

A lesson about God's Judgment. There is a time and a season when God chooses to act.

God deals w/ each one in a way to bring out the best of them. Not everyone responds to God in the same way.

23 Give ear, and hear my voice;
give attention, and hear my speech.

24 Does he who plows for sowing plow continually?
Does he continually open and harrow his
ground?

25 When he has leveled its surface,
does he not scatter dill, sow cumin,
and put in wheat in rows
and barley in its proper place,
and emmer as the border?

26 For he is rightly instructed;
his God teaches him.

27 Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge,
nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin,
but dill is beaten out with a stick,
and cumin with a rod.

28 Does one crush grain for bread?
No, he does not thresh it forever;
when he drives his cart wheel over it
with his horses, he does not crush it.

29 This also comes from the LORD of hosts;
he is wonderful in counsel
and excellent in wisdom.

The Siege of Jerusalem

29 **Ah**, Ariel, Ariel,
the city where David encamped!
Add year to year;
let the feasts run their round.

Ah = חֲבֵה

23) ISAIAH DECLARE HIS INTENTION TO SPEAK FOR GOD. HE IMPLORES THEY LISTEN. HE REPEATS THIS TO BRING HOME THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO PROCLAIM.

24) THE 2 QUESTIONS ARE ASKED KNOW THE ANSWER IS NO. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS TO FARMING THAT ALSO MUST BE DONE.

25) AFTER PLOWING OR BREAKING UP THE GROUND THE FARMER PLANTS NEW SEEDS. ISAIAH IS SHOWING JUDGMENT AND RESTORATION TOGETHER. EVEN AS GOD BREAKS UP OR JUDGES & DISCIPLINES HE HAS PLANS TO PLANT AND RESTORE WHAT WAS LOST.

26) REAL TRUTH COMES FROM GOD. THE GOD WHO CREATED IS THE ONE WHO INSTRUCTS ON HOW TO USE HIS CREATION.

27) THERE IS A WRONG WAY TO DO THINGS, AND A RIGHT WAY. SOME HARVESTING USES ONE METHOD, SOME ANOTHER. THE GOAL IS TO NOT HURT THE SEED. (EVERYONE DOES NOT RESPOND THE SAME WAY. WISDOM IS NEEDED)

28) THE PURPOSE OF THE HARVEST IS TO SEPARATE AND PREPARE THE GRAIN TO BE USEFUL. HE SEPARATES THAT WHICH HE WANTS FROM THAT HE DOES NOT WANT. WHEN THE ENEMY COMES GOD WILL PROTECT HIS GRAIN (PEOPLE) WHILE ALLOWING THE OTHER (CHAFF) TO BE BURNED. THUS THE WICKED WILL BE PUNISHED AS THE RIGHTEOUS ARE REWARDED.

29) GOD IS A SPIRITUAL FARMER. HE KNOWS WHEN TO PLOW, PLANT, HARVEST AND BAKE. HE ALSO DISCARDS ALL HE FINDS USELESS.

1) ARIEL IS A NAME GIVEN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM OF UNKNOWN MEANING. THE ENCAMPING MAY REFER TO 2 SAM 5:7-9 WHERE DAVID CONQUERED THE CITY AND MADE IT HIS OWN.

• ISAIAH MOCKS THE PEOPLE. YEAR IN AN YEAR OUT YOU HAVE YOUR FEAST AS IF NOTHING CAN HAPPEN. JUST KEEP IT UP YOUR DAY IS COMING. NO MATTER HOW LONG GOD WANTS HIS JUDGMENT WILL HAPPEN AT A TIME HE CHOOSES.

2 Yet I will distress Ariel,
 and there shall be moaning and lamentation,
 and she shall be to me like an Ariel.
 3 And I will encamp against you all around,
 and will besiege you with towers
 and I will raise siegeworks against you.
 4 And you will be brought low; from the earth you
 shall speak,
 and from the dust your speech will be bowed
 down;
 your voice shall come from the ground like the
 voice of a ghost,
 and from the dust your speech shall whisper.

5 But the multitude of your foreign foes shall be like
 small dust,
 and the multitude of the ruthless like passing
 chaff.
 And in an instant, suddenly,
 6 you will be visited by the LORD of hosts
 with thunder and with earthquake and great noise,
 with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a
 devouring fire.
 7 And the multitude of all the nations that fight
against Ariel,
 all that fight against her and her stronghold and
 distress her,
 shall be like a dream, a vision of the night.
 8 As when a hungry man dreams, and behold, he is
 eating,

② Ariel the name Iserah used for Jerusalem is lost and meaning is missing. At the time it would have been obvious to the reader. Here God shows that the action taken is at His direction. He is particularly displeased w/ Ariel (Jerusalem) and as previously shown its leadership. THE CITY WILL BE FILLED w/ people who have no joy and live in fear. THE THIRD LINE LACKS understanding as we do not understand "ARIEL."

Though Assyria attacked it was God who removed His protection and allowed them to punish Jerusalem and Judah.

③ Even as the Assyrian Army surrounds THE CITY PHYSICALLY, God has surrounded them spiritually in Judgment. There is no escape. THE SIEGE OF THE ASSYRIAN ARMY WILL TOTALLY SURROUND JERUSALEM.

④ THE DEFEAT OF THE CITY WILL REDUCE THE INHABITANTS TO QUIET WHISPERS OF DEFEATED VICTIMS. LIKE GHOST WHO CANNOT BE SEEN AND ONLY HEARD THEY SHALL SPEAK IN DEFEATED WHISPERS. AREAIO TO RAISE THEIR VOICE.

⑤ Compared to God these armies are dust, nothing. Even though they are might enough to defeat 'Ariel' they rank nowhere when God moves.

⑥ God's appearance or arrival will be evident. God will make Himself known.

⑦ THIS SHOWS THAT THIS IS A CLEAR REFERENCE TO THOSE WHO ATTACKED & DEFEATED JERUSALEM. THESE ENEMIES WILL SUDDENLY VANISH LIKE A MAN WAKING FROM A DREAM.

⑧ Here the enemy finds like a dream their victory vanishes. THEY HAVE SERVED THEIR INTENDED PURPOSE AND ARE REMOVED NOT TO ENJOY THEIR VICTORY THAT DISAPPEARS LIKE A DREAM.

and awakes with his hunger not satisfied,
 or as when a thirsty man dreams, and behold, he is
 drinking,
 and awakes faint, with his thirst not quenched,
 so shall the multitude of all the nations be
 that fight against Mount Zion.

9 Astonish yourselves and be astonished;
 blind yourselves and be blind!
 Be drunk, but not with wine;
 stagger, but not with strong drink!
 10 For the LORD has poured out upon you
 a spirit of deep sleep,
 and has closed your eyes (the prophets),
 and covered your heads (the seers).

11 And the vision of all this has become to you like the words
 of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read,
 saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." 12 And
 when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read
 this," he says, "I cannot read."

13 And the Lord said:
 "Because this people draw near with their mouth
 and honor me with their lips,
 while their hearts are far from me,
 and their fear of me is a commandment taught
 by men,

14 therefore, behold, I will again (in the future, when they are
 restored to them)
 do wonderful things with this people,

#1 Spiritually-blinding

#2 Rejected the word

#3 Hypocritical worship

8 THE victory is but a ghost. It turns in to an apprehension
 that haunts them. One minute there is victory, the next it is gone.
 THESE ARMIES shall vanish suddenly and their victory will be
 snatched from them. It should be noted the city is no longer
 Ariel but is again called MOUNT ZION, or the fortress of God.

9-16 God gives 4 reasons or accuses the people why He is bringing
 Judgment upon them vs. 9-10 (Spiritually Blind, vs 13-14 (Hypocritical
 in worship), vs. 15-16 (Act like God cannot see/know their sins).

11-10 God is withholding His understanding because the people
 have rejected His truth. They are blind spiritually because this
 is their choice. They are drunk with their own choices.
 Their prophets and seers cannot see truth. SPIRITUAL TRUTH
 is unavaldole because of their spiritual blindness. Even as
 Isaiah warns them, they ignore and reject his preaching.
 God has reached a point of complete rejection of this people.
 Their spiritual drunkenness has made them unable to hear God.

11-12 Everyone has a reason for not following God's directions.
 Isaiah says they reject his preaching of truth. Some say
 the book is sealed 'I cannot read it,' while others just say,
 'I cannot read.' Here is a picture of His word being rejected.
 The people were leaving it sealed and unread as an act of
 ignorance. "He didn't know," will be the cry of many. While
 God declares, Paul the Apostle declares "men are w/out excuse. Rm 1:20
 That men would not, or could not read is of no concern to
 God. He provides the truth, what they do with it will
 determine how God rewards or punishes them.

13 Worship has become a ritual. The people do not know or
 have a relationship w/ God. This hypocritical worship is just
 a wearing of masks they are put on to impress each other and
 have nothing to do w/ the living God. Even Kings like
 Hezekiah failed to remove all the idols, and only brought
 them so far, but did not restore true worship to the nation.

14a behold God will act in spite of the people. God is not through
 with them. He still has purpose and even though they have
 rejected Him. He will again (in the future) move among these
 people in a miraculous way.

with wonder upon wonder;
and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,
and the discernment of their discerning men
shall be hidden."

#4 Act like God
cannot see their
sinful ways.

15 **Ah** you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel,
whose deeds are in the dark,
and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"
16 You turn things upside down!
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,
that the thing made should say of its maker,
"He did not make me";
or the thing formed say of him who formed it,
"He has no understanding"?

Restoration promised

17 Is it not yet a very little while
until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful
field,
and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a
forest?
18 In that day the deaf shall hear
the words of a book,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.
19 The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD,
and the poor among mankind shall exult in the
Holy One of Israel.
20 For the ruthless shall come to nothing
and the scoffer cease,
and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off,

Ah = woe

14b When God is restored, man's wisdom will perish. They will no longer follow the teachings of men. In effect the people will read and follow the words of God in the sealed book. They will stop making excuses and return to God.

15-16 Here is man turning everything upside down. First their actions are to hide or act as if God cannot see them. This allows or leads them to dark deeds. God is shown as not seeing them. He is a God who cannot know because they have hidden it from Him. Isaiah mocks them. Can the pot reject the potter? Can it claim to speak to silence its maker? Does the potter declare its knowledge exceeds that of the potter who formed it? The clay is mentioned first before the potter. Showing the importance men put on themselves when rejecting God. Only the potter has power to form, mold, decide use and purpose. Isaiah is showing how futile the actions of sinful men are. Man the clay pot did not make himself. He is made, created by the creator or potter.

17 Here is order being restored. War has passed and a long period of order and fruitful living. Enough time for a forest to grow. This is poetic language showing a time of peace & growth.

18 There will be a spiritual rebirth. The sealed book 29:11-12 will be open and read out loud. The miracle of the spiritual deaf and blind receiving the word willingly. Spiritual sight will be restored to the people.

19 Here is another picture of God's restoring power. Those with nothing find in God their joy and purpose for life. Here those willing to will again 'worship', exult "the Holy one." The nation will have turned for themselves to the Living God. The meek and the poor have loss that can come between them & God.

20 All that oppressed the people and led them astray are cut off. These who saw themselves as more important than their creator will be smashed like ruined pots.

21 who by a word make a man out to be an offender,
and lay a snare for him who reproves in the
gate,
and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in
the right.

(a) 22 Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham,
concerning the house of Jacob:

(b) "Jacob shall no more be ashamed,
no more shall his face grow pale.
23 For when he sees his children,
the work of my hands, in his midst,
they will sanctify my name;
they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob
and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.
24 And those who go astray in spirit will come to
understanding,
and those who murmur will accept
instruction."

Do Not Go Down to Egypt

30 "Ah, stubborn children," declares the LORD,
"who carry out a plan, but not mine,
and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit,
that they may add sin to sin;
2 who set out to go down to Egypt,
without asking for my direction,
to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh
and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!"

Ah = woe

(21) the actions of the wicked are outlined. THESE are the ones
that will be cut off by God. Isaiah wants them to know such
people will not be rewarded-

(22a) This clearly is addressing all Jews or Descendants of Abraham.
The House of Jacob is to all. There is no division in God's people
when they come before God. Paul states this clearly in Gal. 3.28.
It should be noted. w/out God's calling/redemption Abraham
was just another lost soul. God made Abraham a nation,
Abraham obeyed in faith. God the Potter, made Abraham the Pot.

(22b) Defeat is removed. This is about restoration. They are no longer
a defeated people and it will show.

(23-24) Now the future is bright. There is hope. These children will
again praise God and declare His name holy. Worship of God will
be restored. Understanding and repentance will return to the
people of God. Unlike before, now THE PEOPLES HEARTS will
BE OPEN to the truth of God's word. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED
THAT THIS IS BECAUSE THE PEOPLE AGAIN SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE.

① AGAIN Isaiah will warn them about counting on EGYPT to rescue
them. They refuse to listen to God or His Prophet. They are following
their own plan. Sin upon Sin. 1st they turned to ASSYRIA, now they
are looking to EGYPT. IN 29.15 they had shown they were sneaking
around ignoring God's counsel.

② Egypt, who once oppressed them, is now seen as THEIR SALVATION.
IN the past it was God and not EGYPT THAT saved them.