

The Book of Isaiah

Chapters 28-33

The 6 Woes Concerning Ephraim, Judah, and Jerusalem

Chapter 29

WOE #2 & 3: The City of David, Ariel

These two “woes” are both concerning Jerusalem, the city of David. The term employed is “ariel” meaning lion of God¹ and is an idiom for Jerusalem the city where David dwelt.

Sudden Destruction Cometh (1-15): Jerusalem’s distress would come suddenly upon them. Our Lord when dealing with the coming Tribulation warns of the same thing: **But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (Mt 24:37-39)**

(1-6) The Downfall of Ariel: Historically Nebuchadnezzar’s armies encamped around Jerusalem laying siege to it bringing it down to the ground being weakened they will speak out of the dust of the ground in a low whisper (**vs.4**).

(7-8) The Dreams of the Adversaries: Isaiah switches from God’s judgments against His people to those who attack Jerusalem. God sometimes uses His enemies to punish His own people. He will judge the Jew first, then judge those who attack the Jews. It is the rod in His hand issue in Isaiah 10:5-15.

Any nation who dreams of destroying God’s people will eventually wake up and realize they are only dreaming (**vs.8**). Historically Isaiah is prophesying about the Assyrian army led by Sennacherib who boasted they would defeat Jerusalem (**Isa. 36:13-20**). But Sennacherib is “dreaming” for in one night while 185,000 Assyrian soldiers encamped against Jerusalem, God sent His angel and killed every last one of them (**Isa. 37:36**).

(9-16) The Blind, Deaf and Dumb: As the judgment against Jerusalem reaches its prophetic climax the nation will be led by a leadership that is blind to spiritual truths.

¹ Even today there is a periodical published in Jerusalem called “the Ariel”.

This took place during the time of the gospels, the climatic stages of Gods dealings with the nation. Our Lord quoted Isaiah 29:13 to the Pharisees saying, **“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”** (Mt 15:7-9).

The Pharisees are that “blind leaders of the blind” (Matt. 15:12-14). They have the words of the Lord before them, but they are blind to their spiritual truths, for they add to the commandments of men making the word of God of none effect. Thus, Isaiah mentions the issue of “the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: (Isa 29:11).

The nation is blinded to spiritual truths. Thus, when our Lord read from the words of the prophet Isaiah (Luke 4:16-22 cf. Isa. 61:1-2) our Lord stopped before completing the verse and said, “... This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. (Lu 4:21). Our Lord knew the meaning of the passage, He was not blind as they were. Thus, our Lord’s scathing rebuke in Matthew 23 is replete with the issue of them being “blind” (see Matthew 23:16, 17, 19, 24, 26).

The “marvelous work and a wonder” (vs. 14) is the issue of truth would be revealed to “babes”, the disciples: **“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. (Mt 11:25-27).** The Father has “delivered” unto Jesus Christ who will reveal unto those whom He will. This is the issue of our Lord speaking in parables (see Matt. 13:1 cf. 34).

The reason for the judgment is once again stated in verses 15-16 and is the issue of calling “evil good and good evil” (cf. Isa. 5:20).

The Woe of Jerusalem will be turned into rejoicing (17-24): Isaiah now turns to the coming future deliverance. God will make the nation a fruitful field in which it will bud and grow (vs. 17 cf. Isa. 32:15-16).

The Blind see and the Deaf Hear (vss. 18, 24): Both spiritually and physically. Spiritually they will understand the “closed book”. Thus, the Book of Revelation starts with “**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches**” (Rev. 2:7, 11, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). The spirit of anti-christ will be removed and they will see Jesus as the Christ (**Zech. 12:10**). Physically our Lord healed the blind and deaf. This was a sign to the nation in accordance with the coming kingdom. Thus, when John the Baptist doubted of who Jesus was our Lord quotes **Isaiah 35:5-6** see **Matt. 11:2-5**.

The Meek shall inherit the earth (vs. 19): When our Lord was educating the disciples on conduct worthy of rewards, He mentioned they were to be meek, for they shall inherit the earth (**Matt. 5:5**). Their meekness will be turned into joy at the coming of the Lord who will reward them accordingly for their conduct.

The End of the Terrible one (vss. 20-21): The “**terrible one**” historically would be Sennacherib at the time of Isaiah but prophetically will be the man of sin.

The Covenant to Abraham Fulfilled (vs. 22-23): God will bring to past all the covenant promises He gave to Abraham concerning his children.