

Precept upon Precept:

We start this study in the book of Isaiah, Chapter 28 finding the prophet expressing Yah's disappointment in Ephraim, referring to the 10 lost tribes of Israel that have departed from Judah and led away by the world.

Isa 28:1~8 Woe to the **crown of pride**, to the drunkards of Ephraim (*those walking in an up-lifted manner*), whose glorious beauty is a **fading flower** (*your dying*), which are on the head of the **fat valleys** (*the rich places blessed by Yah*) of them that are overcome with **wine!** (*Intoxicated living, the riches of this world*) Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one (*referring to Yahshua*), which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand. (*Yahshua comes with the wrath of Yah*) The **crown of pride**, the **drunkards** of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet: (*The prideful, intoxicated by life's riches*) And the glorious beauty, which is on the head of the **fat valley** (*the wealthy lands of earth blessed by Yah*), shall be a **fading** flower, and as the hasty fruit before the summer (*the first of the first fruit*); which when he that looketh upon it, seeth while it is yet in his hand, he eateth it up. (*The first fruits are devoured by self, rather than being a gift to other*) In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people, (*Yahshua will shine gloriously on the "Day of the Lord"*) And for a spirit of judgment to him that **sitteth in judgment**, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate. (*Yahshua is coming to judge all that live outside of His laws.*) But they also have erred through **wine**, and through **strong drink** are **out of the way** (*delusional apart from the law*); the priest and the prophet have erred through **strong drink**, they are swallowed up of **wine**, they are **out of the way** through strong drink; **they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.** (*Yah's messengers are intoxicated by liberal thoughts that are contrary to Yah's laws' of righteousness*) For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean. (*As a dog returns to its vomit, so a person once pulled from the filth of the world, returns back to a life of sin*).

The crown of pride is a reference to those that live as if they are righteous according to Yah's ways, yet are found lacking. They live in the fat valley, associating with the Promised Land or developed world, living well; enjoying the riches of the earth blessed by Yah's grace, yet are overcome by wine and strong drink. Wine in excess is an intoxicating drink that diminishes the senses, your ability to operate soundly. Enjoying the riches of the world blinds us by their alluring ability to lead us away from our goal: Yah and His kingdom. Yet Yahshua will return with vengeance against all that live outside of Yah's law. This time He returns to judge! Those first fruits of spring (associated with the Feast of Weeks or First Fruits) come before the summer harvest, known as the Feast of Ingathering. We who are called to bear in His service are seen as being unproductive, holding His gifts while serving and gratifying self. We, wearing the crown of pride allured by false teachings that exalt such behavior of self and wealth, are led away from righteousness, our calling.

We are found guilty, caught with His fruit in our hands turned rotten. We take and squander the profits upon self due to Our Creator, fruits and profits that are gifts of His Holy Spirit for the purpose of promoting Yah's word. Just as Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who held the money bag often self indulged in what was assigned to help others, we likewise are stealing as if we are taking that which is meant for others.

Jn12:1~6 Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; **but because he was a thief**, and had the bag, and bare (*or took*) what was put therein.

Once having been called out of the world to be a chosen people to Yah being cleansed from our sin, we, like Ephraim, are found once again eating at an unclean table from which we had already repented, making the following true: Truly a dog returns to its vomit.

So what happened? What caused the reversal in behavior and the result that follows? Why does one after receiving Yah's favor, forfeit his crown? The answer lays in the following verses.

Isa 28:9 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.**

Weaned from milk, refers to an infant no longer being fed from its mother's breast, one able to stand and feed itself. This is the one that Yah is willing to teach and give knowledge, to one possessing a maturing mind. Those that understand His way and **apply His will** in their lives show evidence **by their action**. These are the ones that Yah is willing to give the meat of the word because they are already using their talents wisely. To them Yah is willing to increase their understanding to make known His depth of wealth, His ways.

1Co 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Our immaturity, **shown by our actions**, demonstrates the lack of **understanding** and or **desire to** overcome the simple responsibility to stand on our own. The cause of irresponsibility is **immaturity** and **enabling**. As a creation of Yah's, we are designed to be constantly nourished to survive: Both physically as an infant to adulthood, and spiritually at the beginning of our calling fed milk until able to receive meat from Yah as we mature in implementing sound doctrine.

Immaturity: is the lacking of complete growth, or development, fruitless, on the part of developing. Having the potential capacity to attain a definitive form or state, but unable to, or unwilling to develop, exhibiting less than an expected development in becoming an adult. Age has no advantage. On the contrary, it becomes the mark of unwillingness of those who are immature.

Enabling: is the control of that which should be growing, maturing, yet aiding it's under development. Enabling forfeits the means or opportunity by which training gives occasion to earn responsibility. It makes possible, through inactivity, the practice of effortless living, not encouraging the capacity to develop. It assumes legal power over the person's capacity to mature, and by doing so, sanctions their inactive behavior. Enabling self with excuses or condoning this behavior in others promotes the same thing.

The character of enablers "feeders" whether self, parent, prophet, priest or friends provide the source from where one is being nurtured. With the greatest of intentions whose goal is to protect, they in actuality disarm the person by making excuses such as why one can't achieve. Assigning blame to physical and or spiritual reasons promoting fear or insecurity which hinders action. Excuses are the enabler's armor, preventing self and others from holding them accountable that hinder growth toward maturity.

A saying that so elegantly expresses this concept of feeding the helpless is: "You can give a man a fish and he eats for a day, or you can teach a man to fish and he eats for a life time"... enabling verses empowering.

Heb 5:12~14 For when for the time **ye ought to be teachers**, ye have need that one teach you **again** which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as **have need of milk**, and not of **strong meat**. For every one that useth milk is **unskilful in the word of righteousness**: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of **full age** (*fully matured*), even those who **by reason of use** have their senses **exercised** to **discern** both good and evil.

We are called to be first fruits of His produce, bearing the appearance of His likeness within us. As Yahshua is a teacher of the truth, we also are to follow His example evangelizing the gospel. Those that are still being fed the milk of the word are unskilled in righteousness. Righteousness is the product of the law. To produce righteousness one must **apply** the law in their life. It's not the knowing of Yah's way that affords us to be right, but in the **doing** of His laws that we obtain righteousness.

In verse 14 it's stated: "But **strong meat** belongs to them that are **fully matured**, even those who **by reason of use**, (the doing of the word) having their senses **exercised** (worked out by usage) to **discern** both good and evil (to make righteous judgment)." By the **application** of the words, He gives us the key to His Kingdom. Not in the knowing or the reciting, but in the **doing** of the Good News scripture that yields reward.

Returning to the book of Isaiah, Chapter 28, let's answer the question: "How does Yah afford us the ability to keep our crowns once given?" We keep our crown by following His laws, building upon their application while experiencing each principle of His word, growing through our actions.

Isa 28:10 For **precept** must be upon **precept**, **precept** upon **precept** **line upon line**, **line upon line**; **here a little**, and **there a little**:

Precept #06673. tsav; commandment, from #06680. tsavah; to constitute, enjoin: appoint, forbid, give a charge, give a command, a commandment, send a messenger, put or set in order.

Webster's Dictionary:

Pre-cept: a command or principle intended especially as a general rule of action, an order issued by legally constituted authority to a subordinate, official law. A law, canon, decree, edict, ordinance, prescript, regulation, rule, statute, fundamental, principle; a doctrine, dogma, or practice.

Yah is instructing us through the prophet Isaiah that every word that proceeds from the mouth of Yah, are commandments to us to be used to build the temple (our bodies) in which He lives. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of His Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"
1Co 6:19

Yah is building a house in which to live, and that house is you. He does not do it over night or all at once but piece by piece, precept upon precept, line upon line, a little here and a little there. Does one grow in stature in one day or gain the strength to lift heavy weights overnight? No, it's through time and exercise that the body grows to maturity, as does the mind and spirit of man. Each word once understood and then applied to the temple produces a part of the whole enhanced structure. Each supports the next piece to produce a temple in the image of Yah. All the adjoining pieces are not given at the same time, but as the structure is developing the next pieces are then supplied.

Thus, the fundamental words that Yah gives us to build upon must be understood and assimilated first and then most importantly **applied** to reap the spiritual value from them. To just hold His words in your hand and not use them is highlighted in the parable of the talents given in Mt 25:14~46. Wisdom comes from the **application** of knowledge and understanding. We must build ourselves up by the submission of self to His words...**by doing them**.

So why does one lose their bestowed crown? By just talking the talk...and not walking the walk. We can hold the pieces of building material out in front of us...His words, and make great pretense reciting them with elaborate descriptions of their meaning. But it's of no value unless it's put into daily living use; otherwise the gesture becomes just another stone block or piece of wood on the pile.

Continuing in Isa 28:11~13:

Isa 28:11~13 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: **yet they would not hear**. But the word of the LORD was unto them **precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little**; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

*The prophet Isaiah describes elaborately to the nation of Israel that another will come speaking these same words to them about losing their crown and that they in turn will not hear. The words that Yah sends to us through His messengers are for our admonishment, as well as to our detriment. We are allowed to be the controller of our destiny. We can **use** the words to build the house in which Yah would live, or insult our Creator by allowing His most precious gifts, His words, the building material, to lay dormant as we convince ourselves and others that our temple is already built and looks just fine.*

Peter speaks appropriately of one given the gift of truth being in turn made clean, but yet returns to a delusional, unclean state of knowing and not doing as if living intoxicated with wine.

2Pe 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed (*and made clean*) to her wallowing in the mire (*or mud*).

Isa 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with **their mouth**, and with **their lips** do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the **precept of men**:

*In today's society, worship is seen as the gathering of people to give words of acclamation with joyful song. Yet, lip service, apart from the desire of the heart, is far from what Yah expects as meaningful, pleasing worship to Him. Worship is an **action** that can be seen and felt by Yah. As we live for Him and our actions are evident in our lives and felt by others, we do show our worship to Him through His Holy Spirit living in us. The giving of the fruits of His Spirit through us is the acceptable offering by which to worship Him.*

Bible studies are not meant to address a word and then go and find all the associated verses that use or apply the same word. For that there is a concordance. Nor is it the search of the principle given by the words, and finding the correlating verses with a similar principle mentioned. For that there are many study Bibles with topics listed.

*No, the reason for Bible studies is to bring the words and principles into our inner most parts: To see and feel them interacting in our being, to find ourselves in the words, and the words working in us. To invoke self to look closely into the mirror, examining if the caricature revealed match that which is written of a saint. We are to go beyond the normal, stepping inside the mirror and meeting that person, to scrutinize if self is found in the likeness of Yah and His son, Yahshua. I am to find out who I really am, and to admit who I'm pretending to be. Also, I am to repent of my errors and change, coming to grips with my calling align myself with His word while there is still time. Learn what **applied worship** means: the sacrifice of self, being His servant to others, by giving the greatest of gifts, most cherished by Yah...**YOURSELF!***

*Precepts are the building material of the saints.
Use them while they are given, for regret lives beyond a life time.*

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