

## The Destruction of and Victory of Jerusalem

Reading first Isaiah 29 - Ariel here is clearly Jerusalem. It is the city where David dwelt. Ariel signifies to be lion like. It can signify the lion of God or strong lion, as the lion is often called the king among beast so was Jerusalem considered the strong city among cities. In Psalm 48 verses 1 and 2 Jerusalem is called the city of our God and the city of the great King. Ps 48:1-2 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. it was the head-city of Judah, who is called a lion's whelp (Gen 49:9) and whose ensign was a lion. When John in the Revelation was weeping because no one could open the scroll we are reminded that one of the elders said to him, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." Rev 5:5 We shall see in this passage that the pronounced judgment against Jerusalem not only spoke of the judgment soon to fall upon the city in Isaiah's day, but also spoke of that final judgment that would take place upon Jerusalem in the Messiah's day shortly after the rulers of the Jews rejected and crucified our Lord. And thus the fulfilling of the first covenant and the judgment against the earthly kingdom of Israel, and the fulfillment of the promise of the King of kings who would sit upon David's throne forever. 1. The coming judgment against Jerusalem, 2. The reason for that judgment, 3) and finally the glorious result of God's everlasting promise.

### A. The coming judgment of God against Jerusalem

Isa 29:2-4 Yet I will distress Ariel; there shall be heaviness and sorrow, and it shall be to Me as Ariel. I will encamp against you all around, I will lay siege against you with a mound, and I will raise siegeworks against you. You shall be brought down.

1. Although she is called the city of God, God will bring her down
  - a. Although she is indeed the great city God say "yet I will distress Ariel"
  - b. Although she is destroyed by earthly powers, Babylon in Isaiah's day and Rome in the Apostolic days it is God's doing.

*Jer 25:8-9 "Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: **'Because you have not heard My words,** behold, **I will send** and take all the families of the north,' says the Lord, 'and **Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land,** against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations,*

2. The same is said of Jerusalem in our Lord's day
  - a. In Matthew 23 Jesus pronounces his woes against the Scribes and Pharisees
  - b. Accusing them to be guilty of the blood from Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. (Matt. 23:35)
  - c. He then warns them of their coming judgment. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation. (Matt 26:36)

*Matt 23:37-39 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate.*

- d. And then we come to Matthew 24 and the promised coming destruction of Jerusalem.

Matt 24:1-2 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

*Matt 24:15-16 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

*Matt 24:21,29 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

- e. The above is understood to be the judgment of God against Jerusalem and the Jews as an earthly power.
- f. The Sun darkening and stars falling is not to be taken literally but was symbolically
- g. As it was used by Isaiah regarding the destruction of Babylon (cf. Isa 13:10)

### B. The reason for God's judgment of Jerusalem

1. Because of their hypocrisy
  - a. In Isaiah's day because of their willful blindness and ignorance of God's purpose for Israel

Isa 29:9-10 Pause and wonder! Blind yourselves and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with intoxicating drink. For the Lord has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes,

- b. Yet they proclaim themselves to be the people of God

*Isa 29:13-14 Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish.*

- c. Jesus spoke of the inhabitants of Jerusalem literally quoting from the above Scripture

*Matt 15:6-9 Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. 7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*

2. Thus it is proper to point out that this is not only a judgment against the Jews of Isaiah's day but also against the Jews of Jesus day.
3. There is an remnant elect in both times, but the majority have become an ungodly people.

- a. Jesus referred to them in their illiteracy as child of the devil

*John 8:43-44 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.*

- b. They are not to even be called children of Abraham although there were by birth but not by rebirth.

*John 8:39-41 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father."*

CONCLUSION: Finally the glorious result of God's everlasting promise

God promises the gospel to go beyond Jerusalem

*Isa 29:17-19 Is it not yet a very little while till Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest? In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.*

Our Lord proclaims the beginning of the proclamation of the gospel to all men

*Matt 4:13-16 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."*

Understanding all this in the words of Isaiah

*Isa 29:22-24 Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall not now be ashamed, nor shall his face now grow pale; but when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, they will hallow My name, and hallow the Holy One of Jacob, and fear the God of Israel. These also who erred in spirit will come to understanding, and those who complained will learn doctrine."*

Clearly Isaiah in this passage is speaking of the inclusion of the Gentiles into the church as citizens of Zion

In closing I shall simply read the words of the Apostle Peter in his proclamation to the Jews on the Day of Pentecost.

*Acts 2:22-25, "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 29-31 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 34-36 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

This morning we rejoice, although we grieve with our Lord over the earthy city Jerusalem we rejoice in the heavenly city, in which our Lord reigns both now and forever.

*Psa 2:6-8 Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.*