

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 30 (NIVUK)

30 ‘Woe to the obstinate children,’ declares the LORD, ‘to those who carry out plans that are not mine, forming an alliance, but not by my Spirit, heaping sin upon sin; ² who go down to Egypt without consulting me; who look for help to Pharaoh’s protection, to Egypt’s shade for refuge.

3 But Pharaoh’s protection will be to your shame, Egypt’s shade will bring you disgrace.

4 Though they have officials in Zoan and their envoys have arrived in Hanes, ⁵ everyone will be put to shame because of a people useless to them, who bring neither help nor advantage, but only shame and disgrace.’

6 A prophecy concerning the animals of the Negev: Through a land of hardship and distress, of lions and lionesses, of adders and darting snakes, the envoys carry their riches on donkeys’ backs, their treasures on the humps of camels, to that unprofitable nation, ⁷ to Egypt, whose help is utterly useless. Therefore I call her Rahab the Do-Nothing.

8 Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness.

9 For^a these are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD’s instruction.

10 They say to the seers, ‘See no more visions!’ and to the prophets,

Sunday 30 November 2025

i. God, ‘Why trust in useless Egypt instead of me?!...’ (30:1-5)

...‘high-tariff, useless Egypt!’ (30:6-7)

‘Rahab’ רָהָב

- also refers to Egypt in Isaiah 51:9, Psalm 87:4
- ‘chaos monster’ or archetypal evil enemy in Job 9:13, Job 26:12, Psalm 89:10
- different word from the prostitute ‘Rachab’ רָחָב in Joshua 2

ii. Judah, ‘no more God-stuff!’ (30:8-11)

^a For is translated by e.g. GNV, KJV, NLT, YLT as *that*



Isaiah 28-35	28:1-6 Ephraim's self-trust ↓ Remnant's God-trust	28:7-13 "God's word is nonsense!" ↓ "I'll give you nonsense!"	28:14-29 "We trust in death!" ↓ "No, you will not!"	29:1-8 Jerusalem besieged ↓ Enemies made to disappear	29:9-24 Blind Judah cannot see God ↓ Judah can see God!	30:1-33 Judah's trust in Egypt leads to disaster ↓ God powerfully rescues Judah and blesses them
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'Give us no more visions of what is right!

Tell us pleasant things,
prophesy illusions.

¹¹Leave this way,
get off this path,
and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!'

God, 'this will be your undoing...' (30:12-14)

¹²Therefore this is what the Holy One of Israel says:
'Because you have rejected this message,
relied on oppression
and depended on deceit,

¹³this sin will become for you
like a high wall, cracked and bulging,
that collapses suddenly, in an instant.

¹⁴It will break in pieces like pottery,
shattered so mercilessly
that among its pieces not a fragment will be found
for taking coals from a hearth
or scooping water out of a cistern.'

'...I will bring scary enemies!' (30:15-17)

¹⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says:
'In repentance and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it.'

¹⁶You said, "No, we will flee on horses."
Therefore you will flee!

You said, "We will ride off on swift horses."
Therefore your pursuers will be swift!

¹⁷A thousand will flee at the threat of one;
at the threat of five you will all flee away,
till you are left
like a flagstaff on a mountaintop,
like a banner on a hill.'

31:1-9 Judah trust in human Egypt ↓ God brings divine power to rescue	32:1-8 Oppressed by injustice ↓ Ruled by a righteous King	32:9-20 Judah faces judgement for her complacency ↓ God gifts his Holy Spirit	33:1-24 Judah suffers under an unjust destroyer ↓ God rescues Judah and becomes her forever-King!	34:1-35:10 2nd Exodus God brutally destroys <i>all</i> enemy nations... (34:1-17) ...and leads his people through a <i>verdant</i> wilderness! (35:1-10)
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¹⁸ Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.

For the LORD is a God of justice.

Blessed are all who wait for him!

¹⁹ People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. ²⁰ Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers^b will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them^c. ²¹ Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’ ²² Then you will desecrate your idols overlaid with silver and your images covered with gold; you will throw them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, ‘Away with you!’

²³ He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful. In that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows. ²⁴ The oxen and donkeys that work the soil will eat fodder and mash, spread out with fork and shovel. ²⁵ In the day of great slaughter, when the towers fall, streams of water will flow on every high mountain and every lofty hill. ²⁶ The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the LORD binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.

²⁷ See, the Name of the LORD comes from afar,
with burning anger and dense clouds of smoke;
his lips are full of wrath,
and his tongue is a consuming fire.

²⁸ His breath is like a rushing torrent,
rising up to the neck.
He shakes the nations in the sieve of destruction;
he places in the jaws of the peoples
a bit that leads them astray.

iii. Yet God will *bless*: (30:18)

- with his physical presence (30:19-22)

- with prosperity (30:23-26)

- with the brutal execution of his people's enemies (30:27-33)

^b *your teachers* is translated by e.g. CSB, ESV, NASB as *your Teacher*

^c *them* is translated by e.g. CSB, ESV, NASB as *your Teacher*

<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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²⁹ And you will sing
as on the night you celebrate a holy festival;
your hearts will rejoice
as when people playing pipes go up
to the mountain of the LORD,
to the Rock of Israel.

³⁰ The LORD will cause people to hear his majestic voice
and will make them see his arm coming down
with raging anger and consuming fire,
with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail.

³¹ The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria;
with his rod he will strike them down.

³² Every stroke the LORD lays on them
with his punishing club
will be to the music of tambourines and harps,
as he fights them in battle with the blows of his arm.

³³ Topheth has long been prepared;
it has been made ready for the king.
Its fire pit has been made deep and wide,
with an abundance of fire and wood;
the breath of the LORD,
like a stream of burning sulphur,
sets it ablaze.

Topheth

A location where children were offered as burned sacrifice to the pagan god Molech, cf. Jeremiah 7:31, 2 Kings 23:10

For reflection

Diagnostic

1. To what extent do you think about God doing *decisive reversals* on judgement day? Why?
2. To what extent do you ‘permit’ God to judge his enemies like in Isaiah 30?

Devotional

3. Are there parts of Isaiah 30 that struck you? Are there parts you need God’s help to hear?
4. What parts of life in this cursed creation do you look forward to God *decisively reversing*?