

ISAIAH 29

The Blind Shall See

Ariel Will Be Brought Low

1 Ah, Ariel, Ariel, the city where David encamped! Add year to year. Let the feasts run their round. 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 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.

Nations Who Fight Against Ariel Will Be Like a Dream

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 (פִּקַּד) by Yahweh of hosts with thunder, 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, 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.

Blind Yourselves and Be Blind

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 Yahweh has poured out upon you a spirit of deep sleep, 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.¹

12 And when they give the book to one who cannot read saying,

Read this!

he says,

¹ This reminds of the Chaldeans in Da 2 and 4. It also reminds of the sealed scroll of Re 5.

I cannot read.

13 And the Lord (יְהוָה) 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 do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder. And the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.

Deeds in the Dark

15 Ah, you who hide deep from Yahweh 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?

The Deaf Shall Hear and the Blind See

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

No More Shame for Jacob

22 Therefore thus says Yahweh, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob:

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.



Notes