

# Spiritually Blind and Hardened

Text: Isaiah 29:1-12

Date: 10-3-21 @ 10:30 AM

**Truth:** When people who call themselves followers of Jehovah ignore His commands and become spiritually blind and hardened to His word, they will face the totality of God's wrath. We must learn the lessons of Israel and Judah for our day or risk facing Jehovah's justice. Have you become spiritually blind and hardened?

## A pronouncement of woe

Isaiah pronounces this woe on the faithless people of the city, rebuking the fake religion of those that lived in Jerusalem.

How do we know that the people of Jerusalem were practicing fake religion? Because the nation was year after year observing the feasts and sacrifices and yet living godless lives the rest of the time.

God's judgment will bring about deep distress, but out of that will come "a true Ariel—a worthy altar-hearth" (Hailey 240).

God had given the nation many opportunities to call unto the Lord with repentant hearts, now the time had come where its voices could barely muster much more than a weak breathy word.

## The punishment upon the enemies of Judah

Isaiah makes a comparison between the speaking from dust in v. 4 with the fact that the enemies of God's people will be made into dust.

The Lord of hosts now visits, but who is God visiting? Is it Jerusalem, protecting His people against these enemies? Or does He visit the enemies directly? The verse is not definitive, but the result as seen in the prior and subsequent verses is the immediate and swift judgment on Israel's enemies.

In the end all nations will come up empty against the Lord and His people. Their visions of defeating and conquering Israel will end in failure. The dreams of vanquishing Israel will instead be a fleeting nightmare.

## Israel's present condition

"The prophet has told the people of the destruction of Zion's enemies, but they are unimpressed. In their stupid spirit of dull apathy, they look at him in bewilderment. Since they have rejected Jehovah and His word, the prophet now commands them to continue in their condition" (Hailey 242).

Judah's coming judgment would be warranted and justified for they ultimately had a spiritual heart issue (v. 13).

Those who continue to reject God's word and truth will ultimately be given over to their own lies, evil, and destruction.

The nation had given itself to a spiritual drunkenness, so God gave them over to a spiritual blindness.

Those who continue to be spiritually blind and hardened to God's words will not hear or see them even if they could do it. "In this tragic picture, the learned and the unlearned are all brought under condemnation because of their sottish and brutish hearts, blinded and hardened to what God says. This condition has developed within them in spite of all that God has done for them" (Hailey 244).

## Conclusion

When people who call themselves followers of Jehovah ignore His commands and become spiritually blind and hardened to His word, they will face the totality of God's wrath. We must learn the lessons of Israel and Judah for our day or risk facing Jehovah's justice. Have you become spiritually blind and hardened?