

# The PROPHETS of JUDAH

## Isaiah – Comfort and Salvation

Isaiah 25:1, 4a  
September 26, 2026

The prophecies of judgment against the nations reminded us that God is sovereign over all the earth. It is His right as Creator God of the universe to hold His creation accountable and when we last met there was a lot of accountability going on. Even so, God prefers compassion and long-suffering to judgment. He is slow to anger and abiding in love and He would rather people turn to Him and live than turn away from Him and perish.

Will there be consequences for ignoring the warnings? Yes, but the God who had been rejected STILL promised that judgment, destruction and captivity were not the end of the story.

**Isaiah 25:6-9** - *On this mountain El Shaddai will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Adonai will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. Yahweh has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is Yahweh, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."....*

**Isaiah 26:1-9** - *In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in Yahweh forever, for Yahweh, Yahweh is the Rock eternal. He humbles those who dwell on high, he lays the lofty city low; he levels it to the ground and casts it down to the dust. Feet trample it down – the feet of the oppressed, the footsteps of the poor. The path of the righteous is level; O upright One, you make the way of the righteous smooth. Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.....*

**Isaiah 28 contains a woe to Israel because they are:**

- Proud drunks
- A fading flower
- Like a ripe fig that is devoured

**Yet:**

**Isaiah 28:5-6** - *In that day El Shaddai will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath for the remnant of his people. He will be a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, a source of strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.*

**Apparently, Judah has not learned any lessons from the trouble in Israel, so now God speaks to them:**

- Priests and Prophets err in vision and stumble in judgment because they are drunk and their tables are covered with vomit.
- God's word has become to them so much, "blah, blah, blah."

The Leaders were complacent and proud deceivers and had come to believe their own propaganda that the punishments of God could be avoided by strong fortifications and political alliances.

Instead, Yahweh declared that He was the one who laid the cornerstone – the only sure foundation – and that He, not the leaders, would set the measuring line for true security in justice and righteousness.

**Isaiah 28:16-17a** - *So this is what Adonai says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line...."*

**This promise, which found its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus, arises from a real-life building practice and a story connected to the construction of Solomon's Temple** (see 1 Kings 6:7 and Psalm 118:22-23).

When the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple was erected, the immense stones for the walls and foundation were prepared at the quarry. When the stones were brought to the construction site, all the workmen had to do was place them in position. As the story goes, a foundation stone of unusual size and peculiar shape was not accepted by the workmen because they couldn't find a place to put it. The rejected stone lay discarded for a long time until construction on the foundation neared completion. The builders realized that they needed a very specific stone of sufficient size and strength to bear the great weight which would rest upon it. Several stones were considered, but when tested they cracked under pressure, making them unusable. Finally, they turned their attention to the long-rejected stone. It had been exposed to the elements – yet it had not cracked. The builders decided to test whether the stone could bear up under severe pressure – if it did, they would accept it for the cornerstone. After passing the test, the stone was accepted and brought to its assigned position – it was an exact fit.

**In the vision of Isaiah 29, God confronts Jerusalem with the fact that they consider His warnings of an invading army to be nothing but words sealed in a scroll.**

- You come near me with your mouths and honor me with your lips, but your hearts are far from me.
- Your worship is made up only of rules taught by men.
- You go to great depths to hide your plans from Yahweh. You do your work in the dark and think, *"Who sees us? Who will know?"*

**Even so.....**

**Isaiah 29:18-24** - *In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. Once more the humble will rejoice in Yahweh; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. The ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear, and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down.... Therefore this is what Yahweh, who redeemed Abraham, says to the house of Jacob: "No longer will Jacob be ashamed; no longer will their faces grow pale. When they see among them their children, the work of my hands, they will keep my name holy; they will acknowledge the holiness of the Holy One of Jacob, and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction."*

**Continuing into chapter 30...**

- You obstinate children – who carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin; who go down to Egypt without consulting me; who look for help to Pharaoh's protection, to Egypt's shade for refuge.
- These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to Yahweh's instruction. They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!" .... "Because you have rejected this message, relied on oppression and depended on deceit, this sin will become for you like a high wall, cracked and bulging, that collapses suddenly, in an instant.

**Isaiah 30:18-21** - *Yet Yahweh longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For Yahweh is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. Although Yahweh gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."*

**Everyone that Judah relied on – Egypt and Assyria – had an expiration date. Egypt would stumble and fall and Assyria would die by the sword. There was only one refuge in the storm - God:**

**Isaiah 32:1-2, 17-18** - *See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land..... The*

*fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted; citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks, till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest. Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest....*

**As Judah's foundation crumbles under them and their reliance on human strength and wisdom begins to shake, God reminds them that the most valuable foundation they have is Him.**

**Isaiah 33:5-6** – *Yahweh is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.*

**The Sinners of Zion are terrified – fear has seized the hypocrites – and a question is asked, “Who can dwell in the consuming fire?” ---- “Who can stand in the glory of God?”**

- The person who walks and talks with righteousness.
- The person who despises gain by oppressing other people.
- The person who refuses to take a bribe.
- The person who does not listen to talk to bloodshed.
- The person who does not look at evil.

**Isaiah 33:16-17, 22** - *This is the man who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. His bread will be supplied, and water will not fail him. Your eyes will see the king in his beauty and view a land that stretches afar.... For Yahweh is our judge, Yahweh is our lawgiver, Yahweh is our king; it is he who will save us.*

**Chapter 34 contains judgment on a global scale, yet, once again, Isaiah concludes with a vision of Salvation:**

**Isaiah 35:1-10** - *The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of Yahweh, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of Yahweh will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

**Until Next Time.....**