

May 9, 2021

“Offering Hope for the Future”
Lesson 10 of Unit

Isaiah 29:13-24

Intro

The book of Isaiah deals heavily with God's sovereignty. He is the Creator, He is the Sustainer, He is the Defender of His people. But the people don't always accept this view. Their human hearts wander. At times, when faced with military challenges beyond their ability, Israel turns to other nations to ally with them, instead of trusting in God's protection.

Isaiah preaches five “Woe” sermons in chapters 28-33. They are intended to warn against further alliances with other nations. Our passage today is part of the second “Woe” sermon, which begins at 29:1. Like the others, this sermon establishes God's rationale for His judgments, but also offers hope about God's restoring the nation after it has fallen to Babylon.

Read Isaiah 29:13-24

1. vs. 13: God's view of the unfaithful people
They worship with mouth and lips, but not the heart
They are “going through the motions”
2. vs. 14: God's intention: Shake the people out of their apathy
He will remove the wisdom of the wise
He seeks to be worshipped from the heart, not the mind alone
3. vs. 15: The people here think they can fool God, can hide from Him
They are treating God like He is just another human, with human limitations
They also go to “great depths” to hide from God
This shows planning and thought—intelligence, but not wisdom
4. vs. 16: God says to these people, “You turn things upside down!”
They think they are in charge, not God
God didn't make me; He knows nothing
If you reject God long enough, this is a likely way of thinking
There is a complete lack of respect for God, who He is and what He's done
5. vs. 17: Massive changes that occur when God sets things His way
Lebanon's forests will be changed into fields
The fields will be changed into forests
Field or forest isn't the issue
God is making massive changes when he restores the nation in the future

6. vs. 18: “In that day”—indicates a future event / time
This shows that these changes are coming, likely after Jesus’ Second Coming
Deaf will hear, blind will see
This was partially fulfilled when Jesus performed miracles of this type
This idea also refers to spiritual lack
Those who are spiritually blind or spiritually deaf
“In that day”, there will be none who are spiritually blind or deaf
7. vs. 19: The humble and the needy rejoice in the Lord
They have been released from negative situations
The humble (meek) will inherit the earth, according to Matt. 5:5
The needy are no longer in need—God has provided all they need
The phrase “Holy One of Israel”
Found 31 times in OT—25 of those are in Isaiah
They rejoice because of who God is
Maker (17:7; 45:11), Sovereign Lord (30:15), Redeemer (41:14, 43:14, 48:17),
Lord Almighty (47:4)
8. vs. 20-21: God deals with justice towards those who engaged in injustice
Ruthless, mockers, devisers of evil
Those who use words falsely in legal situations
All of these are “cut off”
They get the opposite of those whom they oppressed (see vs. 19)
9. vs. 22: God’s promise to the people
They will no longer be ashamed / embarrassed (pale faces)
God will redeem His people “Abraham”
Abraham was known for his faith in God
To be connected with Abraham is to be called people of faith
11. vs. 23: What the people will eventually be like
The children (descendants) of Jacob will keep God’s name holy
They will stand in awe of God
Note the difference between this worship of God and that in vs. 13
12. vs. 24: The people choose to gain / grow spiritually
People who formerly were distant have changed their actions
Wayward in spirit now gain understanding
Complainers now accept instruction

Application: Today's passage calls on us to examine ourselves in terms of our love for God. It is likely that some come to church out of a heart-felt devotion to God, while others come out of habit or duty. God desires that all of us worship Him and come to Him with open and sincere hearts, and not just our physical presence in a building.

This passage also reminds us that God's future plans resolve all the shortcomings of this world and life, and indicate that all who seek to know Him more fully will be able to. Change for the good is indicated in these verses, all leading to a true worship of the Holy One of Israel.

Prayer: Father God, we aren't a lot different than the people in this passage. We also are capable of wandering from You and letting our worship become stale and regimented. Help us to daily and weekly renew our hearts toward You out of gratitude and love for what You have done for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

