

Damascus" is clearly predicted. And really here in Isa.28 Ephraim is pictured as still in prosperity and bloom rather than in the decadence of Hoshea's time, but there sin has an end. Commentators struggle with the "overflowing scourge", the strange mixed metaphor of 28:15; "the swelling scourge", says Delitzsch (op.cit.). (*שׁוֹבַע שׁוֹבַע*). Emendations have been suggested, but none seems necessary. It is merely another example of the exalted diction of the prophet who uses essentially ~~xxxx~~ poetic style to express his meaning. But the awful reality of the metaphor is apparent to all and came home to the people with intensified force as it was later literally fulfilled when the dust of Samaria did not suffice for handfuls for the soldiers of Assyria.

Before we leave chapter 28 we must deal briefly with verse 16, which is quoted in Rom.9:33; 10:11; and I Pet.2:6 as referring to Christ. We need not argue the propriety of ~~xxxx~~ a reference to the Messiah being couched in such terms. The Old Testament believer would have understood this verse as prophetic, and indeed the Targums insert "on him" after "whoseever believeth".¹ If we adopt the Septuagint and New Testament rendering "shall not be ashamed",² it requires a personal and Messianic reference. But again notice that this Messianic advent is thrown into the midst of the plain denunciation of Israel and prediction of the Assyrian invasion without an inkling that it is many years future except the prediction ~~that~~ here and elsewhere (amos 5:27 e.g.) that Israel's captivity would be carried out.

The woe upon Ariel on the other hand is not unmitigated, but definitely promises deliverance to Jerusalem as early as the second verse. The name Ariel

1. Toy, New Testament Quotations, p.146.

2. The Hebrew has *לֹא יִשְׁתָּבֵשׁ*, hasten. The LXX has *οὐκ ἐνένοχον*. The Syriac has *ܐܝܢܐ ܕܥܝܪܐܝܠ ܕܥܝܪܐܝܠ* (fear). The LXX and Syriac readings could be satisfied and the sense of the passage made much plainer if a transcriptional error be assumed (with Grotius, Houbigant, and Lowth against Alexander in loc.) and put for *ܐܝܢܐ ܕܥܝܪܐܝܠ*. Kennicott lists *ܐܝܢܐ ܕܥܝܪܐܝܠ* as a variant.