

**CALVARY PANDAN
BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 28

ISAIAH

CHAPTER 28

Theme: "Pride Comes Before the Fall!"

THEME VERSE

Isaiah 28:9-11 (KJV) "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. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."

INTRODUCTION

The next to be mentioned is Ephraim. After the kingdom of Israel was divided into two, north and south, the North was given ten tribes, and the South two tribes. The largest and most influential tribe in the north was the tribe of Ephraim. Therefore the tribe of Ephraim is mentioned in the context of the divided kingdom, it refers to the whole northern kingdom. This is known as a metonymy. The waning beauty and power of Israel is the picture depicted in this chapter. The fall or decline of Israel is the Lord's doing because Israel as a nation bears the

name of God. She is duty bound to reflect the attributes of God. When she failed, the LORD has no choice but to chastise her. This was after many prophets have been sent repeatedly to rebuke her kings and people of their idolatry and many sins. But all to no avail. The heart of the problem as Isaiah 28 reveals is the sin of pride.

Pride is in every man without exception. However, the degree or depth of pride varies from person to person. The more powerful the person is, the greater is his pride. Kings and princes, false prophets and priests were the ones who had the greatest pride in the days of the kings. They had money and influence at their disposal. Kings had absolute power to do at will whatever they wanted to their own people. The entire nation's wealth was at their disposal to do whatever their heart desired as if the national coffers were their personal piggy bank. With this kind of power all their lives, it is nearly impossible for these people to humble themselves and turn to God.

It was to such people in a spiritual climate of haughtiness that Isaiah gave his message from the LORD to Ephraim. This message has great application to the people of our time who behave like kings filled with arrogance because they think they are advanced in technology and have conquered the frontiers of sea, land and sky, including the stratosphere with their satellites and rockets in outer space. "There is nothing man cannot do" is the motto of our age and time. Man is god and there is no stopping him if he puts his mind to what he

thinks he has the power to do and conquer! Such arrogance has to be stopped by God!

OUTLINE

1. The Pride of Ephraim exposed (vv.1-6);
2. Hope in a new generation only! (vv. 7-13);
3. Death is in God's hands (vv. 14-21);
4. Life is in God's hands (vv. 22-29).

COMMENTARY

The Pride Of Ephraim Exposed

“Woe” is a word that sounds like its meaning! When God directs it against someone, that someone is in serious trouble. God directs this woe against “the crown of pride”. This is probably a subjective genitive where pride is used as an adjective to describe the crown. The crown here refers to the kingdom for this is how crown has often been used when it is not a reference to a person. The target audience is Ephraim, a metonymy for Israel. The pride-filled nation of Israel is about to suffer the woe that God would send against her! They were also called by God as “the drunkards of Ephraim!” What a terrible indictment against a nation that had been given so much by God for her to succeed. For Israel to fail God so miserably is reprehensible. Were they literal drunkards of wine or metaphorically speaking, drunk in their pride and arrogance, or both? I believe that

based upon verse 1 and verse 7 of Isaiah 28, it is both. The sin of pride keeps the sinner in his sin by refusing to repent. To numb the conscience further so that he will not be moved by the rebuke, he gets drunk. Israel failed to realize that her glorious beauty is a fading flower.

There is no denial that Israel was once a glorious nation especially during the reigns of King David and King Solomon. However her decline has been fast and furious. Now the end is near. It is likened to the glorious beauty of a fading flower as opposed to the fading beauty of a glorious flower. The flower remains but her beauty will die soon. The fading flower is described as “on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine.” What it means here is that the fading flower is the chief (head) that is most glorious like Samaria, the capital city of Israel, taking the lead in the drunkenness of the nation.

The Lord has a mighty and strong one i.e. a reference to the next superpower to rule that region after the Assyrians come to devastate Israel. This superpower refers to the Assyrians led by King Shalmaneser. He is described as “a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing.” These two illustrations have the same meaning in that both exhibit the same measure of destructive force. The destruction is unstoppable and thorough. Everything that stands in its way will be cast down. The nature of this destructive force is seen in the last phrase of verse 2 which says, “shall cast down to

the earth with the hand.” This ease of destruction is seen in the singular usage of the “hand.” The Assyrians will surely come and destroy Israel with ease (v. 2).

The crown of pride also called the drunken of Ephraim (mentioned in verse 1) shall certainly be trodden under feet i.e. trampled or stamped upon. This happens only to those who have been thoroughly defeated and have become abject slaves to their conquerors. Israel will be defeated like never before since the day of her entrance into the Promised Land. The glorious beauty which is on the head of the fat valley shall be a fading flower. It is also likened to a hasty fruit i.e. premature fruit that appears before summer. Before the rest of the fruits are ripe and ready, Israel is now ripe and ready to be plucked. The one who looked upon Israel is the Assyrians like a hungry man looks at a ripe fruit. While the ripe fruit is still in his hands, he eats it up. He will not waste time washing it. It is ripe and ready for consumption. The repetition of the imagery used to describe Israel is to emphasize the seriousness and certainty of her precarious situation. If Israel remains obdurate in her pride, she will definitely fall to the Assyrians. Her destruction is viewed as premature like the “hasty fruit”. She does not have to end like this. She can repent and more years would be given to her, but she must repent and turn back to the Lord (vv. 3-4).

“In that day” refers to the day of Israel’s destruction by the Assyrians. It will be the moment where the LORD of

hosts will be for a crown of glory and diadem of beauty to those who remain in the Land of Israel. This means that they will turn back unto the LORD. For the first time in the 208-year history of the divided kingdom (930-722 B.C.), the golden calf worship will be destroyed. Israel is delivered from this terrible idolatry that had enslaved her for over 200 years. Now they have turned back to the LORD and see Him as their crown of glory and diadem of beauty instead of the golden calf! Crown of glory means glorious crown, and diadem of beauty refers to a beautiful diadem. The LORD will become their glorious and beautiful King again! No longer would their pride be their crown and beauty but the LORD! However, not everyone will turn back to the LORD but the remnant who remained in Israel and were not deported to other cities (v. 5).

They will regard the LORD as their basis for judgement i.e. the Word of God will be precious to them again. They will read it, obey it and allow it to direct and control their lives. To the ones who retreat from battle even to the gates of their own cities, they will draw strength from the LORD in times of great distress and trouble. This is precisely how the LORD wants His children to see Him and depend upon Him. When they do not and they fail Him the way Israel had all those 200 years, the LORD had to stop them by way of exile through the Assyrians (v. 6).

Hope In A New Generation Only!

“But they also” could refer to the ones mentioned in verse 5 and 6 or to Judah. It does not make good sense to refer to the ones in verse 5 and 6 as they regard the LORD as their glorious crown and beautiful diadem. Furthermore the use of the name Jerusalem in verse 14 points to a shift in focus from Ephraim to Judah. The word “also” has to refer to Judah, the southern neighbours of northern Israel. This means that the Jews were no better than the Israelites even though they had the Temple and the Levitical priesthood in their Land. They erred (i.e. strayed) also through wine like their northern neighbours. Through strong drink they were out of the way (i.e. staggered). The downward slide is apparent here. From straying to staggering and from wine to strong drink!

The priest and prophet were the main culprits. The most spiritual people in the Land and guardians of the people of God were described here as having erred (i.e. strayed). When the most spiritual people in the Land end up like the rest of the people, it speaks volume about their sad spiritual state or the lack of it. They did it through strong drink. They were swallowed up of wine meaning to say that from the moment they woke up to the time they fell asleep, they drank wine! They were literally in a constant state of drunken stupor. They were out of the way i.e. staggering around the nation through strong drink! As a result, their ministries were summed up by the LORD as having erred in vision and stumbled in judgement.

They were not able to know the vision of the LORD i.e. the Word of God. They kept making wrong judgements when they had to function as judges. They failed the LORD and God’s people. The priests could not do any of the many offerings as taught in Leviticus on behalf of the people. The priests could not be replaced because they were born into the priesthood and God had only appointed them as His legitimate priests. The prophets were sent to rebuke the priests and kings and the people who strayed and sinned against God. But they were drunks and have sinned the same sins as the people they came to reproof! They have lost all moral authority to rebuke for they brought shame to the office of the prophets (v. 7).

How disgusting have the Jews become? All tables where proper meals like lunches and dinners were served have become tables full of vomit and filthiness. They failed their children as no one prepared proper meals any more. They drank continuously so that their regular routine of eating meals is neglected. There was not one place clean in all of Judah where proper meals were served. This was a hyperbole to drive home the point of the widespread drunkenness that had overwhelmed Judah (v. 8).

To whom can the LORD teach the Word of God to, when the spiritual state of the most spiritual was non-existent? To whom can the LORD make to understand doctrine if not to the priests and prophets who were meant to be teachers and preachers of

God's Word respectively? They were the main spiritual culprits in Judah! The solution that the LORD came out with was simple. Teach those who were "weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts." Teach the word of God to the children, the younger and new generation that has not been corrupted by the evils of the priests and prophets. The LORD will start afresh with a new generation. This does not auger well for the present generation. The truth of the matter was that the LORD has given up on the present generation and will begin with a new generation rather than to wait for the present generation to repent. They will not change. Wait for them to die off so that God could start new. What a shocking thing to read in this verse 9!

The method of teaching these children was precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little. It will be a very slow going process just like teaching young children. Much patience and long suffering is required. But this seems to be the only way to save Judah and the testimony that Judah needs to manifest to the whole world. With stammering lips and another tongue will the LORD speak to this people. The stammering lips is to mimic how a patient mother keeps repeating herself over and over again as she teaches her child how to speak his first word! It will be made more difficult because it will be done through another tongue. This is definitely a reference to the captivity where the Jews learned the Word of God as if it was written in another language to them. The Jews in

the days of the Babylonian exile were born in Babylon under Babylonian rule. They would have to learn the Babylonian language called Aramaic. If they wanted to know God's Word (in Hebrew), they have to learn the Hebrew language as if it is a foreign language! Judah was now given the Word of God in the Hebrew language as Jews but they rejected the Word of God. That they have to learn it like a foreign language is a judgement against disobedient Judah (vv. 10-11).

The LORD had said to Judah what they needed to hear in order to find a restful abode but they would not listen. Trusting in the LORD through obedience to His holy Word is the only way to find rest for the weary, but they turned to wine and strong drink instead. The refreshing is also received through obedience. Rest and refreshing from the turmoil of life can only be obtained by turning back to the LORD in repentance and turning away from sin. Drinking and drunkenness will not help for it deceives the drinker into thinking that all is well while in the state of drunken stupor. But the moment he wakes up from his stupor, the problems remain and he is in a worse state than before. The rest and refreshing that wine and strong drink avails is deception. Yet they would not hear the Word of God (v. 12).

Instead they mocked the prophets of God who gave them the Word. The Word of God was unto them "precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little." Patiently the Word of God was given to

them as if God was speaking to little children. But they rejected it and threw it into God's face. This same word will now condemn them to their fate! The end result was "that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken." Note the use of the polysyndeton in verse 13 to emphasize the consequence of rejecting the sanctifying power that is in God's Word. To fall backward is to fall helplessly without being able to stop the impact of the fall. Then the person is broken i.e. into many pieces. This is followed by being snared i.e. caught like a helpless bird in a trap. Judah will then be taken to wherever the victor wishes. How could such a calamity fall upon the people of God who had the almighty God on their side!

Death is in God's Hands!

This section is the darkest indictment against the leaders of the Jews. What was in the mind of these leaders when the LORD charged them for their sins? The LORD called them scornful men. The word "scornful" literally means men who mock by making mouths. They did this to God's prophet and therefore to God. The rulers of Judah were supposed to be men of God who copied and obeyed God's Word annually. Instead they made light of God's Word. How did they do that?

They 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." What boldness and arrogance are the words of these foolish leaders! Death and Hell were their partners in covenant. Death and Hell will never reach us for we have covenanted with them to leave us alone. Even when the overflowing scourges i.e. a lashing that inundates through Judah, they will be safe. It will come upon them even when the scourge touches all in Judah. The leaders will be spared! They lived in delusion. They have made lies their refuge. They hid under falsehood for protection. They know it and yet refused to repent of their arrogance and lies. What a tragedy for God's leaders to perish in such a state of delusion when they could easily repent and turn back to God, for the Word of God had been given to them and they always it with them (v. 15).

Therefore the LORD proceeded to give them a very stern and solemn warning. The LORD turned them to the firmest foundation He had ever given to man. This was laid in Zion for a foundation stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, and a sure foundation. A foundation stone makes the building built on top of it sturdy and strong. It is not easily moved by any kind of flood. This is contrasted with the lies that the leaders took refuge in. A tried stone is one that is pure and clean like metal put through the test of the fiery furnace that comes out purer than before. Man may spurn it but no matter what he might do to it, its purity and clarity will stand the test of these manifold attacks. A precious corner stone refers to the first stone that is

placed above ground when the super structure is built. All other measurements and corners of the building take their frame of reference from this stone. It is precious because the best and most solid of stones will be used for such an important task. It must not crumble or be easily trampled upon and moved. The building might end up misaligned, walls distorted and the building constructed out of shape. A sure foundation refers to the certainty and guarantee of a foundation that will never fail anyone who puts their trust in it and builds their life upon it. The identity of this "stone" is none other than the Christ of the Bible as understood through the revelation of the written Word. Trust in the Word and they would not be easily moved by making haste to run and hide from their enemies. Barnes observed correctly when he wrote, "The prophet says here, that the foundation on which Zion was reared would be so firm that if a man trusted to that he would have no cause of alarm, however, much the storms should beat around it." (v. 16)

The LORD will lay His judgement to the line meaning to say that His judgement will be straight. It will not be crooked like the many judgements of sinful man. The righteousness of God will be like a plummet. The plummet is used to measure a vertical straight line. This is to ensure that any vertical walls are not crooked just like the line is used to ensure any horizontal wall is straight. The standard of God's judgement against these leaders will be one of righteousness. The LORD will not

compare them with Gentile leaders to see who is a better or worse. The standard of measurement is God's righteousness against all leaders on the earth. There is no exception to this rule. When that comes, it is like a hail that will sweep away the refuge of lies and like the flood, waters will overflow i.e. drown the hiding place of falsehood. The picture language is vivid and clear. The lies and falsehood of sinful man will be crushed by the LORD's truth and righteousness when He judges. We must ensure that we are following Christ based upon God's truth and not some lies or falsehood concocted by cunning men (v. 17).

The direct approach of the LORD in the next few verses is very disconcerting because it is as if God is not wasting his time beating around the bush with these leaders. The direct approach is the best approach in any confrontation. The LORD said, "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." To be disannulled means to be cancelled. It will not stand against God's judgement. The leaders will die! Death will not flee from them but will catch up to them. Their agreement with Hell will not stand. When they die, they will find themselves in Hell. They will not escape this final judgement. This will take place according to God's judgement and timing. These leaders will surely die and go to Hell! (v. 18)!

The speed and timing of God's judgement against these leaders is

described in verse 19. The moment the LORD sent forth His judgement, the leaders will be taken i.e. seized or captured by death and destruction and hell. This takes place in the morning, throughout the day and into the night. There is no stopping the judgement of God. It will be a continuous non-stop judgement upon these evil leaders who have led their followers astray. It shall be a vexation i.e. fear and agitation to them to understand the report. In other words, they will be filled with horror just by hearing and knowing that the judgement of God is coming. They will be so frightened before death strikes them! (v. 19)

Verse 20 portrays two proverbial sayings that convey the same meaning. The bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it and the covering narrower that he can wrap himself in it means that no matter what and where they run and hide or turn to for help, all will fall short. Nations like to turn to other nations for help by making alliances with them or by purchasing them with gold, silver and precious stones. Man may turn to their idols for solace and intervention when calamity strikes but the LORD says that all these are useless and helpless against His judgement.

The LORD shall rise up as in Mount Perazim. This is definitely a reference to 2 Samuel 5:20-21 (KJV) "And David came to Baalperazim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name

of that place Baalperazim. And there they left their images, and David and his men burned them." The LORD shall be wroth in the valley of Gibeon. This is a direct reference to 1 Chronicles 14:16 (KJV) "David therefore did as God commanded him: and they smote the host of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gazer." It is said that after the victory of Baalperazim, David smote the Philistines from Gibeon to Gazer [Gaza]. The thoroughness of the judgement of God against Judah is depicted here. The LORD will do His work and no one can stop Him. It is called strange (a foreign) work i.e. unusual, as it is not done against Gentiles but against His own people. The LORD will bring to pass his act i.e. all that He said against the leaders of Judah will be fulfilled. It is called His strange (unexpected) act because it is most unexpected (v. 21).

The counsel from Isaiah to these leaders is to stop their mocking against the LORD and His warnings and Word. Lest their bands i.e. their bondage be made strong i.e. worse! Isaiah had heard from the Lord GOD of hosts that a consumption even the determined upon the whole earth. This means that total destruction is coming upon Judah as the whole earth there refers to the nation of Judah rather than the literal whole earth. There is no escape for anyone in Judah. Death is not in the hands of man no matter how powerful and invincible he thinks he is. Death lies in the hands of the LORD alone (v. 22).

Life is in God's Hands!

Just as death is not in the hands of man, so is life. The call to the leaders to listen and obey God's Word is urgent to say the least. Four imperatives are used in verse 23 to highlight this urgency. The verbs used are also very revealing. The first word is to listen carefully (give ye ear). The second verb is to hear and to obey. The third verb is to listen and be attentive or pay close attention. The fourth is to hear and obey the utterance of God. Such urgent requests of the LORD show that the LORD wants Judah to repent and turn back to Him. He does not delight in chastising His own people.

Using two rhetorical questions, the LORD drives home His point. "Doth the plowman plow all day to sow?" means that "is this all that the plowman does before he sows?" The plowman does more than just ploughing for there are other things to be done such as planting the seed, watering, etc before there can be sowing. He opens the ground and breaks the clods of his ground. In other words, there are other ways to deal with God's people than just chastisement. Why must Judah be so obstinate in her sin and refuse to repent which leaves the LORD with no choice but to deal with her only by way of pain and chastisement? If only Judah would repent and obey the Word of the LORD then she would experience the manifold blessings that come with obedience (v. 24).

After the farmer has completed preparing his ground for sowing, does

he not cast abroad fitches (a small specie of peas) and scatter the cumin and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rie [rye] in their place? This illustrates the manifold ways that the LORD wants to treat Judah. But Judah would not allow Him as she kept on sinning. There seems to be a one dimensional way the LORD has to deal with Judah because of her many repeated sins. This should not be the case with God's people. The way of punishment is the only way that the LORD can deal with gentile nations because they do not have the truth. However, with God's people who have the truth and prophets and priests to guide and teach them the way of God, there are a variety of ways Judah should relate to God rather than just repentance from sin all the time (v. 25).

Judah's God can instruct her on discretion and teach her the truth. The LORD wants to educate Judah in the way of obedience if only Judah would let Him. The word for "instruct" literally means "to chastise or discipline." The LORD can chastise Judah toward the path of discretion i.e. judgement. Judah will be able to make right judgements that are according to God's Word. Then Judah can be taught even further in the ways of God. Before Judah can do right she has to stop doing wrong (v. 26)!

The fitches cannot take the harsh treatment of the threshing instrument which will destroy them. A cart wheel cannot be used for the cummin as it will destroy the cummin rather than harvest it. The fitches are

beaten out with the staff and the cummin with the rod which are the appropriate instruments for their respective size and make up. The LORD will not over punish or under punish. The measure of His discipline or chastisement is always carefully measured and justly dispensed. The LORD wants to bring forth fruit from the lives and testimonies of the Jews. Chastisement brings forth life because it stops the people of God from sinning further and turns him back to the right path (v. 27).

If the LORD were to use the inappropriate instrument to harvest His crops like the farmer then His people would be devastated and destroyed permanently like the farmer destroying his own labour. No farmer is that foolish. After he has put in so much work to plow the land, level it and cast in the seeds for all his different crops would he then carelessly use the wrong instrument and destroy his own crops! God would never do that. Just as the farmer bruised the bread corn just sufficiently to bring forth the bread he would never carelessly over do it by allowing the wheel of the cart to crush it or the horsemen to trample on it (v. 28).

The wisdom the farmer has in looking after his crops comes from the LORD. If the LORD is the One who gives such wisdom to the farmer to look after his crops, the LORD surely knows how to give life to His people. The LORD gives wonderful counsel i.e. prudence. He is excellent in His work i.e. enterprise. The LORD knows exactly what He is doing at all times for

His own glory and the betterment of His people, just like the farmer over his crops (v. 29).

PRACTICAL VALUE

Pride is a Deadly Sin!

Pride is the last and final sin that every man wrestles with before he breathes his last breath. Pride causes a man to rob God of His glory. Pride was the last sin that King David committed before he died. Pride was the stumbling block that prevented the Pharisees and scribes from turning to Christ. Pride has destroyed many relationships because no one wants to make the first move toward reconciliation. Lives are ruined and time that could have been used to provoke others to love and to good deeds is wasted forever.

If we humble ourselves, life could be so much richer and better. The people of God must always humble themselves for they have the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ teaches us to follow Christ's example. Christ gave up heaven's glory to become a man and went to the cross to die for us. How can a person call himself a Christian and refuse to humble himself! This is an impossible dilemma in the eyes of God that does not exist. Every child of God is given the mind of Christ the moment he is born again. Otherwise how can he grow and become more and more like Christ?

Out With The Old And In With The New!

If the old is corrupt and ruined and if not forcibly removed, it might keep on ruining everything it touches, then it must be destroyed. Judah had arrived at a stage in his existence where her sin has crossed the line of no return. The only way to save the image of Christ in the lives of the nation of Judah was to destroy the present generation and begin with the new generation.

The new generation's mind has not been contaminated by the old. They can be salvaged. This truth can also cut both ways. If the old is good and godly, Satan can wait for the old to die off and corrupt the new. It is most important that the old generation is faithful and turns from their sins. They must ensure faithful men and women continue this path of faithfulness and righteousness so that the old and the new remain godly and good.

Life And Death In God's Loving Hand!

Man today thinks that he is the master of his own destiny. He foolishly thinks that he can place a bottle of poison next to his bed so that whenever he thinks that his life is not worth living, he can simply switch off his own light of life by drinking the poison. Some even renew their poison because the poison has an expiry date. What foolishness and arrogance bind the hearts of man today! Death and life will never be in the hand of sinful man. Just as he has no say in which century he likes to be born in, he has no say in the day he dies.

Life and death are in the hands of the sovereign God. God decides how a man dies and when he dies just as He decides how and when a man is born. This truth is very reassuring to every believer because his time on earth is not in the hands of any man but God alone. Man was not the one who puts the apostle Paul into prison and ultimately to death because God is sovereign. Jesus Christ was betrayed, arrested, persecuted and crucified and died not by the hands of man but by the sovereign will of God. There is no exception to this absolute truth. A caveat must be stated that the evil men who persecuted Paul or Christ are guilty for sins committed against God and yet all that they did could not have been possible if God had not allowed it in the first place. AMEN.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Isaiah 28:1-13

TUESDAY: Isaiah 28:14-29

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 28:1-29

THURSDAY: Isaiah 28:1-29

FRIDAY: Isaiah 28:1-29.

Discussion Questions

1. Should pastors and elders be allowed to drink? Do you want pastors and elders who drink to be guardians of your spiritual life and that of your children? Do you drink yourself? Please explain your answer if there is a double standard in your answer.

2. Will God write us off and begin with a new generation if we refuse to repent and change our ways? Has God written off New Testament Gentile witnesses the way He wrote off Israel and Judah? Please explain your answer.

3. Who might constitute as leaders who have made a covenant with Hell and death, and made themselves invisible today in your opinion? They have also made lies their refuge and hid under falsehood

for protection. Will they repent today? Please explain your answer.

4. Are the judgements of man crooked? Please elaborate. Where is the straight judgement of God found today? Do you apply this judgement in your day-to-day life? Cite an example please if you can.

5. Are you a discerning Christian? How does a person gain discernment? Can an unbeliever be said to be discerning from the Bible's perspective? Are all Christians supposed to be discerning? Does discernment come automatically with salvation? Please explain.

6. Does God deal with you in many ways other than just chastisement? Please explain your answer.

7. What lessons can you learn from this chapter about God's Word and about yourself?
