

LESSON 10—May 9, 2021

Spring Quarter 2021 Theme:
Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant
Unit III: Courageous Prophets of Change

Lesson Titles:
Empty Rituals Are Useless
(Faith Pathway Bible Studies)
Joshua: Offering Hope for the Future
(Townsend Press Sunday School Commentary)

Devotional Reading:
Jeremiah 29:10-14

Background Scriptures:
Isaiah 29

Print Passages:
Isaiah 29:13-24

Key Verse(s):

They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine. (Isaiah 29:24, KJV)

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“Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding; those who complain will accept instruction.” (Isaiah 29:24, NIV)

► **Questions to Consider:**

1. Why did the Isaiah condemn Judah's worship?
2. What happens when true worship occurs?
3. What does Isaiah say about the promise of a future transformation that will be vastly different?

► **Lesson Context:**

- The book of Isaiah contains both prose and poetry and uses personification. Many of the prophecies in Isaiah contain predictions that foretell a soon-to-occur event and a distant future event at the same time.
- Isaiah called upon Judah, Israel, and the surrounding nations to **repent** of their sins and warned them of God's judgment and punishment.
- After condemning the nation for the emptiness of their **worship**, Isaiah prophesied that God would restore His people after He had judged them for their sins.

► **Lesson Aims:**

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Consider how God's promise of mercy will triumph over God's judgment.
- Believe that the essential nature of God is forgiveness, not punishment.
- Rejoice in the manifestation of God's love in your own life.

► **Lesson Outlines/Key Points:**

I. Perfunctory **Worship** Exposed (Isaiah 29:13-16)

Key Point 1: God wants our real and **true** worship.

Key Point 2: God is ever-present and all-knowing. Nothing can ever be **hidden** from Him—not our deeds, our thoughts, or the intentions of our hearts.

II. Transformation **Promised** (Isaiah 29:17-24)

The Commander-in-Chief gave Joshua detailed instructions regarding how Israel would proceed to overthrow Jericho.

Key Point 1: Isaiah predicts a future transformation.

Key Point 2: Isaiah predicts transformation in the **lives** of the children of Israel.

► **Lesson Summary:**

- No amount of worship is meaningful to God if it isn't offered from the heart.
- Distracted, superficial worship that is merely of habit and obligation means nothing to God.
- God wants our true and genuine worship.
- God wants us to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

What Do You Think? (These questions are found in this week's Faith Pathway student book.)

1. Who receives the "applause" in your corporate worship setting—worship leaders or God?

2. How can experiencing spiritual worship become the focus rather than a "feel good" experience?

As a result of this lesson, I will do the following:
