

1 Isaiah 29

July 5, 2023

2 Isaiah 29:1-4 NKJV

"Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! Add year to year; Let feasts come around. [2] Yet I will distress Ariel; There shall be heaviness and sorrow, And it shall be to Me as Ariel. [3] I will encamp against you all around, I will lay siege against you with a mound, And I will raise siegeworks against you. [4] You shall be brought down, You shall speak out of the ground; Your speech shall be low, out of the dust; Your voice shall be like a medium's, out of the ground; And your speech shall whisper out of the dust.

3

Ariel (Lion of God) refers to the city of Jerusalem

Isaiah continues with his theme of judgment upon Judah

The purpose of the judgment was for Israel to repent

Jerusalem would be brought low

They would be surrounded and besieged by the Assyrians under Senacherib 701 BC

They would speak softly because they will be humbled

4 Isaiah 29:5-8 NKJV

"Moreover the multitude of your foes Shall be like fine dust, And the multitude of the terrible ones Like chaff that passes away; Yes, it shall be in an instant, suddenly. [6] You will be punished by the LORD of hosts With thunder and earthquake and great noise, With storm and tempest And the flame of devouring fire. [7] The multitude of all the nations who fight against Ariel, Even all who fight against her and her fortress, And distress her, Shall be as a dream of a night vision. [8] It shall even be as when a hungry man dreams, And look-he eats; But he awakes, and his soul is still empty; Or as when a thirsty man dreams, And look-he drinks; But he awakes, and indeed he is faint, And his soul still craves: So the multitude of all the nations shall be, Who fight against Mount Zion."

5

God consoles Jerusalem through the prophet

They will not be conquered by the Assyrians

It will serve as a punishment or judgment, but God would intervene after a time and destroy the Assyrians (which came to pass)

The enemies will not win or gain satisfaction from their efforts

They will vanish like a dream (quickly forgotten)

Even in the near future when the troubles subsided Israel went back to their old ways quickly instead of repenting (back to normal life like waking up from a dream)

6 Isaiah 29:9-10 NKJV

Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink. [10] For the LORD has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.

7

Delaying obedience is still disobedience

There is a real danger in putting off repentance

The LORD is warning them not to harden their hearts

The danger in delaying repentance is being spiritually blinded (by God)

Even the prophets will be blinded and lack spiritual vision

8 Isaiah 29:11-12 NKJV

The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." [12] Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I am not literate."

9 "They did not understand God's revelation about His judgment on the Assyrians that Isaiah recorded on a scroll (vv. 11–12). No one, either people who could read or those who couldn't, could understand this truth."

John A. Martin, "Isaiah," in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1079.

10 Isaiah 29:13-14 NKJV

Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths
And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their
fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, [14] Therefore, behold, I
will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a
wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of
their prudent men shall be hidden."

11

Professing vs. Proving

The people professed that they worshipped God

But, their heart, was far from worship

They were performing faithless, ritualistic works

Like professing to be in Christ, attending church, but living like hell the rest of the week

God views the heart

Spiritual blindness is sure to follow (would you trust someone like this to your greatest treasures?)

12 Isaiah 29:15-16 NKJV

Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the LORD, And their
works are in the dark; They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?" [16]
Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay;
For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall
the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

13

God pronounced woe on them.

They foolishly thought He did not see their double life

A fools errand

The potter has sole authority over the clay and knows every intricate detail

As it is with God our creator, he knows our secret life

14 Isaiah 29:17-21 NKJV

Is it not yet a very little while Till Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, And the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest? [18] In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. [19] The humble also shall increase their joy in the LORD, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel. [20] For the terrible one is brought to nothing, The scornful one is consumed, And all who watch for iniquity are cut off- [21] Who make a man an offender by a word, And lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate, And turn aside the just by empty words.

15

Speaks of future, I believe, millennial events

Fertile field (Karmel) - this idea of the field or vineyard has been referenced before referring to Israel

Their spiritual blindness will be lifted

Justice will prevail

The humble will prevail

The evil and scornful will be brought to nothing

16 Isaiah 29:22-24 NKJV

Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall not now be ashamed, Nor shall his face now grow pale; [23] But when he sees his children, The work of My hands, in his midst, They will hallow My name, And hallow the Holy One of Jacob, And fear the God of Israel. [24] These also who erred in spirit will come to understanding, And those who complained will learn doctrine."

17

This is GRACE

Restoration

Shame taken away

Understanding restored