

Why God Destroys Wisdom

International Bible Lesson

Isaiah 29:9-16

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L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“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” (Isaiah 29:14—KJV).

“So I will startle them with one unexpected blow after another. Those who are wise will turn out to be fools, and all their cleverness will be useless” (Isaiah 29:14—GNB).

“So I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing. The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden” (Isaiah 29:14—NRSV).

God can destroy the wisdom of business, educational, political, and religious leaders, advisors, and teachers. These same people can also think and do things that will destroy their own wisdom. God can also hide from these people and those under their influence “the discernment of the discerning.” God destroyed the wisdom of the wise during and after the time of Isaiah, and God hid the discerning prophecies of Isaiah from the leaders and people of Israel and Judah. God made His words through Isaiah “like the words of a sealed document” they could not understand (Isaiah 29:11). God can destroy the wisdom of leaders and people any time, any place, in any nation, and among any people, and people can still destroy their own wisdom.

Why would God do this? God gave the reason, “Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote” (Isaiah 29:13). Some acted and spoke in public as though they believed in God, but they refused to obey God’s commandments and the Scriptures. Other leaders and people did evil in the dark, thinking neither God nor others would ever know or do anything about their evil deeds. Finally, God said others denied that He had made them, and they claimed human beings had made God. God explained that such people as these have no understanding; therefore, their wisdom will eventually perish (Isaiah 29:15-16). Perhaps God has explained some of what we see today.

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