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ISAIAH: 29:9-24

In Isaiah 29:9-24 there is a passage which Alexander suggests describes the rejection of the Jews and the turning of the Gentiles and then the later restoration of the Jews. There is much to be said for this interpretation. Verse 9 does not seem to continue what we find in verse 8, but to be a reversion to the present situation at the time at which Isaiah speaks. Verses 9-16 describe the spiritual condition of the people at this time. Yet he is not describing simply a temporary situation which disappeared in the near future. He is describing a situation into which the people had fallen, a condition which increased in intensity as time went on. We find proof of this from the fact that verse 13 is twice quoted in the New Testament as descriptive of the people of Israel in that day. Isaiah is pronouncing God's wrath upon the people because of their indifference and turning away from God. Verses 9-16 describe this condition, a condition which endured for along time and which brought very serious results.

Verses 9 and 10 describe the condition of the people drunk but not with wine. They are staggering, going to and fro, ~~but~~ not because of strong drink but because of their refusal to listen to God. Their prophets, rulers and seers are unable to lead them aright because they are implicated in the sin of the people. Verses 11 and 12 tell of the petty excuses which the people give for refusing to try to get at the heart of the message of God. They put the Word up on the mantelpiece and are proud that they have the Word of God, but they do not bother to read it. Some say it is sealed and others, that they cannot read. They give all sorts of excuses rather than to turn their hearts with diligence in an attempt to understand what is in the Word of God for them. Instead of this, they are reverting to human beings in order to try to get their security and their prosperity. They are making alliances with wickedness and trying by clever schemes to get that which God would ~~be~~ so gladly give them if they would turn to him with their whole hearts. The condition which