

DAY 204 – THE DAY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 28-29
Zephaniah 1-2
Proverbs 11:9-12

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast. – Zephaniah 1:14

Zephaniah is a prophet in the time of Josiah around 630 BC. This prophet has five accusations against Judah in Chapter 1: idolatry (v. 4), prayer (v. 6), bad leaders (v. 8), superstitions (v. 9), don't believe in judgment (v. 12). These accusations go to the heart of relationship with God. Reflect on your own life and if you would stand in judgment on any of these five things. Ask God to reveal where you are failing and pray for the graces to give you strength to correct this weakness. Yet Zephaniah is also talking about correction, God's justice and a promise of restoration Chapter 2:3: *"Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his commands; seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the wrath of the Lord."*

Isaiah warns Judah about the consequences of drinking too much wine. Keep in mind that wine is also considered good in Scripture where it is offered for joyful celebration. But what Isaiah is talking about in Chapter 28 is the overindulgence of wine. The consequences of drinking too much wine affect the good things that we have been given by God: intellect, will and goodness. With drunkenness, we have a darkening of the intellect, a weakening of the will and an attraction to sin.

Two or three small things for you to note in Isaiah. *"Behold, I am laying in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone"* (Isaiah 28:16) is linked directly to 1 Peter in reference to Jesus. And *"For the Lord will rise up as on Mount Perazim, he will rage as in the valley of Gibeon."* (Isaiah 28:21) refers to 2 Samuel 5 when God gave victory to David upon Mount Perazim and Joshua 10 when God gave victory to Joshua in the valley of Gibeon. And in Isaiah 29, Isaiah refers to Jerusalem as Ariel which means lion of God. It is meant as a criticism since Jerusalem is ready to be besieged.

Finally, in Isaiah 28:24-29, Isaiah is reminding Judah that a farmer doesn't always plough, or seed, or water, or fertilize, or harvest, but does what is needed at the time. In the same way, God does what is needed in His time with His will.

"With patience and the help of God, many things changed in time. Perhaps at first something seems to be an unbearable cross, but later on thanks God on noticing how roses have bloomed out of all the thorns."

– St. Arnold Janssen