

"O be careful little hearts whom you trust." We teach our children that song, and for good reason, but it was an easily overlooked principle in the days of Isaiah. The northern kingdom of Israel would fall to Assyria in 722 B.C. and Assyria would invade Judah in 701 B.C. ("little more than a year" from the days of Isaiah 32:10). So who would God's people trust as life became more and more unstable?

Key passages:

- 28:1-13: "Ah, the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim…" • should the kings and people of Judah (1:1) trust and imitate the northern kingdom of Israel? If not, why not?

- 28:14-29: "Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers, who rule this people in Jerusalem…" • what do you see? What is the LORD communicating?

- 29:1-24: what is going to happen to Jerusalem? Why?

- 30:1-31:9: "Ah, stubborn children… who set out to go down to Egypt…" • what do you see? Why would God's people be tempted to trust in Egypt? Why is the LORD warning them about being careful who they trust?

- 32:1-20: "Behold, a king will reign in righteousness…" • what do God's people need to grasp?

- 33:1-35:10: even Assyria, the "destroyer" who had not yet "been destroyed," needs to be aware of who is truly and infinitely worthy of trust • as the LORD once again reveals himself as the Sovereign Lord over all the nations, what does he want his people to see and remember?

The takeaways:

- As those who "should remember the predictions of the holy prophets" (2 Pet 3:2), what should we take away from this section of Isaiah's prophecy?