

Overthrowing God?

by Wayne Goff

Approximately 700 B.C., Jehovah prophesied through Isaiah that He would bring to nothing the plans of His enemies, and defeat their evil purposes. Listen to it:

“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily. Also I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the plummet; the hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters will overflow the hiding place. Your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overflowing scourge passes through, then you will be trampled down by it’” (28:16–18).

The Precious Cornerstone

God promised that He would lay in Jerusalem a sure foundation with a tried, precious cornerstone. 1 Peter 2:6-8 clearly identifies that Cornerstone as none other than Jesus Christ! He is the *only* foundation of His building, the church (1 Cor. 3:11). He is **the** Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). Those who believe in Him will not be put to shame, or act hastily. God accomplished His purpose even when Satan and the unbelieving world tried to stop Him!

The Refuge of Lies

Furthermore, Isaiah wrote *“the hail will sweep away the refuge of lies”* (28:17). The context points to the **foundation of lies** built up by Judah’s false prophets, priests, and political rulers. The nation was constantly bucking up against God and trying to overthrow His will, His law and His godliness! It is the same in America today — **the foundation of lies** which promotes gross immorality and sin will one day be swept away by the fierce storm of God’s wrath, just as it was in Judah’s day! Men and nations plot against God, but they do so in vain.

When Peter and John were commanded not to speak in the Name of Jesus Christ ever again in Jerusalem, they refused, saying that it was better to obey God than man! (Acts 4:19). Having been threatened and released, Peter and John gathered with the church and with one accord they raised their voices, quoting Psalm 2: *“Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ”* (Acts 4:25-26). But to no avail! Jesus Christ rules today from heaven as the King of kings and the Lord of lords! The raging nations have all been destroyed.

The Agreement with Death Annulled

The same kind of false prophets, lying priests and controlling political rulers in Jesus’ day made a *“covenant with death”* and an *“agreement with Sheol”* when they plotted to put to death an innocent Man — Jesus Christ, God’s only Son! God defeated that plot by raising up Jesus Christ from the dead three days after He was crucified (Matt. 26-28)!

On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the apostles stood before a massive Jewish audience and proclaimed that even though the Jews had taken Jesus and crucified Him, still *“...God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it”* (Acts 2:24). Thomas Kempis once wrote, *“For man proposes, but God disposes; neither is the way of man in his own hands”* [*The Imitation Of Christ*].

Kempis was only reflecting the wisdom of God found in the Bible. *“A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps”* (Prov. 16:9). And again: *“There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the LORD’S counsel — that will stand”* (Prov. 19:21).

Plan as you might, no man, no group of men, no nation, and no group of nations can overthrow the righteous judgments of God. God can make foolish the wisdom of man and even cause their wicked plans to accomplish His purposes!

Let true believers comfort themselves with these thoughts, and let the unbelievers consider their ways. It is vain and foolish to fight against God.

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