

ISAIAH, PART 1 (JUDGMENT – BUT HOPE)  
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**SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)**

**TITLE: Program 53 – Pride’s Deadly Consequences**

**WEDNESDAY**

**OPEN**

Do you have questions? Do you need answers? Do you need direction for your life? Do you need something that is going to calm your soul? Have you thought about the Word of God, Beloved? Do you realize that God has spoken, that God has given you everything “...that pertain[s] to life and godliness...,” and all His precious promises? (2 Peter 1:3) Are you listening to Him? Do you want to gain knowledge? You say, “I don’t have time.” We’ll talk about it today.

**PART ONE**

Do you know what? I absolutely love being your teacher. I am so thankful that God has given me the privilege of opening His book and taking you through His book, book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse. Well we have finally come to Isaiah 28. I’ve been preparing you these last two days for this segment of the book of Isaiah, and we are here. And how does it open up? It opens up with “Hoy, hoy,” “**Woe** [woe woe] **to the**

**proud...drunkards of Ephraim....” (Isaiah 28:1)** You say, “Hey, listen! There is nothing wrong with drinking.” Well let’s see what God says. He’s not going to talk about drinking as much as he’s going to talk about following a drunkard who’s wearing a proud crown who thinks he knows everything. And God wants you to know there’s only one that you are to follow. There’s only one that you are to listen to, and that is Himself, God Almighty. Let’s look at it. Isaiah 28, and remember one of the things that we instruct you to do is mark key repeated words. When you study a book of the Bible, you know that when you read a chapter you should ask the five W’s and an H, who: Who is this about? Who is speaking? To whom are they speaking? Who, what: What is the topic? What is the event? What is occurring? Who, what, when: When is it happening? Where is it happening? Why and how? So you ask the five W’s and an H. Now we want you to learn God’s precepts for life. We want you to learn how to discover truth for yourself so that you can feed yourself from the Word of God, so that you won’t be **“tossed to and fro... [by] every wind of doctrine...and cunning craftiness [of men]....” (Ephesians 4:14)** Because believe me, even bearing the name Christian, there are many that are cunning, there are many that are crafty, there are many that have a pile of money, because you’ve given them a pile of money. And they’re sitting on a hoard of cash and they just know how to push your buttons—and get you to do what they want you to do. Now you’ve got to know God’s Word, and you’ve got to trust God. Once God speaks to you, you’ve got to trust Him. So the whole purpose of **“Precepts for Life”** is to help you discover truth for yourself. To do that we offer you a free study guide. You download it by going to [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com); [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com) and you can download that free study guide. If you do and you haven’t done it before, you know that we’re going to mark **“woe”** with a red, and I tell you to get some micro pens, and mark it with kind of a squiggly cloud that comes down and drooping. And then we color it brown because a **“woe,”** she ain’t good. Okay, so **“Woe to the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim....” (Isaiah 28:1)** Now

if you have already done your homework, if you have already studied ahead of me, and that's what I like you to do, is stay a day ahead, but if you've done that you know that we have asked you all the way through Isaiah to mark every reference to "pride" or "proud" or "arrogance" or "haughtiness," anything where we elevate ourselves. So we just put a red arrow going up which shows that we are elevating ourselves. As you read this chapter you're going to see that he's going to talk about two crowns here. He's going to talk about the "proud crown" and then he's going to talk about a "righteous crown," a "beautiful crown." So let's see what he says. So you want to mark them. And then I study with a pencil, and then I write in my Bible like "CF" compare this with another verse that mentions "crown." So here we go.

**"Woe to the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim...." (Isaiah 28:1)** Now who is Ephraim? And you need to know. Ephraim is a synonym for the Northern Kingdom. Hosea was written at the same time Isaiah was written. Hosea is God's message to the Northern Kingdom. And throughout the book of Hosea you will find him talking about the Northern Kingdom using the term "Ephraim" which was one of the tribes and one of the surviving tribes. And so he is saying this is a **"...proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim...."** And he says, **"Woe [be unto you]...and to the fading flower...."** Your beauty is fading, **"...the fading flower of its glorious beauty...."** (Isaiah 28:1) This is a beautiful, beautiful spot in Israel. It says, **"...To the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is at the head of the fertile valley of those...overcome with wine!"** (Isaiah 28:1) So here is this fertile valley with all these grapes and they have indulged themselves so they are overcome by the wine. It says, **"Behold, the Lord has a strong and mighty agent; as a storm of hail, a tempest of destruction, like a storm of mighty overflowing waters, He has cast it...to the earth with His hand. The proud crown of the drunkards...,"** so once again you want to put that arrow going up and then I underline it in a squiggly line with red. **"The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim is trodden under foot."** (Isaiah 28:2-3) Here you are, you're this proud crown

and now God has taken you and God has cast you to the ground. Now what is he doing? He is talking about the destruction of the Northern Kingdom, the captivity of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria. And that happens; they are taken captive in 722 B.C. So that's when they go into captivity. These are important dates for you to remember because it helps keep you in context. Remember Assyria rules. It's the most powerful kingdom in this part of the east and they go from 900 to 686 B.C. Isaiah lives and ministers from 739 to 681 B.C. So we've got our dates down now. And he says, **"And the fading flower of its glorious beauty...."** He's talking about Ephraim. **"...Which is at the head of the fertile valley...."** (Isaiah 28:4) See, now it's almost directly north of Jerusalem. It's not far away and it is the head of this beautiful, beautiful valley. So he's talking about **"The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim...."** (Isaiah 28:3) but he's also talking about Samaria, which is on a hill, which was surrounded through the landscaping in such a way that it looked like a crown at the head of this fertile valley. And so this is what he says. **"And the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is at the head of the fertile valley, will be like the first-ripe fig prior to summer, which one sees, and as soon as it's in his hand, he swallows it."** (Isaiah 28:4) In other words he's saying, "Hey! In just an instant you're going to be taken." It's like a man and he walks through. "Here's a fig tree. Hey!" There's one fig that is prematurely, so to speak, ripe. He takes that fig, pops it into his mouth, chews it, swallows it; it's gone. And he says, "This is what it's going to be like for you." Now when he says this what I would suggest that you do is you write in the margin of your Bible in pencil if you want to, Amos chapter 6, verse 1 and then comma, verses 4 & 8 and let's look at Amos. All right, because it's a contemporary. Amos prophesied during the days of Uzziah. As a matter of fact, going back to our map, going back to our map, what you see is Amos is prophesying when Ephraim is under Jeroboam II and when the Southern Kingdom is under Uzziah and it is a time of great prosperity. It is a time of great blessing. So it's not a fading flower. It is a flower in full bloom. But it's

about to be like the tulips in my kitchen. And the tulip in my kitchen has gone and it's little petals have fallen off and they're laying there, you know, at the bottom of, or right at the, at the base of the vase. And this is what's happening, so Amos chapter 6. He says, **“Woe [hoy h-o-y woe] to those who are at ease in Zion...,”** and he's talking about Jerusalem, **“...and to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria....” (Amos 6:1)** [Woe be unto those who are secure in the mountain of Samaria.] (PARAPHRASE, Amos 6:1) Remember I put a small little star under Ephraim there to show you that that's Samaria. And a bigger star down here to show you that this Jerusalem. And he says “Woe” to both of you. He says, **“...The distinguished men of the foremost of nations, to whom the house of Israel comes.” (Amos 6:1)** Then you drop down to verse 4. **“Those who recline on beds of ivory and sprawl on their couches....” (Amos 6:4)** Here they are reclining and sprawling on their couches. They're just living in this absolute luxury and they're drinking their wine. They are at ease. They think they have it made. And listen to what he says. He says, **“...And [they] eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who improvise to the sound of the harp, and like David have composed songs for themselves.” (Amos 6:4-5)** What does that remind you of? I'll tell you what it reminds me of when we come back in just a minute.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back, Beloved. As I've been reading Isaiah 28 and what God says about these **“...proud crown[s] of the drunkards of Ephraim...,” (Isaiah 28:1)** and their demise and their fading beauty, I couldn't help but think as we turned to Amos chapter 6, as it talks about them sprawling on their couches, as it talks about them living in this great, great luxury, I couldn't help but think as they composed their songs, of many of the stars of today. I'm talking about the ones that we love, the singers, the vocalists, the bands and all of these that our young people are fawning over and swooning over

and just want to look like and dress like and sing like and talk like. You better stop and look at the lifestyle that they are living because it's a lifestyle for many of them of great luxury, but also great debauchery, not all of them; not all of them. But some of them will tell you what all this luxury has done to them and how they have gotten into drugs; how they've become alcoholics. You look at the stars. You see them going, shaving their head; going into rehab. Their lives are all messed up. And this is exactly what was happening to Ephraim. Their wealth, their prosperity of the times, their lack of having to deal with Assyria and their military garrisons that they had built all gave them a sense of ease. And God is saying to them, "Woe be to you. The crown," in essence, "is about to fall off your head. Your beauty has faded." Listen to what he says and let's go back to Amos chapter 6. It says, **"Who improvise to the sound of the harp...,**" verse 5, **"...and like David have composed songs for themselves, who drink wine from sacrificial bowls while they anoint themselves with the finest of oils, yet they have not grieved over the ruin of Joseph."** (Amos 6:5-6) Now when he says, "...the ruin of Joseph," remember Ephraim and Manasseh were the sons of Joseph. And he says, "Here they are living in this grand luxurious self-indulgent lifestyle and they are not grieving over the ruin of their country. They're oblivious to it. They think that nothing's going to happen to them, that no one can touch them. But watch what he says. He says, **"Therefore, they will now go into exile at the head of the exiles, and the sprawlers' banqueting...."** Remember when I sprawled on this couch. **"...The sprawlers' banqueting will pass away. The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, the LORD God of hosts has declared: 'I loathe the arrogance of Jacob, and [I] detest his citadels [the things that he has built]; therefore I will deliver up the city and all [that] it contains.'"** (Amos 6:7-8) Well Amos told them, and Isaiah came along later and told them the same thing. So let's go back to Isaiah chapter 28. he talks about when **"...the proud...drunkards...,**" (Isaiah 28:1) act like this and God moves in judgment in verse 5 of Isaiah 28 it says, **"In that day the LORD of hosts**

will become a beautiful crown and a glorious diadem to the remnant of His people; a spirit of justice for him who sits in judgment, a strength to those who repel the onslaught at the gate. (Isaiah 28:5-6) “And these [at the gate] also reel with wine...,” it says, and “...the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are confused by wine...” “And I can’t remember where I am or where I’m going and what’s your name?” “...They[’re] confused by wine, they stagger from strong drink...” It says, “...[they totter] they reel while having visions.” They’re having visions and these are the prophets and they’re speaking for God and they’re just reeling while they do it. It says, “...They totter when rendering judgment. For [all] all the tables are full of filthy vomit, without a single clean place.” (Isaiah 28:7-8) It’s just breakfast and lunch, all coagulated and on that table. Have you got the picture? Have you got the picture? These are supposed to be people of God and this is what’s happened. He says, “To whom [shall] He teach knowledge, and to whom [will] he interpret the message...?” God has a message. Here’s what the prophets are doing. This is what it’s like. “...To whom [will] He teach knowledge...?” Those that are drawn from the breast? “...Those that are weaned from the milk?” (Isaiah 28:9) For He says, “...Order on order...line [up]on line...,” here a little, there a little. (Isaiah 28:10) “Indeed, He will speak to [these] people...,” with with, “...stammering lips and a foreign tongue.” (Isaiah 28:11) What is He saying? He’s saying, “Listen, you wouldn’t listen to Me. You wouldn’t pay attention to My Word and I am going to speak to you now.” It’s going to sound like babble. And when you take the Hebrew and you look at the words and you pronounce them it’s very childish and it’s like babble. And this is what he says. He says, “Indeed, He will speak to this people through stammering lips and a foreign tongue.” (Isaiah 28:11) What’s the foreign tongue? The foreign tongue are the Assyrians that are going to come down and take Ephraim captive. And it’s going to be like to them. Why? Because they wouldn’t listen to God. O Precious One, are you listening to God? Are you paying attention to His Word, or are you so busy

that you don't have time to study God's Word? What are you doing with your time? You say, "Well, there's football and there's this and there's that, and there's work." What are you going to tell God, that you don't have time to listen to the Sovereign Ruler of all the universe? You don't have time to study the Word. **"He who said to them, 'Here is rest, give rest to the weary...here is [rest]....'" (Isaiah 28:12)** Rest in this truth. He says, **"And here is repose,' but they would not listen." (Isaiah 28:12)** "You have a chance to rest in Me. You have a chance to trust in Me, but you're sticking your fingers in your ear and you are not listening." He says, **"So the word of the LORD will be [to them], 'Order on order...line [up]on line...a little here, a little there,' that they may go and stumble backward, [and] be broken, snared and taken captive." (Isaiah 28:13)** Listen to me very carefully. If you don't believe truth you'll be taken captive by a lie. You see Precious One, when you and I don't know the truth we are taken captive. But John 8 says, **"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:32 KJV)** So which crown, which message? Are you going to spend time? And I want to encourage you, and I want to thank you and I want to love on you and just tell you, I hope you got the point today. I know I was a little bit of drama queen here today, but I want you to get the point. I want you to see. I want you to stop and evaluate who you're following; who your idols are. And I'm sure that some teenagers have tuned in today. And I am sure that God has spoken to you because God is looking for young men, God's looking for young women. **"...The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth..., " (2 Chronicles 16:9)** looking for a man, a woman whose heart is fully His, so that God Almighty might show Himself strong on your behalf. Listen to God and don't go into captivity.