



**Isaiah's Prophetic Warning to Israel of National Discipline because of a Corrupt Priesthood: R. B. Thieme, Jr., on Isa 28:7-10**

At the same time false prophets and teachers advised Israel to seek demonic counsel. The destructive counsel and the repudiation of doctrine by the inebriated priests, false prophets, and the people caused Isaiah to indicate that the next generation would be the audience for his message.

**Isaiah 28:9** - "To whom would He [God, through the prophet Isaiah] teach knowledge [doctrine]?"

And to whom would He interpret [בִּינְּ biyn: to perceive and understand (see Nehemiah 8:8)] the message?

Those just weaned from milk?

Those just taken from the breast?"

16. Please note that Nehemiah used the word בִּינְּ biyn to describe the end result of literal interpretation by Ezra and the Levites in:

**Nehemiah. 8:8** - So they read distinctly [פָּרַשׁ parash: to translate (from Hebrew to Aramaic)] from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense [שֶׁחֵל sechel: to set forth the singular meaning], and helped them to understand [בִּינְּ biyn: to perceive and understand] the reading.

17. Isaiah asks the question. "To whom would God interpret—בִּינְּ biyn—the message?" In other words. "Who is interested enough in the message in order to perceive and understand the message?"
18. That which Isaiah addresses is the apostate population of the Northern Kingdom during the time Sargon and Sennacherib threaten to invade. The time frame is between 711 and 701 B.C.
19. Colonel Thieme discusses this context and provides an analysis of Isaiah's revelation of how the Word of God is to be "perceived and understood":

**Thieme, Tongues, 5-6:**

The series of rhetorical questions in verse 9 confirm that the current generation had 'deaf ears.' The only hope of deterring judgment upon the client nation that has rejected God's Word lies in the teaching of doctrine and the subsequent spiritual growth of the next generation.

Although three thousand years have passed since Isaiah's warning, the same rejection and apathy prevail today. Unbelievers still reject the Gospel of salvation and believers are still indifferent to Bible doctrine, choosing to remain spiritual babies. There should be nothing more important on your scale of values than the daily intake of the Word of God. Doctrine should have the highest priority in your life!

**Isaiah 28:10** - "For He says, 'Precept on precept, precept on precept [לְצוֹר לְצוֹר Tzaw latsaw, tzaw latzaw]. Line on line, line on line [קוֹ לְקוֹ qaw laqaw, qaw laqaw], a little here, a little there [שָׁם זֶעִיר שָׁם זֶעִיר ze'eyr sham, ze'eyr sham].'"



Isaiah's brilliantly constructed tautology in the Hebrew sarcastically mimics the drunken, repetitious babbling of the degenerate priests, while at the same time describes the method of accurate doctrinal teaching—"precept on precept, line on line." The objective of doctrinal teaching is inculcation of biblical truth, but doctrine in the soul accumulates gradually in increments. One precept builds upon another. "Precept on precept" describes the classifications of divine truth. "Line on line," a word-by-word, verse-by-verse analysis, lifts these truths from the pages of Scripture.

20. It is interesting to note that, in addition to tautology, Isaiah is using metaphor to make his point. The spiritual leadership of Israel is commissioned the duty to teach the Word of God to the people but have failed to do so.
21. Instead they have become intoxicated with the wine of religion which is so often accompanied by repetitious mantras and ostentatious genuflections directed toward its pantheon of idols. They had become literal drunkards after first becoming intoxicated by the false doctrines of religion.
22. The proper approach to teaching doctrine is not the repetition of verbal and physical rituals but by repetition of instruction so that the soul is built up into an edifice edified with the absolute principles of the Word of God.
23. The theologian's goal is to systematically build a doctrinal structure in the souls of his flock so that they may become spiritually self-sustaining. To illustrate, Isaiah uses metaphor from the construction trade to make his point.
24. The word "precept" is the Hebrew noun צַוָּה *tzaw* and refers to a carpenter's rule that is marked off in units for measuring. It also refers to laws and may be translated "command" or "ordinance."
25. The Bible is an accumulation of principles that are designed to enable the individual to measure all things by a divine standard.
26. As one's spiritual growth advances through repetition he accumulates a high inventory of "measuring rules" by which he is able to analyze and discern all things and then apply them to life.
27. The word "line" is the Hebrew noun קֶוֶל *qaw* and refers to a "measuring line." This refers to the instructions derived from the building plan.
28. The architect indicates in his design what the dimensions of the building are to be and the carpenter uses his rule to transfer the information from the blueprint to the construction site.
29. By application, the truths contained in Word of God cannot be discerned without reference to the measuring line contained in the text of Scripture.
30. The measuring line in Scripture is precise biblical analysis which boils down to hermeneutics: a system that examines the Bible on a word-by-word, verse-by-verse basis.
31. We have established that the Old and New Testaments indicate the authentic system of biblical hermeneutics is the literal-grammatical-historical approach.