

## And His Soul is Empty

Isaiah 29:5 – 31:9

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is in the middle of some very unpopular Bible teaching territory. God has said He is going to judge His chosen people for their hypocrisy and idolatry – and that means each and every individual child of God, my friends. Scripture identifies mankind as *TOTALLY* and *COMPLETELY* depraved. That theme doesn't sell books. How do I know it all? I don't – in fact, I don't really know very much in this world; but I do know about this section of prophetic Scripture in Isaiah – and it's as ugly as ugly gets. Frankly, I need to put up a *SEVERE* warning for the next several reports – through chapter thirty-five, to be specific: *DO NOT READ* the Spiritual Safari! Stop now. Our next several reports are going to be utterly offensive to everyone, including the one who has to teach this dreadful, awful, objectionable, derogatory, and hurtful portion of Holy Writ on this landfill garbage dump of human thought and emotion that constitutes the forum on which I teach.

This is where the two-edged sword cuts the other way – the bad way – into our own lives. It's easy to see the sins of the Moabites and Ammonites, but most so-called Christians absolutely refuse to look inside themselves in the light of a Scriptural perspective. They can't see clearly because they are ignorant of Holy Writ. Others simply can't; their foolish hearts have been darkened. Selah. And they feel that what I am doing is ridiculous. Most people seem to somehow erroneously think that, for some reason, God will be more merciful on us today than He was with the nation Israel in Isaiah's day. Well, that's a woefully misguided doctrine. The prophets never taught Israel anything like that.

It is easy to criticize others who don't seem sincere in their prayer life, or in their spiritual walk. Well, if you ignored my warning, and are still reading this report, then make sure you read super-duper carefully. Carelessness in prayer dwarfs every other neglected aspect of our work for the cause of Christ. Our theology of prayer is faultless, but our practice can be fatally flawed. Our intentions are good but, even so - let's keep this real - prayer is

usually a last resort. We have committees, conferences, board meetings, seminaries, retreats, seminars, and a flood of printed and musical matter – but very little effectively helpful prayer. I think it is safe to say that the prayer life of the average Christian is virtually non-existent; what does exist is perfectly meaningless – and let’s take a look at two Bible reasons why that might be the case:

**Psalm 66: 18** *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me ~*

**James 4: 3** *Ye pray, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts ~*

Prayer deficiency is, actually, the number two biggest problem in the Bible-believing church today – second only to a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God. Man has sophisticated his fundamental lip service to the Lord to the point where it is nothing in the world but so much blah. There is no substance of doctrine in modern prayer whatsoever. Mix prayer deficiency with abject neglect of an educated, sincere, systematic, proper, correct, complete, Spirit-filled and Spirit led Bible study, and you can just write “*Christian Tragedy*” over that person’s life. No exceptions. That’s that. Friends, do you think it could possibly be that all of our personal needs, financial limitations, ineffective ministry, and unsolved family and unsolvable interpersonal problems, just might all be related to our superficial approach to God through prayer? Well, remember this Spiritual Safari in prayer, please. We take donations, too.

In chapter twenty-nine, we are examining certain prophecies concerning the city of Jerusalem. For us today, this examines life in the immediate here and now – where Satan is the god of this present evil world, and prince of power of the air - but it also layers on spiritual life; as our life is defined in the Millennial Kingdom — when Satan has been cast out. “*Ariel*” in verse one, two, and seven of chapter twenty-nine, is Jerusalem. “*Ariel*” means “*lion-like*,” and the Lord Jesus Christ was called the Lion of the tribe of Judah when prophesied of. Naturally, Jerusalem was the city where King David dwelt and the lion was the insignia of Davidic royalty. Ariel can also mean “*altar*,” and the entire nation was commanded to come to Jerusalem and bring their sacrifices and to worship the Lord in the temple. Well, they

did all of those things; but it became nothing but a burden for them, and a merchandise-racket for others. Isaiah is now speaking of an enemy that will come and destroy Judah and Jerusalem. In our last report, we considered the enemy that carried the ten northern tribes of Israel – Ephraim – away captive. Again, if you have ignored my explicit warning not to read this report, and you are still reading it, then I highly recommend you go back and *NOT* read our previous report at this time....

## **XXIX**

***5 Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.***

***6 Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.***

~ Jerusalem is a city that has been crushed, burned, and leveled more than any other city in the world except for, perhaps, Damascus in Syria. I have a list of twenty-seven sieges in which Jerusalem was totally and completely decimated. To those who like to visit Israel and “walk where Jesus walked” – you haven’t even been close to where Jesus walked. The pool of Bethesda is at least fifty feet below present ground level. Evidently, the Lord Jesus walked way down below where we walk today. That’s right – stop and think about that. Solomon’s temple is likely a minimum of one hundred feet below the Mosque of Omar today. Jerusalem has been destroyed and rebuilt on top of the old wreckage so many times that man has no earthly idea where the ruins begin and end. It is impossible to tell. That’s the same type of demolition and debris that Nehemiah was left to work with to rebuild the walls and temple in his day, you will recall....

***7 And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision.***

***8 It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion.***

***9 Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink.***

***10 For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.***

***11 And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:***

~ God permitted Jerusalem to be destroyed repeatedly because they had the light of the Word of God, a privilege that no other nation had; but they had chosen to become spiritually drunk, and neglect it. Read verse nine and ten very, very carefully, friends. God put them to sleep by giving them more and more light; and the more they rejected it, the darker their light became. Jesus saith, *".... if therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"* That's Matthew chapter six verse twenty-three, by the way. Israel just could not and would not recognize and acknowledge their blindness. See, God gave them light – and that's how He determined and revealed that Israel was completely blind.

See, someone just recently said to me, *".... well, full revelation and the Book of Revelation are a sealed book of God."* Well, that's exactly what Israel said in Isaiah's day about Isaiah's prophecy; and that's what they said about all of the prophets, for that matter. The real truth is: Israel didn't *WANT* to understand the Word of God. They weren't interested how to bow properly to God in prayer. Most people really want to live the Christian life, but they're just too busy with the world. Others deliberately won't give any time to the Word of God *at all*. They make all types of excuses for their

utter ignorance of Scripture. We are told that Revelation is not sealed. You may want to look into that.

Apocalypse means Revelation; and that, specifically, means “*unveiled.*” However, there is a prerequisite for wisdom: see, there are sixty-five books that precede Revelation; each of which is absolutely critical to be understood properly, correctly and completely — particularly the prophets — in order to even consider having the veil fully lifted from your eyes by God through prayer. Most people want to begin reading at the back of the Bible; which is absolutely prohibited. You couldn’t comprehend it that way if you wanted to. We are supposed to understand this because God has given us light; but we refuse to open our eyes.

**Revelation 1:3** *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand ~*

**Revelation 22: 10** *And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand ~*

**+++++ Isaiah XXIX**

***12 And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.***

***13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:***

~ If you had lived in Israel, in Isaiah’s day, you would have wondered what he meant by all of this writing. The people were going to the temple. They were paying tithes. The temple was clogged with crowds. Sacrifices were being made at the altar. The temple was materially rich. When they offered a blood-sacrifice, it was billed as a huge spectacle. Everyone was in attendance to be seen. It would have been natural for them to ask, “.... *how could God possibly find any fault in us when we do everything He asks of*

us?” Well, Israel was acting-out and mouthing the ritual, they sang the Lord’s Prayer and recited the apostle’s creed – but it never really meant anything to them. Their hearts and lives were not changed. They no longer believed any of the Mosaic System of Levitical Law in terms of having been given by a holy God. They only accepted what Moses had given them in the form of ritual and tradition. They had polluted the Mosaic System into an unusable piece of spiritual garbage; and, my friends, that’s all it is to Israel today. That’s exactly what they did. *THAT* is when God said, “... *your heart is far from Me.*”

God will judge all formality — all religions of the earth and, read carefully: the biggest scourge on the face of this earth are phoniness and piosity in whatever religion you claim; even Christianity, if Christianity is defined as religion to you. Religion is not man at his best; religion is man at his absolute worst. In fact, there is no possible way you can come to Christ until you get rid of religion. That’s what Isaiah is trying to get through to his people at the time in which we are studying. Isaiah declared to Israel, “... *your lives, by your standard of living, must sanctify God by making His Name Holy!*” So, they hated and rejected him. That’s another reason God judged them as He did. There are so many aspects to the judgments of Jerusalem that that comprehension becomes staggering and sobering - and we’re going to examine each of them as we move forward - and, frankly, what we’re talking about right now is going to wax so serious that God throws in an extra “*woe*” to this section of six woes; so, that means it’s really time to woe – as in, stop reading, dear readers – as I have already warned you to do in this report – stop reading these reports as we move forward in our safari....

***14 Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.***

***15 Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?***

***16 Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?***

***17 Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest?***

***18 And IN THAT DAY shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.***

***19 The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.***

***20 For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off:***

***21 That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.***

***22 Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.***

***23 But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.***

***24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.***

**XXX**

***1 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:***

***2 That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!***

***3 Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion.***

***4 For his princes were at Zoan, and his ambassadors came to Hanes.***

***5 They were all ashamed of a people that could not profit them, nor be an help nor profit, but a shame, and also a reproach.***

***6 The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence come the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them.***

***7 For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength is to sit still.***

***8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:***

***9 That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD:***

***10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:***

***11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.***

***12 Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:***

***13 Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.***

***14 And he shall break it as the breaking of the potters' vessel that is broken in pieces; he shall not spare: so that there shall not be found in the bursting of it a sherd to take fire from the hearth, or to take water withal out of the pit.***

***15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.***

***16 But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift.***

***17 One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill.***

***18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.***

***19 For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.***

***20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:***

***21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.***

***22 Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.***

***23 Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.***

***24 The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan.***

***25 And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.***

***26 Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.***

***27 Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire:***

***28 And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.***

***29 Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel.***

***30 And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.***

***31 For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod.***

***32 And in every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the LORD shall lay upon him, it shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.***

***33 For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.***

## **XXXI**

***1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!***

***2 Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity.***

***3 Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.***

***4 For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.***

***5 As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.***

***6 Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted.***

***7 For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin.***

***8 Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited.***

***9 And he shall pass over to his strong hold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem ~***

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