

**Isaiah**

**The Lord Is Salvation**

**The  
Book Of  
Woes  
Part One**

**Isaiah 28**

**Lesson Thirty**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## **The Book Of Woes, Part One**

In this lesson we begin a series of oracles that condemn, and occasionally offer hope to, Israel and Judah. Each of the oracles begin with the word “woe” found in 28:1; 29:1,15; 30:1; 31:1; and 33:1. Some have called this a “book of woes.” It would be like a book within a book. All of these oracles seem to be talking about the Assyrian invasions of Israel and Judah.

In the twenty-eighth chapter, God spoke to Ephraim. The city of Samaria was on a hill. It was surrounded by walls. The sides of the hill were terraced and planted with gardens and groves of trees. To the west the beautiful valley of Jezreel stretched out toward the Mediterranean Sea and was planted with orchards, vineyards and flowers. It was probably the most beautiful city in all the area. The people there felt very safe from invaders. They had become great partiers. Isaiah refers to them as drunkards “laid low by wine.” They didn’t want any help from anyone, especially from God. Read Isaiah 28:1-4

God was waiting for the right time to bring judgment on them. He promised that defeat would come from one “who is powerful and strong.” He is “like a hailstorm and a destructive wind,” like a flood, and is like a powerful wrestler who will throw them to the ground. That sounds like more trouble than they could handle, and it was. Assyria was the powerful, strong, invader who would see Samaria as a prize to be taken. That happen in 722 BC.

Read Isaiah 28: 5, 6. This is a word of hope from the future. God said that “In that day,” meaning at the end of time, things would be very different and God would be their Savior. This age, when Jesus returns, will be a time of peace and justice like they have never seen.

If the next verses, seven through thirteen weren’t so sad, they would be funny. Isaiah attacked the religious leaders and accused them of being too drunk to get a word from God, and too stoned to give good judgments. A very ugly picture follows when Isaiah said that they were so intoxicated that they were vomiting all over the place and it was a big mess. But, that doesn’t keep them from challenging Isaiah.

They ask, “Who is this guy and does he think that he has to teach us the *a b c’s* all over again?” The Message has their words this way, “We’re not babies in diapers to be talked down to by such as you—‘da, da, da, da, blah, blah, blah, blah. That’s a good little girl, that’s a good little boy.’”

Isaiah comes right back at them: “But that’s exactly how you will be addressed. God will speak to this people in baby talk, one syllable at a time—He will do it through foreign oppressors...And like toddlers they will get up and fall down, get bruised and confused and lost.”

And so, the nation of Israel that had forgotten God, that had ignored His promises of protection, that had been so filled up with themselves that they had chosen to have a drunken party rather than worship the true God, would be destroyed like babies, confused and lost.

# Isaiah

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Read Isaiah 28:14-22. This oracle is for the southern kingdom, Judah. Isaiah was very angry with the government leaders in Jerusalem. They had, against his strong advice, made an alliance with Egypt against Assyria. This was around 705 BC. Assyria, as we have seen, had already conquered the northern kingdom, and now they threatened Judah. But the people of Judah were saying, “It can’t happen here.” Their alliance with Egypt gave the people in Judah a false sense of security. First, Egypt was not strong enough to take on Assyria. Second, even if they were strong enough, God’s judgment was coming, and no alliance would save Judah.

They had a “covenant with death.” In other words, they did not fear death, because in their alliance they were protected. But Isaiah said that their covenant and their alliance was just smoke and mirrors. It was all lies. They were opening themselves up to be crushed and flooded over. Disaster would carry them away.

To picture the judgment of God, all kinds of words related to construction are used: foundation, cornerstone, line and plumb line. If one trusts in God, they are on a solid foundation. If Judah had placed their faith in God, rather than in military alliances, God could have blessed them. He goes on to say that Judah has made her bed, and now she must lie on it. The nights in Judah were cold and if your blanket was not long enough, and your feet hung off the foot of the bed your sleep would not be good at all...no comfort.

Verse twenty-two is a warning to those Isaiah called scoffers. He said, “stop your mocking.” If they didn’t, they were in great trouble.

Finally there is a great picture of a wise farmer. He plants, cultivates and harvests his crops in exactly the right way. He has learned how to do it, and does it exactly the way he learned it. It seems that God is saying that if Judah, which knows what to do, will do it, God’s judgment will be just like the farmer’s preparation of the grain for use. God’s judgment will not go beyond the right level of “thrashing” any more than the farmer’s would.

What a great lesson for all of us to learn. God expects a lot of us, but will not be unfair to us.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** “Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say.”

Isaiah 28:23

**Lesson Goal:** To assure students that God’s judgment is always balanced by His grace.

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## Student Worksheet

### **The Book of Woes Part I—Isaiah 28**

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. How would we describe the city of Samaria?
2. How did Isaiah describe Assyria the invader?
3. God will speak to this people in \_\_\_\_\_ talk, one \_\_\_\_\_ at a time.
4. And like toddlers they will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, get bruised and confused and lost.
5. Why did the military alliance with Egypt give Judah false security?
6. God expects a lot of \_\_\_\_\_, but will not be \_\_\_\_\_ to us.

**Scripture Memory:** “Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say.” Isaiah 28:23

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.