

CONNECTING PROPHECY WITH HISTORY

ISAIAH 28:1-15

CONNECTING PROPHECY WITH HISTORY

- The purpose of tonight's lesson is to discuss the prophecy of Isaiah found in chapter 28 in its historical context and make application for the 21st century reader.
- Let's attempt to make sense of Isaiah's words:
 - Through Isaiah, God is pronouncing judgment upon Israel.
 - In our text, the 10 northern tribes are being referred to as Ephraim.

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- Let's attempt to make sense of Isaiah's words: (cont.)
 - The crown of the drunkards of Ephraim is a reference to Samaria, the capital city of Israel, which sat at the top of a hill overlooking a fertile and beautiful valley.
 - The Lord's mighty and strong one mentioned in verse 2 is a reference to Assyria, who would serve as God's instrument of judgment against Israel.
 - Vss. 5 & 6 allude to the faithfulness of Hezekiah and a remnant of the 10 northern tribes who trusted God.

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- Let's attempt to make sense of Isaiah's words: (cont.)
 - In the days of Hezekiah, the Assyrians attempted to conquer Judah but were thwarted and returned home as recorded in II Chron. 32.
 - Vss. 9-10 are the ridicule from the people towards the prophet for his continual and persistent condemnation of their behaviors. The intelligence of the priests in spiritual things was certainly insulted by the simplicity and repetitiveness of God's spokesman.

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- Israel is likened to three things in the text:
 - First, Drunkards
 - Represents their pride and foolishness.
 - Second, Fading Flower
 - Represents their decline.
 - Third, First ripe fig
 - Represents their vulnerability and helplessness.

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- This certainly serves as a warning to all of us today.
 - People who live in pride and foolishness.
 - People who consider the ways of God beneath their intelligence and burdensome.
 - People who are ripe for the picking because they have believed the lies of the world and followed their own passions.