

Isaiah 29 - Woe to Ariel (Jerusalem); The Blindness of Disobedience

I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1–35:10)

(3) Condemnation of the world (Is 24:1–35:10)

(B) Six woes (Is 28:1–33:24)

(b) Religious hypocrisy (29:1-24)

(i) Coming siege on Jerusalem for religious hypocrisy (29:1-4)

(ii) Judgment upon Israel's oppressors (29:5-8)

(iii) Further judgment upon Jerusalem for her continued spiritual insensitivity (29:9-14)

(c) Deception: concealing actions from God (29:15-24)

(i) Such action exalts man over his creator (29:15-16)

(ii) God will judge the wicked and exalt the humble (29:17-24)

Isaiah 29

(b) Religious hypocrisy (29:1-24)

(i) Coming siege on Jerusalem for religious hypocrisy (29:1-4)

1 Woe, Ariel, Ariel the city where David once camped! Add year to year, keep *your feasts* on schedule.

1 Woe, O Ariel, Ariel the city where David once camped! Add year to year, observe *your feasts* on schedule.

1 "How terrible it will be for you, Aruel, Aruel, the city where David encamped! Year after year, let your festivals run their cycle.

1 Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices.

– "Woe" - the second of six woes (Cf. Is 5): Is 28:1; 29:1,15; 30:4; 31:1; 33:1

– "...Ariel" - Lion of God; used as an idiom for Jerusalem

2 I will bring distress to Ariel, And she will be a *city of grieving and mourning*; And she will be like an Ariel to me.

2 I will bring distress to Ariel, And she will be a *city of lamenting and mourning*; And she will be like an Ariel to me.

2 Then I'll besiege Aruel, and there will be sorrow and mourning; she will become to me like an altar fireplace.

2 Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel.

3 I will camp against you encircling you, And I will set up siegeworks against you, And I will raise up battle towers against you.

3 I will camp against you encircling you, And I will set siegeworks against you, And I will raise up battle towers against you.

3 Then I'll encamp against you like David, and I'll lay siege to you with towers, raise siege works against you,

3 And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee.

- God's heavy judgment upon Jerusalem.

- Again, the near and far horizons blend:

— The near view is of Sennacherib's invasion and the destruction of the Assyrian host by the Angel of the Lord (Is 36-37)

— The far view is that of the final gathering of the Gentile hosts against Jerusalem at the end of the great tribulation (Ps 2:5; Rev 7:14)

4 Then you will be brought low; From the earth you will speak, And from the dust *where* you are prostrate Your words *will come*. Your voice will also be like that of a spirit from the ground, And your speech will whisper from the dust.

4 Then you will be brought low; From the earth you will speak, And from the dust *where* you are prostrate Your words *will come*. Your voice will also be like that of a spirit from the ground, And your speech will whisper from the dust.

4 and you will be brought down. You will speak from the ground, and your speech will mumble from the dust. Your voice will come ghostlike from the ground, and your speech will whisper from the dust.

4 And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust.

(ii) Judgment upon Israel's oppressors (29:5-8)

5 But the multitude of your enemies will become like fine dust, And the multitude of the ruthless ones like the chaff which blows away; And it will happen instantly, suddenly.

5 But the multitude of your enemies will become like fine dust, And the multitude of the ruthless ones like the chaff which blows away; And it will happen instantly, suddenly.

5 "But the hordes of your enemies will become like fine dust, and the hordes of tyrants like flying chaff. Then suddenly, in an instant,

5 Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.

6 From the LORD of armies you will be punished with thunder and earthquake and loud noise, *With* whirlwind and tempest and the flame of a consuming fire.

6 From the LORD of hosts you will be punished with thunder and earthquake and loud noise, *With* whirlwind and tempest and the flame of a consuming fire.

6 you will be visited by the LORD of the Heavenly Armies— with thunder, an earthquake, and great noise, with a windstorm, a tempest, and flames from a devouring fire.

6 Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.

7 And the multitude of all the nations who wage war against Ariel, Even all who wage war against her and her stronghold, and who distress her, Will be like a dream, a vision of the night.

7 And the multitude of all the nations who wage war against Ariel, Even all who wage war against her and her stronghold, and who distress her, Will be like a dream, a vision of the night.

7 Then the hordes of all the nations that fight against Aruel, all that attack her and her fortification and besiege her, will become like a dream, with its visions in the night—

7 And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision.

8 It will be as when a hungry person dreams— And behold, he is eating; But when he awakens, his hunger is not satisfied, Or as when a thirsty person dreams— And behold, he is drinking, But when he awakens, behold, he is faint And his thirst is not quenched. So will the multitude of all the nations be Who wage war against Mount Zion.

8 It will be as when a hungry man dreams— And behold, he is eating; But when he awakens, his hunger is not satisfied, Or as when a thirsty man dreams— And behold, he is drinking, But when he awakens, behold, he is faint And his thirst is not quenched. Thus the multitude of all the nations will be Who wage war against Mount Zion.

8 as when a hungry man dreams— he eats, but wakes up still hungry; or when a thirsty man dreams— he drinks, but wakes up faint, with his thirst unquenched. So will it be with the hordes of all the nations that fight against Mount Zion.

8 It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.

(iii) Further judgment upon Jerusalem for her continued spiritual insensitivity (29:9-14)

9 Be delayed and horrified, Blind yourselves and be blind; They become drunk, but not with wine, They stagger, but not with intoxicating drink.

9 Be delayed and wait, Blind yourselves and be blind; They become drunk, but not with wine, They stagger, but not with strong drink.

9 "Act stupid! Be astonished! Act blind, and be blind! Be drunk, but not from wine; stagger around, but not from strong drink.

9 Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink.

10 For the LORD has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep, He has shut your eyes—the prophets; And He has covered your heads—the seers.

10 For the LORD has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep, He has shut your eyes, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, the seers.

10 For the LORD has poured out upon you a spirit of deep sleep— he has closed your eyes, you prophets, he has covered your heads, you seers!"

10 For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

- God's reasons for discipline (Cf. Ezek 36:22ff)

11 The entire vision will be to you like the words of a sealed book, which, when they give it to the one who is literate, saying, "Please read this," he will say, "I cannot, because it is sealed."

11 The entire vision will be to you like the words of a sealed book, which when they give it to the one who is literate, saying, "Please read this," he will say, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

11 "And this entire vision has become for you like the words of a sealed book. When people give it to someone who can read, and say, 'Read this, please,' he answers, 'I cannot, because it is sealed.'

11 And 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:

12 Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying, "Please read this." And he will say, "I cannot read."

12 Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying, "Please read this." And he will say, "I cannot read."

12 Or when they give the book to someone who cannot read, and say, 'Read this, please,' he answers, 'I don't know how to read.'"

12 And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

The Hypocrisy of the Leaders of Israel

13 Then the Lord said, "Because this people approaches Me with their words And honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of the commandment of men that is taught;

13 Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*,

13 Then the Lord said: "Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, worship of me has become merely like rules taught by human beings.

13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

- Jesus quotes this verse in Mark 7:6-7 to rebuke the Pharisees

14 Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men will perish, And the understanding of their men who have understanding will be concealed."

14 Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men will perish, And the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed."

14 Therefore, watch out! "As for me, I will once again do amazing things with this people, wonder upon wonder. The wisdom of their wise men will perish, and the insights of their discerning men will stay hidden."

14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

(c) Deception: concealing actions from God (29:15-24)

(i) Such action exalts man over his creator (29:15-16)

15 **Woe** to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are *done* in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"

15 Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are *done* in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"

15 "How terrible it will be for you who go to great depths to hide your plans from the LORD, you whose deeds have been done in the dark, and who say, 'Who can see us? Who has recognized us?'

15 Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

- "Woe" - third of six woes (Cf. Is 5); Is 28:1; 29:1,15; 30:1; 31:1; 33:1.

16 You turn *things* around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, That what is made would say to its maker, "He did not make me"; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

16 You turn *things* around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, That what is made would say to its maker, "He did not make me"; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

16 He has turned the tables on you— as if the potter were thought to be like heat. Can what is made say of the one who made it, 'He did not make me?' Or can what is formed say of the ones who formed it, 'He has no skill?'

16 Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

(ii) God will judge the wicked and exalt the humble (29:17-24)

The Regeneration of Israel

17 Is it not yet just a little while Before Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field, And the fertile field will be considered as a forest?

17 Is it not yet just a little while Before Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field, And the fertile field will be considered as a forest?

17 "In a very little while, will not Lebanon be turned into a garden of fruit, and the garden of fruit seem like a forest?

17 Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?

18 On that day those who are deaf will hear words of a book, And out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of those who are blind will see.

18 On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, And out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

18 On that day the deaf will hear the words of a scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

19 The afflicted also will increase their joy in the LORD, And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

19 The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the LORD, And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

19 The humble will again experience joy in the LORD, and the poorest people will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

19 The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

20 For the ruthless will come to an end and the scorner will be finished, Indeed all who are intent on doing evil will be eliminated,

20 For the ruthless will come to an end and the scorner will be finished, Indeed all who are intent on doing evil will be cut off;

20 For the ruthless will vanish, and mockers will disappear, and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down—

20 For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:

21 Who cause a person to be indicted by a word, And set a trap for the arbitrator at the gate, And defraud the one in the right with meaningless arguments.

21 Who cause a person to be indicted by a word, And ensnare him who adjudicates at the gate, And defraud the one in the right with meaningless arguments.

21 those who make a person appear to be the offender in a lawsuit, who set a trap for someone who is making his defense in court, and push aside the innocent with specious arguments.

21 That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.

22 Therefore this is what the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, says concerning the house of Jacob: "**Jacob will not be ashamed now**, nor will his face turn pale now;

22 Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall not now be ashamed, nor shall his face now turn pale;

22 "Therefore, this is what the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, says concerning the house of Jacob: No longer will Jacob be ashamed; no longer will his face grow pale.

22 Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.

- "...Jacob will not be ashamed now" - for most of Jewish history, Jacob would've been ashamed of the waywardness of his descendants; however, when national regeneration comes (Jer 31:31-34), he will have much to be proud of.

23 But when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, They will sanctify My name; Indeed, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, And will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

23 But when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, They will sanctify My name; Indeed, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob And will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

23 For when he sees in his midst his children, the work of my hands, they will keep my name holy; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and stand in awe of the God of Israel.

23 But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.

24 "Those who err in mind will know the truth, And those who criticize will accept instruction.

24 "Those who err in mind will know the truth, And those who criticize will accept instruction.

24 Moreover, those who go astray in spirit will gain understanding, and those who complain will accept instruction."

24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.