

# Isaiah 28:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

## Analysis

**Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.** Having laid the true foundation (v.16), God now describes His construction standards. **Judgment...to the line, and righteousness to the plummet** (mishpat le-qav u-tsedaqah le-mishqalet, מִשְׁפָּט לְקֶוֶן וְצִדְקָה לְמִשְׁקָלֶת) uses building imagery. The measuring line (qav, קֶוֶן) and plumb line (mishqalet, מִשְׁקָלֶת, plummet) ensure straight, true construction. God's standards are perfect justice (mishpat, מִשְׁפָּט) and righteousness (tsedaqah, צִדְקָה). Amos 7:7-8 similarly uses plumb line imagery for God testing Israel.

When God applies His perfect standards, false refuges collapse: **the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies** (ve-ya'ah varad machseh kazav, וְיֵשֶׁה בָּרֶד מַחֲסֵה כָזָב) and **the waters shall overflow the hiding place** (ve-seter mayim yittofu, וְסִתֵּר מַיִם יִטְּפוּ). Hail and floods demolish structures not built to code. Political lies and false securities can't withstand divine judgment. This reverses verse 15 where they made lies their refuge—that refuge will be swept away. Only what's built on God's cornerstone with His standards survives (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

## Historical Context

Judah's Egyptian alliance failed exactly as Isaiah predicted. Pharaoh couldn't save Jerusalem. Babylon breached the walls (2 Kings 25:4). Waters of judgment

overflowed their false hiding place. Jesus warned of storms testing foundations (Matthew 7:24-27). Revelation 6:15-17 depicts those who hid in rocks crying for mountains to fall on them—no hiding place from God's wrath. Only those in Christ, building on the cornerstone with righteous lives, stand when judgment comes. All false refuges—wealth, power, religion without Christ—will be swept away.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's use of 'judgment to the line and righteousness to the plummet' assure believers that His standards are perfectly just?
2. What 'refuges of lies' and false 'hiding places' in your life need to be swept away before judgment does it?
3. How does building on Christ the cornerstone with righteous living ensure survival when God's judgment comes?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשֹׁמֵת י	מִשְׁפָּט	לְקו	וְצִדִּיקָה	לְמִשְׁקָל לֵת	
also will I lay	Judgment	to the line	and righteousness	to the plummet	
H7760	H4941	H6957	H6666	H4949	
וְיָעָה	בָּרֶד	מִחֹסֵה	כֵּן ב	וְיִסְתֵּר	מִיָּם
shall sweep away	and the hail	the refuge	of lies	the hiding place	and the waters
H3261	H1259	H4268	H3577	H5643	H4325
וְשָׁטְפוּ:					
shall overflow					
H7857					

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Kings 21:13** (Parallel theme): And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down.

**Revelation 16:21** (Parallel theme): And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

**Revelation 11:19** (Parallel theme): And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

**Isaiah 28:2** (Parallel theme): Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, 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.

**Jeremiah 7:14** (Parallel theme): Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

**Romans 2:5** (Righteousness): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

**Romans 2:2** (Judgment): But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.