all your prophets to sleep.”

11 This entire prophetic revelation will become to you like the words of a sealed book. If it's given to one who can read it with the command “Read this,” he responds, “I can't because it is sealed.” 12 Or if it's given to one who is illiterate with the command “Read this,” he responds, “I can't because I cannot read.”

13 This is what the Lord says about these people:

“They come near to me with hollow words

and honor me superficially with their lips;

all the while their hearts run far away from me!

Their worship is nothing more than man-made rules.

14 So therefore, I will again jolt this people awake

with astonishing wonders upon wonders!

And the wisdom of their wise ones will fail,

and the intelligent know-it-alls will have no explanations.

15 Woe to you who think you can hide

your plan from the Lord Yahweh.

Ha! Do you actually think your secret schemes are so hidden

that you say, ‘Who sees us doing this?’

No one knows what we're doing!’

16 Oh, how great is your perversion!

Who is more intelligent—the potter or the clay?

Should a created thing say to its creator,

‘You didn’t make me’?

Should a clay pot say to the potter, ‘You don’t understand?’”

### Our Future Hope

17 Before you know it, Lebanon will be transformed  
into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field will seem like a forest.

18 In that day the deaf will begin to hear  
the words that have been written,  
and out of the darkness and gloom,  
the eyes of the blind will be opened to see.

19 The meek will overflow with fresh joy in the Lord Yahweh,  
and the poor will shout their praises to the Holy One of Israel!

20 For the terrible one will be no more,  
the scornful jester will not be found,  
and all the lovers of evil will be cut off.

21 Those who make the innocent appear guilty,  
those who ensnare others with deceitful tactics,  
and those who lie to keep the innocent from getting justice  
will likewise be destroyed.

22 So now, listen to what Yahweh, the God of Israel, who redeemed Abraham, has to  
say to Jacob’s tribes:

“My people will no longer be disgraced,  
and your shame-face will disappear.

23 For when they see the miracle of the many children  
that I give them, they will see me as holy and honor me.  
Yes, they will honor the Holy One of Jacob  
and stand in awe of the God of Israel.

24 Those who are in spiritual error  
will come to understanding,

and those who are always complaining  
will be glad to accept instruction.”