

Isaiah 6-39 God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	Ch 6-12 God will rule with goodness and power, replacing human kings	Ch 13-27 God will destroy evil and dismantle this creation	Ch 28-35 God will instantly reverse bad and sad situations to become happy and glad	Ch 36-39 Human kings cannot enable long-term happiness
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Isaiah 17-18 (NIVUK)

17 A prophecy against Damascus:

‘See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins.

² The cities of Aroer will be deserted and left to flocks, which will lie down, with no one to make them afraid.

³ The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim, and royal power from Damascus; the remnant of Aram will be like the glory of the Israelites,’ declares the LORD Almighty.

⁴ ‘In that day the glory of Jacob will fade; the fat of his body will waste away.

⁵ It will be as when reapers harvest the standing corn, gathering the corn in their arms – as when someone gleans ears of corn in the Valley of Rephaim.

⁶ Yet some gleanings will remain, as when an olive tree is beaten, leaving two or three olives on the topmost branches, four or five on the fruitful boughs,’ declares the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁷ In that day people will look to their Maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel.

⁸ They will not look to the altars, the work of their hands, and they will have no regard for the Asherah poles^a and the incense altars their fingers have made.

⁹ In that day their strong cities, which they left because of the Israelites, will be like places abandoned to thickets and undergrowth. And all will be desolation.

Sunday 12 October 2025

1. Israel-Syria will be destroyed (17:1-14)

- both Israel and Syria will be punished (17:1-3)

Damascus – capital of Syria/Aram
Aroer – city of *Gad*, a Northern tribe of Israel (Num 32:34)
Ephraim – often used to mean *all* the Northern tribes of Israel

- very few survivors (17:4-9)

^a That is, wooden symbols of the goddess Asherah



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Isaiah 13-27 God will destroy evil and dismantle this creation	<u>13:1-14:23</u> Babylon will be destroyed	<u>14:24-27</u> Assyria will be destroyed	<u>14:28-32</u> Philistia will be destroyed	<u>15:1-16:14</u> Moab will be destroyed	<u>17:1-14</u> Israel-Syria will be destroyed	<u>18:1-7</u> Cush will be destroyed	<u>19:1-25</u> Egypt will be destroyed
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- Israel trusted in Syria
instead of God (17:10-11)

¹⁰ You have forgotten God your Saviour;
you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress.
Therefore, though you set out the finest plants
and plant imported vines,
¹¹ though on the day you set them out, you make them grow,
and on the morning when you plant them,
you bring them to bud,
yet the harvest will be as nothing
in the day of disease and incurable pain.

- the Israelite-Syrian army is
all bark and no bite (17:12-14)

¹² Woe to the many nations that rage –
they rage like the raging sea!
Woe to the peoples who roar –
they roar like the roaring of great waters!
¹³ Although the peoples roar like the roar of surging waters,
when he rebukes them they flee far away,
driven before the wind like chaff on the hills,
like tumble-weed before a gale.
¹⁴ In the evening, sudden terror!
Before the morning, they are gone!
[Judah:] This is the portion of those who loot us,
the lot of those who plunder us.

<u>20:1-6</u> Egypt & Cush will be destroyed	<u>21:1-17</u> Babylon will be destroyed	<u>22:1-25</u> Judah will be destroyed	<u>23:1-18</u> Tyre will be destroyed	<u>24:1-23</u> The earth will be destroyed	<u>25:1-26:6</u> Death will be destroyed	<u>26:7-21</u> Suffering will be destroyed	<u>27:1-13</u> Evil will be destroyed
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For a 2-minute video that summarises Isaiah 13-27:
youtu.be/32ctQxMqJbA

18 Woe to the land of whirring wings^b
along the rivers of Cush,^c

² which sends envoys by sea
in papyrus boats over the water.

Go, swift messengers,
to a people tall and smooth-skinned,
to a people feared far and wide,
an aggressive nation of strange speech,
whose land is divided by rivers.

³ All you people of the world,
you who live on the earth,
when a banner is raised on the mountains,
you will see it,
and when a trumpet sounds,
you will hear it.

⁴ This is what the LORD says to me:
'I will remain quiet and will look on from my dwelling-place,
like shimmering heat in the sunshine,
like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.'

⁵ For, before the harvest, when the blossom is gone
and the flower becomes a ripening grape,
he will cut off the shoots with pruning knives,
and cut down and take away the spreading branches.

⁶ They will all be left to the mountain birds of prey
and to the wild animals;
the birds will feed on them all summer,
the wild animals all winter.

⁷ At that time gifts will be brought to the LORD Almighty
from a people tall and smooth-skinned,
from a people feared far and wide,
an aggressive nation of strange speech,
whose land is divided by rivers –
the gifts will be brought to Mount Zion,
the place of the Name of the LORD Almighty.

2. Cush will be destroyed (18:1-7)

- scene-setting: we're in Africa!
(18:1-2)

- God's final judgement will be:
• visible to all (18:3)

• a measured waiting... (18:4)

• ...with sudden &
humiliating ending (18:5-6)

- submission of the conquered or
redeemed? (18:7)

^b Or *of locusts*

^c That is, the upper Nile region

<u>Isaiah 1-5</u> Introduction How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	<u>Isaiah 6-39</u> New Creation God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	<u>Isaiah 40-55</u> New relationship God will restore his people from exile to a permanent relationship	<u>Isaiah 56-66</u> Who God will choose the humble and reject the proud
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For reflection

1. [Diagnostic] To what extent do you actively reflect on God dismantling this creation? Why?
2. [Devotional] Are there parts of Isaiah 17-18 that struck you? Are there parts you need God's help to hear?
3. [Devotional] Any tips worth sharing on fighting against genre- or judgement-fatigue as we study Isaiah 13-27?

Next Sunday (19 October): Isaiah 19-21 | Non-match day