

CHAPTER 28

WOE to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty *is* a fading flower, which *are* on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

2 Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, *which* as a tempest of hail *and* a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand.

3 The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet:

4 And the glorious beauty, which *is* on the head of the fat valley, shall be a fading flower, *and* as the hasty fruit before the summer; which *when* he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he eateth it up.

5 ¶ In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people,

6 And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and

for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

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

8 For all tables are full of vomit *and* filthiness, *so that there is* no place *clean*.

9 ¶ Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are* weaned from the milk, *and* drawn from the breasts.

10 For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little:

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the

refreshing: yet they would not hear.

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

14 ¶ Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which *is* in Jerusalem.

15 Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

16 ¶ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

18 ¶ And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and

your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

19 From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only *to* understand the report.

20 For the bed is shorter than that *a man* can stretch himself *on it*: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself *in it*.

21 For the LORD shall rise up as *in* mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as *in* the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

22 Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.

23 ¶ Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.

24 Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? doth he open and break the clods of his ground?

25 When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast

abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rie in their place?

26 For his God doth instruct him to discretion, *and* doth teach him.

27 For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod.

28 Bread *corn* is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break *it with* the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it *with* his horsemen.

29 This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, *which* is wonderful in counsel, *and* excellent in working.

CHAPTER 29

WOE to Ariel, to Ariel, the city *where* David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices.

2 Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel.

3 And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee.

4 And thou shalt be brought down, *and* shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

5 Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones *shall be* as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.

6 Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.

7 ¶ And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision.

8 It shall even be as when an hungry *man* dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, *he is* faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.

9 ¶ Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink.

10 For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

11 And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which *men* deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it *is* sealed:

12 And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

13 ¶ Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near *me* with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, *even* a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise *men* shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent *men* shall be hid.

15 Woe unto them that seek

deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

16 Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

17. *Is* it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?

18 ¶ And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

19 The meek 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 nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:

21 That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.

22 Therefore thus saith the

LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.

23 But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.

24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

CHAPTER 30

WOE to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

2 That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!

3 Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt *your* confusion.

4 For his princes were at Zoan, and his ambassadors came to Hanes.

5 They were all ashamed of a people *that* could not profit them,

nor be an help nor profit, but a shame, and also a reproach.

6 The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence *come* the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people *that* shall not profit *them*.

7 For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength *is* to sit still.

8 ¶ Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

9 That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD:

10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.

12 Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in

oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:

13 Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.

14 And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water *withal* out of the pit.

15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

16 But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift.

17 One thousand *shall flee* at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill.

18 ¶ And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD *is* a God of judg-

ment: blessed *are* all they that wait for him.

19 For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

20 And *though* the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This *is* the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

22 Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

23 Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground *withal*; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.

24 The oxen likewise and the

young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan.

25 And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers *and* streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

26 Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

27 ¶ Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning *with* his anger, and the burden *thereof* is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire:

28 And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and *there shall be* a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing *them* to err.

29 Ye shall have a song, as in the night *when* a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.

30 And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of *his* anger, and *with* the flame of a devouring fire, *with* scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

31 For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, *which* smote with a rod.

32 And *in* every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the LORD shall lay upon him, *it* shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.

33 For Tophet *is* ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made *it* deep *and* large: the pile thereof *is* fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapters 28—35 are often referred to as Volume Five and the Book of Woes preceding restoration glories.

Chapter 28 gives the woe against Ephraim. Verses 1-13 cover the judgment of the ten tribes; while the fate of Ephraim and the warning to Judah are given in verses 14-29.

In chapter 29:1 we see the word “Ariel.” This is a name for Jerusalem, which means “the lion of God.” In this chapter Isaiah is prophesying that the nation would suddenly be overwhelmed. We will see in chapter 37:36 that this prophecy was fulfilled. All this happened despite Jerusalem’s sacred character as the lion of God, because the people were only giving lip service to the Lord and were following men’s commandments rather than the commandments of God. Because of their turning away from God, the Lord would encamp against them. He would besiege Jerusalem (verses 2 and 3) until the city was brought to the dust (verses 4 and 5). The Lord would then deal with Jerusalem’s enemies (verses 5-10). Verses 11 and 12 give us the prophecy for the end-time. Verses 13-16 show the condition of the people as being one of religious blindness and empty formalism. Woe is pronounced upon those who think their dark deeds are hidden from the Lord.

We see in chapter 30 that the people again put their trust in man. They looked to Egypt for help, but in vain. The contempt of Jehovah, accompanied by refusal of the people to hearken to His Word, added yet more to their iniquity. God allowed the evil, but only in order to give free course to His grace. He allowed the chastisement to be fully accomplished, that nothing might be left for Him but perfect grace.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 14 on page 11.

BIRTHDAY TODAY

DIANE HATCHETT

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1779

THE BIRTHDAY OF FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.

Pause now to sing the National Anthem and thank God for America.

1452 B.C.

AARON DIED.

Numbers 33:38

Aaron was Moses’ brother. Perhaps we should pause today and thank God for brothers and sisters. I have two brothers and two sisters. Let us all thank God for our brothers and sisters today.

518 B.C.

THE JEWS BEGAN MOURNING WHILE IN BABYLON.

Zechariah 7:3-5

In the 137th Psalm we find that the citizens of Babylon, under whom the Jews were slaves, asked the Jews to sing them a song. They had heard of the musical talent of the Jews and how well they could sing. The Jews said that they could not sing the Lord’s song in a strange land. At the time when they needed to sing the Lord’s song, they refused to do so. We, too, are in a strange land and we, too, should sing the Lord’s song that people may know the joy of Christ that they hear and see in us.

Psalms 137:1-3, “By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”

515 B.C.

EZRA RETURNED TO JERUSALEM TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE.

Ezra 7:9

Since the temple of our day is the body (1 Corinthians 6:19 and 2 Corinthians 6:16), let us dedicate our bodies as living sacrifices unto God. Read Romans 12:1 today.

1876

COLORADO WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION.

Just recently, I visited a former pastor of mine, Rev. Gary Christopherson, in Colorado Springs. Let us pray for God’s work and God’s people in Colorado. Pray that God’s work will flourish.

HOW MUCH INFLUENCE DO YOU HAVE?

It was once said that people were healed by stepping in the shadow of Peter. What will it mean for

people today to step in your shadow? The power of influence cannot be exaggerated. Each of us has his little circle of influence. Each of us casts a shadow across the path of others. Someone will be influenced by you and by me today. May our influence be for the good. Someone will be made happy or sad by you today. As your shadow is cast across the lives of others, may it be the kind of influence that will bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is amazing what a friendly smile, a happy “good morning,” a warm handshake, or a pat on the back can do for others.

When we get to heaven, we will be amazed at the number of souls who are there—because of some kindness we showed them, either directly or indirectly, here on earth.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1619

HISTORY OF BLACK AMERICANS BEGAN WITH LANDING OF TWENTY BLACKS AT JAMESTOWN, Virginia. John Rolfe said the ship arrived “about the latter end of August” and that it “brought not anything but 20 and odd Negroes.” Surviving evidence suggests that the twenty blacks were accorded the status of indentured servants.

1834

SLAVERY ABOLISHED IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

1867

BLACKS VOTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A STATE ELECTION in the South, contributing to Republican sweep in Tennessee. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan dismissed the board of aldermen in New Orleans and named new appointees, including several blacks.

1868

GOV. HENRY C. WARMOTH ENDORSED A JOINT RESOLUTION of the legislature calling for federal military aid. Warmoth said there had been 150 political assassinations in Louisiana in June and July.

1895

BENJAMIN E. MAYS, EDUCATOR AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF MOREHOUSE COLLEGE, BORN

1920

NATIONAL CONVENTION OF MARCUS GARVEY’S UNIVERSAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OPENED in Liberty Hall in Harlem. The next night Garvey addressed twenty-five thousand blacks in Madison Square Garden. Garvey’s nationalist movement reached its height in 1920-21.

1936

BENJAMIN E. MAYS, WHO HAS BEEN CALLED “THE GREATEST SCHOOL MASTER OF HIS GENERATION,” NAMED PRESIDENT of Morehouse College.

1943

RACE RIOT, HARLEM. (8/1-2).

1944

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL ELECTED FIRST BLACK CONGRESSMAN FROM EAST.

1960

DAHOMY PROCLAIMED INDEPENDENT. Independence was also celebrated in Niger (August 3), Upper Volta (August 5), Ivory Coast (August 8), Chad (August 11), Congo Brazzaville (August 15), Gabon (August 17), and Senegal (August 20).

1961

WHITNEY YOUNG JR. NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE.

1979

JAMES PATTERSON LYKE INSTALLED AS AUXILIARY BISHOP of the Cleveland diocese of the Roman Catholic Church.

A Christian Life . . .

JOHN NEWTON (1725-1807)

English pastor and hymnwriter. John Newton was the son of an English sea captain. His mother was a deeply pious woman, who, with much care, taught him spiritual things until she died when John was seven years old.

At the age of 11, John went to sea and spent the next 20 years as a sailor engaged in slave trading. His life was spent in the basest sort of wickedness. At one time, he himself was the property of an African woman, who fed him only that which she threw him under her table. He was nearly killed several times during a terrible storm at sea, which almost sank the ship. His wicked life passed before him, and deep conviction caused him to cry out to God for salvation.

The next several years were spent in preparation for the ministry. He learned Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and studied the Scriptures intensively. In 1764 he was appointed pastor of Olney, where he served for 16 years before moving to St. Mary Woolnoth in the city of London. In addition to his pastoral duties, Newton was an ardent writer. His works included: *Omicron*, *Narrative*, *Review of Ecclesiastical History*, and *Cardiphonia*.

His greatest fame is the result of his work as a writer of hymns, the most familiar being *Amazing Grace*, which depicts in its verses the life story of John Newton:

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*



*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.*

The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I AM TOO GREAT A SINNER"

(Assignment 14)

Review these verses today.

() Isaiah 1:18

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

() 1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

() Romans 5:6

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

() Romans 5:7

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

() Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.