

SERMON APPLICATION SHEET FOR:

Pastor Tony Felich

Wonderless Disbelief or Wonderful Faith?

Isaiah 29

February 28, 2016

Sermon Text	Sermon Outline
<p>Isaiah 29:1 Ah, Ariel, Ariel, the city where David encamped! Add year to year; let the feasts run their round. [2] Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be moaning and lamentation, and she shall be to me like an Ariel. [3] And I will encamp against you all around, and will besiege you with towers and I will raise siegeworks against you. [4] And you will be brought low; from the earth you shall speak, and from the dust your speech will be bowed down; your voice shall come from the ground like the voice of a ghost, and from the dust your speech shall whisper. [5] But the multitude of your foreign foes shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the ruthless like passing chaff. And in an instant, suddenly, [6] you will be visited by the Lord of hosts with thunder and with earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire. [7] And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, all that fight against her and her stronghold and distress her, shall be like a dream, a vision of the night. [8] As when a hungry man dreams, and behold, he is eating and awakes with his hunger not satisfied, or as when a thirsty man dreams, and behold, he is drinking and awakes faint, with his thirst not quenched, so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion. [9] Astonish yourselves and be astonished; blind yourselves and be blind! Be drunk, but not with wine; stagger, but not with strong drink! [10] For the Lord has poured out upon you a spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes (the prophets), and covered your heads (the seers). [11] And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." [12] And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read." [13] And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, [14] therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden." [15] Ah, you who hide deep from the Lord your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?" [16] You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? [17] Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? [18] In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. [19] The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. [20] For the ruthless shall come to nothing and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off, [21] who by a word make a man out to be an offender, and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate, and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right. [22] Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale. [23] For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. [24] And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction."</p>	<p>God's wonder-filled salvation is irresistible to those who are His</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. God always humbles human pride. (1-10)II. Everyone is spiritually blind apart from God's grace. (11-12)III. Outward actions aside, God knows the truth about us. (13-16)IV. God brings a wonder-filled salvation to us! (17-24) <p>Mark 7:5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" [6] And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; [7] in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' [8] You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." [9] And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!"</p>

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Sermon Application Questions	Prayer Requests
1. Why is it necessary for God to humble us in order to save us? How might 29:19 relate?	This week our family will lift up requests for:
2. How might we fall in to the rut of going through the motions of worship without there being an inward devotion or reality, as described in 29:13 (also referred to by Jesus in Mark 7:5-9)?	
3. Isaiah 29 describes spiritually blind prophets and people. Discuss this statement made by Pastor Tony: "Why is church attendance up in the U.S. but Christianity seems to be on the decline? As in Isaiah's day, largely because there are blind preachers in powerless pulpits scratching the itching ears of people who want comfort over conviction and acceptance in the culture over the carrying of Christ's cross."	This week our family will praise the Lord for:
4. Discuss how 29:22-24 give a summation of chapters 28-29.	HFG Notes & Actions:
	Next HFG meeting is: