

A Communion Message

Isaiah 29:1-24

August 14, 2022

The twenty-ninth chapter of Isaiah has some surprising revelations. It includes a prophecy about the eventual defeat of Judah, but also about God's deliverance of Jerusalem in a time of frightening siege. It alludes to God's altar of sacrifice upon which the Lamb of God was sacrificed for the sins of the world and to the millennial reign of King Jesus at the end of the age. Most of this is clothed in Isaiah's picturesque language and is clothed in symbolism.

There are five paragraphs in Chapter 29 which express these prophecies. (Coffman, Vol I)

- I. Jerusalem is Warned by the Siege of Sennacherib
(Isaiah 29:1-4, see also 2 Chronicles 32:1-33)
 - A. Sennacherib invades Judah, conquers cities, and lay siege against Jerusalem
 - B. He has a huge army that surrounds the city and he taunts Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem with blasphemies against the True God of Israel
 - C. Isaiah refers to Jerusalem as "Ariel" which has a double meaning: it can be translated "a lion," or "an altar hearth where the fire burns the sacrifice." The second meaning is most likely intended here.
 - D. The people celebrate the feasts and the Day of Atonement year by year, but their heart is not really in it—religion had become rote and nominal. Sennacherib's siege is a wake-up call.
- II. Despite Jerusalem's Worldliness, God Will Bring Great Deliverance
(Isaiah 29:5-8) Sennacherib will be destroyed in a single evening, the blink of an eye.
- III. Prophecy of the Hardening, or Blinding, of the People of Judah & Israel
(Isaiah 29:9-12)
- IV. Isaiah Repeats God's Warnings to Israel & Judah
(Isaiah 29:13-16)
- V. The Promise and Anticipation of a Glorious Future (Millennial Reign of Messiah)
(Isaiah 29:17-24)

Ariel is the Altar of God, the place of supreme sacrifice. It is in Jerusalem that the Lamb of God is slain for the sins of the world. It is a place of victory and of God's powerful deliverance—our God Who can do anything and defeat all enemies, great or small. The Last Supper is a reminder of this powerful sacrifice and our Lord's coming again. The Bread and the Wine; the Body and the Blood.