

Isaiah 28:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.

Analysis

Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Having addressed Northern Israel (Ephraim, vv.1-4) and rebellious leaders generally (vv.7-13), Isaiah now specifically targets Jerusalem's rulers. **Scornful men** (anshei latson, אֲנָשִׁים לָצֹן, men of scoffing/mock) identifies them as the mockers of verses 9-10. Latson (לָצֹן) means scorn, derision—these are cynical leaders who ridicule prophetic warning. Proverbs frequently condemns scorners as unteachable (Proverbs 9:7-8, 13:1, 14:6, 15:12).

That rule this people which is in Jerusalem (moshlei ha'am hazeh asher bi-Yrushalayim, מְשֻׁלֵּי הָעָם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר בִּירוּשָׁלָם) emphasizes their responsibility. They're not powerless victims but leaders accountable for shepherding God's people. Their scornful attitude toward God's word makes them dangerous—they lead the flock astray. Jesus condemned scribes and Pharisees as blind guides (Matthew 23:16). Peter warns of scoffers in last days (2 Peter 3:3). Jude describes mockers who cause divisions (Jude 1:18-19). Scornful leaders poison those under their influence.

Historical Context

During Hezekiah's reign, Jerusalem's court had pro-Egyptian politicians who scorned Isaiah's warnings against allying with Egypt (Isaiah 30:1-7, 31:1-3). They considered themselves politically savvy realists; Isaiah was impractical idealist. Later, Jeremiah faced similar scorn from Jerusalem's leaders who rejected his warnings about Babylon (Jeremiah 37:15, 38:6). Jesus confronted Jerusalem's

rulers who mocked His claims (Luke 23:35). Throughout history, scornful leaders have led people to destruction by dismissing prophetic warnings as fanaticism.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What characterizes 'scornful' leadership versus humble, teachable leadership?
2. How do leaders who mock God's word corrupt those under their influence?
3. In what areas might you be scoffing at biblical teaching that challenges your plans or preferences?

Interlinear Text

מַשְׁלִיכִים לֹא אֲנָשִׁים שְׁמַע וְדָבָר יְהִינָּה הַלְּכָה |
H3651 Wherefore hear the word of the LORD H376 ye scornful that rule
H8085 H1697 H3068 H3944 H4910

בֵּית יְהִינָּה רַבְּנָן אֲשֶׁר בְּצָבָא מִשְׁלִיכִים
H2088 H834 H3389
this people which is in Jerusalem

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:10 (Word): Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

Isaiah 28:22 (References Lord): Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.

Isaiah 29:20 (Parallel theme): For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:

Acts 13:41 (Parallel theme): Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

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