### Isaiah

## Chapter 28

1Woe to that insolent garland…  
 Ephraim’s faded flower and those whom he hired…  
 Those who have fallen from glory  
 There on their mount of thick branches…  
 Yes, those who get drunk without wine.  
  
2For {Look!} the rage of Jehovah is both strong and hard…  
 It’s like hail that falls with great force  
 In a place where there’s nowhere to [hide].  
 It’s like a flood that drags away [homes]  
 In the land where He once sent rest to your hands.  
  
3Then the feet of Ephraim’s hired  
 Will trample their insolent garland,  
 4And its flowers (its hope of glory) will fall  
 Like the shoots of figs on their mountains.  
 Then, all who see it in front of their hands,  
 Will wish to take it and swallow it down.  
  
5In that day, Jehovah of Armies  
 Will be the only true garland…  
 A crown of glory for His people.  
 6For by the spirit of fairness, they will survive…  
 By justice and the strength of destruction withheld.  
  
7But there are also those who will stagger and reel  
 Because of their liquor and wine.  
 Yes, it is because of the liquor  
 And because they’ve swallowed the wine  
 That the priests and prophets are out of their minds.  
 And then, when they sober, they’ll stagger…  
 Which will be witnessed by all.  
  
8A curse will thereafter devour their plans;  
 For the plans that they have are just to get rich.  
  
9To whom have we announced all this evil?  
 To whom have we spoken this message?  
 To those being weaned from the milk,  
 And to those being drawn from the breast.  
  
10Problems on problems, hope after hope…  
 Still a little, and then a bit more!  
 11For in foreign tongues, they’ll speak these foul words:  
  
 12‘Since those who are starved are unworthy,  
 We will have to destroy them’  
  
 (Which is something that no one wishes to hear).  
  
13Then this oracle from God is what they’ll receive:  
  
 ‘Problems on problems, hope after hope;  
 Still a little, and then a bit more.’  
  
And thereafter, they’ll be faced with great danger.  
 For, first they will have to retreat,  
 And then they’ll be broken and captured.  
  
14Thus, hear these words of Jehovah:  
  
 ‘O men who are being attacked  
 And you rulers of JeruSalem;  
 15You say that you’ve made a pact with the grave…  
 That you’ve made a treaty with death,  
 And that, if a windstorm should blow,  
 It won’t be blowing on you.  
 So, you have put hope in [your] lies…  
 And do you [think] that these lies will protect you?  
  
 16‘Because of this,’ says Jehovah;  
 ‘{Look!} Upon the foundation of Zion  
 I’ll place a valuable stone…  
 A costly, select cornerstone,  
 In order to serve as its base…  
 And those trusting in him will never be shamed.  
  
 17‘Then, in place of hope, will come judgments;  
 And to My charity, I’ll attach weights.  
 So those trusting in vain in the lie  
 Will not be passed by the storm.  
 18For, your treaty with death will be gone,  
 Along with your pact with the grave.  
  
 ‘Then, by a blast, you’ll be crushed…  
 19When it’s passing by, it will take you.  
 Morning after morning, it will blow upon you,  
 And it will blow throughout the nights…  
 So, what happens to you will be bad.  
  
 20‘Learn how to hear, O you who’ve been squeezed…  
 There’s no way you’ll be able to fight it!  
 For, you will be weakened, then captured.  
  
 21‘From the godless, the Lord will make hills,  
 When to GibeOn’s valley, He brings His rage…  
 That’s where His bitter deed will be done.  
  
 ‘His rage will be brought in strange ways…  
 Yes, these rotten deeds will be odd.  
 22And for you, there’ll no longer be joy,  
 Since you won’t have strength, in your chains.’  
  
Yes, all these things will come soon…  
 It’s what He will bring to this land…  
 It’s what Jehovah of Armies has said.  
 23So give ear and listen to all that I say…  
 Pay attention and hear all my words!  
  
24Doesn’t it take a full day  
 To get things ready for plowing?  
 And doesn’t the planter have to prepare  
 Before he starts working the ground?  
  
25Doesn’t he level its face  
 Before he plants pepperwort or cumin,  
 At the borders of wheat, barley, and spelt?  
  
26So, that’s how you’ll be corrected…  
 In the fair ways of your God…  
 Then once more, you’ll [have reasons] for joy.  
  
 27‘You don’t scrub Pepperwort to clean it,  
 And you don’t run wagons over cumin!  
 You beat out pepperwort’s [seeds],  
 28And cumin should be eaten with bread.  
  
 ‘So I won’t stay angry with you throughout the age,  
 Or with bitter words, will I trample you down.’  
  
29Rather, from Jehovah of Armies,  
 Miracles will [be sent to your land]!  
 So, you should accept all this counsel,  
 And not raise hopes of comfort in vain!