

God's City Tarnished

Isaiah 29:1-14

1. God _____ the City (v. 1-4)

a. Due to its _____

i. In _____

ii. In _____

b. With great _____

c. To the point of _____

2. God _____ the City (v. 5-8)

a. _____ multitude

i. _____

ii. _____

b. _____ multitude

3. God _____ the City (v. 9-14)

a. Full of _____ people

b. Full of _____ people

c. Full of _____ people

d. Full of _____ people

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' 1 Corinthians 1:18-19

But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor. Micah 4:12

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"Ariel" is a rather strange term to use for Jerusalem. It could mean "lion of God" and could refer to the coming "Lion of the Tribe of Judah," but that doesn't seem to fit the context.

A better rendering from the Hebrew is "altar hearth." This refers to the surface of the altar that is constantly burning and consumes the sacrifices offered to God. Such a word for Jerusalem would emphasize the presence of the temple and the worship of God in the temple envisioned by David.

- What is good and bad about the people's focus on David?
- What is good and bad about faithfulness to the sacrifices and the feasts which God instituted?
- Are there ways in which good history, good traditions, good theology and good worship can be "bad?"

Read the account of Sennacherib's siege of Jerusalem in 2 Chronicles 32:9-19. Compare this to Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 28. In what ways did the historical event fulfill the prophecy?

Even though God gave an historical deliverance of His people, this act itself may not have "saved" them. Why not? What needs to change in the lives of God's people?

- Notice the willful blindness of the people in verses 9-10. Describe how this can be the case in the church today.
- Notice the complacency and ignorance of the people in verses 11-12. Describe how this can be today.
- According to verse 13, what kind of worship is important?
- What is the "wonderful" thing God will do with this people? Read 1 Corinthians 1. How does Paul apply the words of this "wonderful thing?"

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