

The Prophecies of Isaiah ⁴⁵

Lesson 19

Vision 20 - Part 2

	Part 1	Part 2
Isaiah's Presentation Format	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The events of the Lord's return to set up His kingdom are foretold.	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The events of the Lord's return to set up His kingdom are foretold.
Chapter	Isa. 24:1-27:13	Isa. 28-30:5
24:1 – 30:5	Figure 47: Vision 20 – Part 2	

Far Prophecy

Woe to Ephraim

Isaiah 28:1 Woe to the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim, And to the fading flower of its glorious beauty, Which is at the head of the fertile valley of those who are overcome with wine! ² Behold, the Lord has a strong and mighty *agent*; As a storm of hail, a tempest of destruction, Like a storm of mighty overflowing waters, He has cast *it* down to the earth with *His* hand. ³ The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim is trodden under foot. ⁴ And the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is at the head of the fertile valley, will be like the first-ripe fig prior to summer; which one sees, *and* as soon as it is in his hand, He swallows it.

Samaria, the capital city of the Northern Kingdom, sat in the tribal area of Manasseh; King Omri built the city and perched it on a hill overlooking a beautiful fertile valley.⁴⁶ Just before the Lord returns, the evil enemies of the Lord who are marked with the number 666, the number of the beast, will gather in that valley to attempt to defeat the Lord upon His return. The "proud crowns" of all the kings will gather in the valley to await His arrival. While they wait, they will drink until they are drunk. When He arrives, He will speak and destruction will descend upon them and their glory and crowns will rot away; His return will occur in the late spring, near the first day of summer.

Far Prophecy

Beautiful Crown

Isaiah 28:5 In that day the LORD of hosts will become a beautiful crown and a glorious diadem to the remnant of His people; ⁶ A spirit of justice for him who sits in judgment, A strength to those who repel the onslaught at the gate. ⁷ And these also reel with wine and stagger from strong drink: The priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are confused by wine, they stagger from strong drink; they reel while having visions, they totter *when rendering* judgment. ⁸ For all the tables are full of filthy vomit, without a *single clean* place.

With the destruction of all the "crowns" of the evil kings of the earth, the Lord's crown will become the glorious wreath for all the human beings of the world who believe in Him. He is the one who will bring justice and strength to His people who love Him; the priests and

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⁴⁶ 1 Kings 16:24

prophets who gorge themselves with drink are His enemies. They will stagger when they pretend to proclaim visions and they will wobble when they try to make a decision. Because they are not in a relationship with the Lord and He is not their Helper, they do not know what to do. Even though they are Jewish priests and prophets, they will die because they are enemies of the Lord.

Far Prophecy

Israel Stumbles

Isaiah 28: 9 "To whom would He teach knowledge? And to whom would He interpret the message? Those *just* weaned from milk? Those *just* taken from the breast? ¹⁰ "For He says, ' Order on order, order on order, Line on line, line on line, A little here, a little there.'" ¹¹ Indeed, He will speak to this people through stammering lips and a foreign tongue, ¹² He who said to them, "Here is rest, give rest to the weary," And, "Here is repose," but they would not listen. ¹³ So the word of the LORD to them will be, "Order on order, order on order, Line on line, line on line, A little here, a little there," That they may go and stumble backward, be broken, snared, and taken captive.

In those days, the priests and prophets will dare to speak for the Lord even though He is not speaking to them. To whom will He give the knowledge so they will be able to understand how to direct the people. Will He give it to the weaned child? Will He give it as a little child is taught by his parents a little at a time, saying *ṣaw lāṣāw, ṣaw lāṣāw, qaw lāqāw, qaw lāqāw*, meaning do and do, do and do, rule and rule, rule and rule, "a little here a little there," but translated in the passage as "Order on order, order on order, Line on line, line on line, A little here, a little there." Yes indeed, the same Lord who promised "rest to the weary" and told them to repose in Him will teach them through the mouths of the children. Joel prophesied the same thought years before when he said,

Joel 2:28 " And it will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

On the day of Pentecost in 30 AD, Peter repeats Joel's words when he reminds his fellow Jews of the Lord's plan in an effort to convince the Jews to believe in the Lord.

Acts 2:17 ' AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

The false Jewish priests and prophets will not rest and repose in the Lord; therefore, the Lord will use their sons and daughters who trust in Him to trip up the priests and prophets.

Far Prophecy

Death Covenant

Isaiah 28:14 Therefore, hear the word of the LORD, O scoffers, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, ¹⁵ because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have made a pact. The overwhelming scourge will not reach us when it passes by, For we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception." ¹⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone *for* the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes *in it* will not be disturbed. ¹⁷ "And I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the level; then hail shall sweep away the refuge of

lies, and the waters shall overflow the secret place. ¹⁸ "And your covenant with death shall be canceled, and your pact with Sheol shall not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, then you become its trampling *place*. ¹⁹ "As often as it passes through, it will seize you. For morning after morning it will pass through, *anytime* during the day or night. And it will be sheer terror to understand what it means." ²⁰ The bed is too short on which to stretch out, and the blanket is too small to wrap oneself in.

Isaiah sees the coming covenant with death which Jerusalem will make when it enters into a seven year peace treaty with a western leader energized by Satan. That pact will result in the doom of the Jewish leaders as their lives are swept away when the scourge of the Lord sweeps over them, casting them into Sheol, the Hebrew equivalent for Hades. Soon the Cornerstone will be firmly placed in Jerusalem and the leaders will not be able to continue their way of life. The covenant with the western leader will not stand and neither will the pact with Sheol. Once the Cornerstone is laid in Jerusalem, the Jewish leaders will have no excuse. For years, "morning after morning ... day and night," the Cornerstone will create terror for Israel. The Jews will hate the name of Jesus until they have no other choice but to love Him. Isaiah compares the comfort they seek in their theology to a bed that is too short and their blankets too small to provide warmth and comfort. Finally, He will come and they will have no choice but to believe or die.

Far Prophecy

Lord's Coming

Isaiah 28:21 For the LORD will rise up as *at* Mount Perazim, He will be stirred up as in the valley of Gibeon; to do His task, His unusual task, And to work His work, His extraordinary work. ²² And now do not carry on as scoffers, lest your fetters be made stronger; for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts, of decisive destruction on all the earth.

Both Mount Perazim and the valley of Gibeon are near Jerusalem, in the small sliver of land that belongs to Benjamin's tribal area which is between Judah and Ephraim. Benjamin's land will be transformed to be included in the new Temple district that will be formed when the Lord places His foot on the Mt. of Olives upon His return. But He will not set His foot down on the mountain until He performs His extraordinary work of eliminating His enemies in the valley of Armageddon. Isaiah forewarns the Jewish leaders not to associate with the evil scoffers so they cannot become stronger before the Lord brings His destruction.

Far Prophecy

Limited Time

Isaiah 28:23 Give ear and hear my voice, listen and hear my words. ²⁴ Does the farmer plow continually to plant seed? Does he *continually* turn and harrow the ground? ²⁵ Does he not level its surface, and sow dill and scatter cummin, And plant wheat in rows, barley in its place, and rye within its area? ²⁶ For his God instructs and teaches him properly. ²⁷ For dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is the cartwheel driven over cummin; but dill is beaten out with a rod, and cummin with a club. ²⁸ *Grain for bread* is crushed, indeed, he does not continue to thresh it forever. Because the wheel of *his* cart and his horses *eventually* damage *it*, He does not thresh it longer. ²⁹ This also comes from the LORD of hosts, *Who* has made *His* counsel wonderful and *His* wisdom great.

The Lord promises that the time of His threshing will not last forever; rather, it will be appropriate and timely. There is a time to plant seeds, to plow and till the ground, a way to plant dill, cumin, wheat, barley and rye, each in a different way and at different times; each

seed is uniquely harvested in order to protect it from damage. So the Lord, in His great counsel and wisdom, will bring about His judgment which will last for only the appropriate length of time.

Far Prophecy

Woe to Ariel

Isaiah 29:1 Woe, O Ariel, Ariel the city *where* David *once* camped! Add year to year, observe *your* feasts on schedule. ²And I will bring distress to Ariel, and she shall be a city of lamenting and mourning; and she shall be like an Ariel to me.

Ariel is Jerusalem, the city where King David lived when he was alive. Through the years, Jerusalem continued to celebrate the festivals of the Mosaic Law. Because Jerusalem will fail to accept the coming of the Lord, she will suffer greatly.

Far Prophecy

Ariel's Enemies

Isaiah 29:3 And I will camp against you encircling *you*, and I will set siege works against you, and I will raise up battle towers against you.

Even though the nations of the world and the people who have taken upon themselves the mark of the beast will camp around Jerusalem at the end of the Tribulation to lay siege to the city. It is the Lord's doing; He is the One Who has orchestrated all the events to place His enemies there to accomplish His goal.

Far Prophecy

Ariel's Helpless

Isaiah 29:4 Then you shall be brought low; from the earth you shall speak, and from the dust *where* you are prostrate, Your words *shall come*. Your voice shall also be like that of a spirit from the ground, and your speech shall whisper from the dust.

Surrounded, Jerusalem and a small portion of the Jews will cry to the Lord and He will hear. The noise of the battle will not drown out the prayer of the Lord's people.

Far Prophecy

Ariel's Fortune

Isaiah 29:5 But the multitude of your enemies shall become like fine dust, and the multitude of the ruthless ones like the chaff which blows away; and it shall happen instantly, suddenly.

The Lord gathers the enemies of Israel around Jerusalem and He will destroy them in an instant.

Far Prophecy

Ariel's Punishment

Isaiah 29:6 From the LORD of hosts you will be punished with thunder and earthquake and loud noise, *with* whirlwind and tempest and the flame of a consuming fire.

Jerusalem will not go unpunished. Not seen here but revealed in other prophecies, the thunder of the battle armament against the city will frighten the city. An earthquake will break the city into thirds and a consuming fire will rage through the city just before the Lord's return.

Far Prophecy

Ariel's Distress

Isaiah 29:7 And the multitude of all the nations who wage war against Ariel, even all who wage war against her and her stronghold, and who distress her, shall be like a dream, a vision of the night.

All the nations of the world will gather outside Jerusalem to defeat the city and they will dream of its ultimate overturn. The dream is nothing new; for centuries nations from all around the world will dream of taking Jerusalem but this time, all the nations will be gathered together to accomplish the task.

Far Prophecy

Enemies Dream

Isaiah 29:8 And it will be as when a hungry man dreams-- And behold, he is eating; But when he awakens, his hunger is not satisfied, Or as when a thirsty man dreams-- And behold, he is drinking, But when he awakens, behold, he is faint, And his thirst is not quenched. Thus the multitude of all the nations shall be, who wage war against Mount Zion.

The Lord explains the hearts of Jerusalem's enemies by comparing them to a hungry man's dream. The hungry man eats in his dream, but "when he awakens," he is not ever satisfied; so too, even though the enemies of the Lord win many battles against Jerusalem, they are never satisfied.

Far Prophecy

Ariel's Sleep

Isaiah 29:9 Be delayed and wait. Blind yourselves and be blind. They become drunk, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. ¹⁰ For the LORD has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep, He has shut your eyes, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, the seers.

The Lord reveals in this passage that somewhere in the future, Jerusalem will become blind; it is a term that means that they will reject the Lord for a time. When He comes to offer salvation to His people, Jerusalem will reject Him. The New Testament describes how the leaders of Jerusalem crucified the Lord. The deep sleep of death in this instance is a denial of the Lord by Jerusalem's leaders. The four Gospels clearly describe this denial.

Far Prophecy

Ariel's Lack of Understanding

Isaiah 29:11 And the entire vision shall be to you like the words of a sealed book, which when they give it to the one who is literate, saying, "Please read this," he will say, "I cannot, for it is sealed." ¹² Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying, "Please read this." And he will say, "I cannot read."

The Jews will not understand this vision; neither will they understand the Lord when He arrives to offer them salvation. Even after the time of the Lord's crucifixion, the Jews will not understand the words of the entire New Testament; Jews who can read will not want to read its words.

Far Prophecy

Ariel's Lip Service

Isaiah 29:13 Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, And their

reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*, ¹⁴ Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; And the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the discernment of their discerning men shall be concealed."

From the time of the Lord's crucifixion until His return, Jerusalem will give only lip service to the Lord. In spite of that, He will be faithful to His promise to perform a marvelous work in the city although it will not occur until her "wise" and "discerning" leaders are silenced for their rejection of Him.

Far Prophecy

Evil Rebellion

Isaiah 29:15 Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are *done* in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?" ¹⁶ You turn *things* around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, that what is made should say to its maker, "He did not make me"; or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

Rejection of the Lord is rebellion. Those in Jerusalem today have a plan, but it is not the Lord's plan. Can it be that the leaders of Jerusalem will become so rebellious that they will not accept the Lord as their Maker? Surely it will happen and today we understand that it will most likely occur because Jews in general will accept the concepts of evolution rather than of creation found in the Bible.

Far Prophecy

Lebanon's Fertile Field

Isaiah 29:17 Is it not yet just a little while before Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field, and the fertile field will be considered as a forest?

The Lord explains that all of this prophecy has not occurred yet; the forest of Lebanon must be turned into a fertile field before it comes to pass. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the forest of Lebanon 120 years after this vision but it will take centuries for the fields to be turned into fertile ground.

Far Prophecy

Ears and Eyes Opened

Isaiah 29:18 And on that day the deaf shall hear words of a book, and out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. ¹⁹ The afflicted also shall increase their gladness in the LORD, and the needy of mankind shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

It is difficult to identify the neediest group of people on earth but surely the Jews are at the top of the list. Their need is great; they need to open their ears and eyes to hear and see their Messiah. What joy will come to the Lord's people when they finally accept Him as their Savior.

Far Prophecy

Lord's Enemies

Isaiah 29:20 For the ruthless will come to an end, and the scorner will be finished, Indeed all who are intent on doing evil will be cut off; ²¹ who cause a person to be indicted by a word, and ensnare him who adjudicates at the gate, And defraud the one in the right with meaningless arguments.

Until the very end, many of the Jewish leaders will try to speak for God with strong words only to ensnare and defraud the innocent with worthless arguments. "The Lord Jesus cannot be the Messiah because He did not come as a king," they might say. A futile argument. While living on earth the great Healer was asked by the Jewish leaders are not to heal on the Sabbath. How hollow! Sadly, many will accept these insignificant thoughts and fall far from the salvation of the Lord even to the last days of the Tribulation. Two-thirds of the Jews alive at the beginning of the Tribulation will die before its end.

Far Prophecy

Israel's Change

Isaiah 29:22 Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, "Jacob shall not now be ashamed, nor shall his face now turn pale; ²³ But when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, They will sanctify My name; Indeed, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, And will stand in awe of the God of Israel. ²⁴ "And those who err in mind will know the truth, and those who criticize will accept instruction.

In spite of Israel's rebellion and rejection of the Lord, He will be faithful to them because He made a promise to Abraham and the offspring of his grandson, Jacob. Here, Jacob is used to represent the whole nation of the true Israel. When he sees the mighty works of the hand of the Lord, Jacob will accept Him and set aside His holy name. Not all of the leaders of Jacob will accept the Lord's plan but they will know the truth one day.

Far Prophecy

Woe to Rebellious Children

Isaiah 30:1 "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin; ² Who proceed down to Egypt, Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh, And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! ³ "Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame, And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation. ⁴ "For their princes are at Zoan, And their ambassadors arrive at Hanes. ⁵ "Everyone will be ashamed because of a people who cannot profit them, *Who are* not for help or profit, but for shame and also for reproach."

The vision ends by warning the Jews of their folly in making alliances with nations instead of the Lord. At the time of this vision, the Southern Kingdom is still trusting Egypt to come to their rescue if Assyria attacks. Egypt's power has waned and she cannot help the Jews. Although this passage is speaking of the folly of the Jews during the Tribulation period, it applies to Jews of Isaiah's day as well. The people of the Jewish nation as a whole are the Lord's rebellious children and they will remain that way from Isaiah's lifetime until the time of the Tribulation. The nation will seek refuge in Egypt many times in the future. One hundred years after this vision, many will run to Egypt for safety when Nebuchadnezzar attacks the Southern Kingdom and the same will occur when Antiochus Epiphanes mows over the Jewish land. In both of these cases, the Jews will be disappointed and humiliated with the outcome and support from Egypt.

Zoan and Hanes were two major cities in Egypt before, during and after Isaiah's life. Zoan was the major town in the Goshen area where the Jews lived while they were in Egypt before the Exodus. Pharaoh's court was there and Joseph was the second in command of the kingdom and a great influence for 80 years. Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh to let God's people go in that city which no longer exists. The city of Tanis is built over its remains there on the bank of the Tanitic branch of the Nile River. Today, it is just a heap of debris which constitutes one of the oldest and grandest archeological ruins in the world.

Hanes is later renamed Tahpanhes and it is where Jeremiah buried rocks and foretold that Nebuchadnezzar would set his throne there, a prophecy which came true within a year of Jeremiah's revelation. It too was on the bank of the Tanitic branch of the Nile. Archeologists have found a pavement of brickwork presumably where the refugees from the Southern Kingdom gathered, Jeremiah prophesied and where Nebuchadnezzar set up his court.⁴⁷

During the last days of the Tribulation, when Jerusalem is attacked and under duress, many of the Jews will attempt to run to Egypt for safety instead of to the Lord. The Edomites will capture some of the runaways and attempt to release them for a ransom. Interesting enough, the Jews will be running to the country that will produce the king whom the Lord will identify as the great dragon of the river, possibly the Leviathan of this vision.⁴⁸ If so, Isaiah's mention of the Leviathan and Ezekiel's identification of the great dragon may be an indication that the great leader of the Western Revived Roman Empire will come from Egypt. Either way, before the Lord sets up His kingdom on earth, Egypt will be laid waste and unable to help her Jewish neighbors as foretold in this vision.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 24:1 – 30:5	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The events of the Lord's return to set up His kingdom are foretold.	When the Lord returns to set up His kingdom

⁴⁷ Jeremiah 43:8-10

⁴⁸ Ezekiel 29:1-7