Isaiah 29:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel.

Analysis

Yet I will distress Ariel (וַהֲצִיקוֹתִי לַאֲרִיאֵל, vahatsiqothi la'Ariel)—the verb צוק (tsûq) means to press, constrain, bring into straits. The Lion of God will be pressed into narrow places by God Himself. **And there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel** establishes a grim wordplay: Jerusalem will become to Yahweh like an altar hearth—a place of blood, smoke, and sacrificial death. But here, the city itself becomes the sacrifice.

The divine 'I will' asserts God's active agency in judgment. This is no mere consequence of political miscalculation; it is covenant discipline. The heaviness (תַּאֲנִיָה, ta'aniyah) and sorrow (אֲנִיָה, aniyah) are prophetic mourning terms, echoing funeral laments. God transforms the altar city into an altar of judgment.

Historical Context

The prophecy found partial fulfillment in Sennacherib's siege (701 BC), when Jerusalem was surrounded and distressed, though miraculously delivered (Isaiah 37). Full fulfillment came in the Babylonian destruction (586 BC) when the city truly became a place of slaughter and burning—its Temple reduced to rubble, its people killed or exiled.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's covenant faithfulness sometimes manifest as discipline rather than deliverance?
2. What does it mean that the place of sacrifice becomes the sacrifice itself?
3. When have you experienced God bringing you into 'straits' for redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

וַהֲצִיק וֹתִי	כַּאֲרִיאֵל: וְהָיְתָ ה	תָאֲנִיָּה	וַאֲנִי ה
Yet I will distress	**Ariel**	H1961	**and there shall be heaviness**	**and sorrow**
H6693	H740		H8386	H592

כַּאֲרִיאֵל: לִ י וְהָ יְתָה
H1961   H0   **Ariel**
H740