

Fact Sheet for **“Trust in God’s Cornerstone”** **Isaiah 28:14-22**

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The people of Judah were scoffing at God's revelation of judgment.

¹⁴ **Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers,
who rule this people in Jerusalem!**

ESV Proverbs 1:22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

ESV Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

There is a strong element of contempt for God here. Rejection of God's Word and confidence in our own often go hand in hand.

¹⁵ **Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death,
and with Sheol we have an agreement,
when the overwhelming whip passes through
it will not come to us,
for we have made lies our refuge,
and in falsehood we have taken shelter";**

NAU Isaiah 28:15 Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we have made a pact. The overwhelming scourge will not reach us when it passes by, For we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception."

Why would the rules of Jerusalem say such a thing? "We've got an agreement with death and Sheol." Compare "I've got an agreement with the Devil." They were trusting in other sources to save them from the coming scourge, the Assyrian invasion... their own abilities and resources. "Lies" and "falsehood" may be a reference to their trust in Egypt to rescue them.

¹⁶ **therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
"Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion,
a stone, a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:
'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'**

"be in haste" – "be agitated, disturbed"

Whether Isaiah thought of the cornerstone as the Messiah or simply as a genuine belief in the Lord is not clear. What is clear is that this verse was quickly understood as a reference to Messiah.

LXE (Septuagint) Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord, *even* the Lord, Behold, I lay for the foundations of Sion a costly stone, a choice, a corner-stone, a precious *stone*, for its foundations; and he that believes on him shall by no means be ashamed.

ESV Romans 9:33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

ESV Isaiah 8:13-14 But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. ¹⁴ And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

ESV Romans 10:11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."
ESV 1 Peter 2:6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Jesus understood the reference to a cornerstone as a reference to Himself (Matthew 21:42-43; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17).

The apostles understood it the same way (Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20).

In fact, verse 16 has been put to song.

¹⁷ And I will make justice the line,
and righteousness the plumb line;
and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies (15),
and waters will overwhelm the shelter (15)."
¹⁸ Then your covenant with death (15) will be annulled,
and your agreement with Sheol (15) will not stand;
when the overwhelming scourge (15) passes through,
you will be beaten down by it.
¹⁹ As often as it passes through it will take you;
for morning by morning it will pass through,
by day and by night;
and it will be sheer terror to understand the message.
²⁰ For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on,
and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in.

To seek protection in anything or anyone but God would be as inadequate as lying in a bed that is too short or trying to cover oneself with a blanket that is too small.

²¹ For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim;
as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused;
to do his deed-- strange is his deed!
and to work his work-- alien is his work!

Mount Perazim and the Valley of Gibeon were near Jerusalem.

²² Now therefore do not scoff,
lest your bonds be made strong;
for I have heard a decree of destruction
from the Lord GOD of hosts against the whole land.

The rulers in Jerusalem were trusting in their own wisdom and abilities, but not in God, and they would be judged by God for that. People today, both non-Christians and Christians alike, can walk into the same trap. We need to keep our full trust in God.

1st – The Gospel (John 3:16)

2nd – For Life (Proverbs 3:5-6)

3rd – In His Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17)