

The Subtle Difference, Isaiah Ch. 29

You turn things around! Shall the potter be considered equal with the clay, that what is made should say to its maker, "He did not make me"; or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding? Is.29: 16

• **The Theme**

- Throughout the chapter Isaiah emphasizes the primary conflict between God and mankind: the subtle and perpetual attempt on the part of humanity to renegotiate the terms of the relationship.
 - God must change. _____ (or)
 - God must give in. _____
- But the prophet emphasizes that God will absolutely crush all plans to pervert or change His will or His purpose.

• **Subtleties and Paradoxes**

- **Ariel**: two entirely different words, v. 1-2.
 1. The Lion of God. _____
 2. The Altar hearth. _____
- **From dust to fine dust**, v.3-8.
 - Matt. 21:42-44: _____
 - Ground and Scattered. _____
- **Stay stupid and self-deluded**, v.9-14.
 - Be blinded by self-deception. _____
 - Forget even the apparent and obvious truths. _____
 - Even faith is false. _____
- **So you think you can hide this from God?**, v. 15-16.
 - Is. 14:13, The Aspiration. _____
 - Is.37:28, The Rage. _____
 - Ez.8:12, The Delusion. _____
- **The Day of Judgment, the Day of Justice**, v.17-21.
 - A little while, or a long while. _____
 - The constant theme, Justice. _____
 - The end of perverted justice. _____
- **The final capitulation**, v.22-24.
 - Those who had erred will now understand. _____
 - Those who grumbled will accept the truth. _____

Subtlety and Paradox in this Age.

- The constant characteristic, redefining God. _____
 - Traditional methods.
 - There is no God. _____
 - God only loves us. _____
 - A "New Age" way.
 - God is hidden in us all. _____
- Critical differences, the difference between:
 - Pardon and Parole. _____
 - Forgiving and Forgetting. _____
 - Redemption and Rehabilitation. _____
- **The most difficult critical difference.**
 - Matt. 11:28. _____
 - The difference between the yoke of Jesus, and the _____
burden of My Life.
 - The weight of life. _____
 - The freedom of redemption. _____

Hell . . . And yet all loneliness, angers, hatreds, envies, and itchings that it contains, if rolled into one single experience and put into the scale against the least moment of the joy that is felt by the least in Heaven, would have no weight that could be registered at all . . . For a damned soul is nearly nothing; it is shrunk, shut up in itself. Good beats upon the damned incessantly as sound waves beat on the ears of the deaf, but they cannot receive it. Their fists are clenched, their teeth are clenched, their eyes fast shut.

Only the Greatest of all can make Himself small enough to enter Hell. For the higher a thing is, the lower it can descend. Only One has descended into Hell.

C.S. Lewis
The Great Divorce

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- Critical differences, the difference between:
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 - Matt. 11:28. _____
 - The difference between the _____ of **Jesus**, and the _____ of **My Life**.
 - The _____ of life. _____
 - The _____ of redemption. _____

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