

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
--	--	--	---	--

Isaiah 31-32 (NIVUK)

31 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help,
 who rely on horses,
who trust in the multitude of their chariots
 and in the great strength of their horsemen,
but do not look to the Holy One of Israel,
 or seek help from the LORD.

2 Yet he too is wise and can bring disaster;
 he does not take back his words.

He will rise up against that wicked nation,
 against those who help evildoers.

3 But the Egyptians are mere mortals and not God;
 their horses are flesh and not spirit.

When the LORD stretches out his hand,
 those who help will stumble,
 those who are helped will fall;
 all will perish together.

4 This is what the LORD says to me:
‘As a lion growls,
 a great lion over its prey –
and though a whole band of shepherds
 is called together against it,
it is not frightened by their shouts
 or disturbed by their clamour –
so the LORD Almighty will come down
 to do battle on Mount Zion and on its heights.

5 Like birds hovering overhead,
 the LORD Almighty will shield Jerusalem;
he will shield it and deliver it,
 he will “pass over” it and will rescue it.’

6 Return, you Israelites, to the One you have so greatly revolted against. **7** For in that day every one of you will reject the idols of silver and gold your sinful hands have made.

8 ‘Assyria will fall by no human sword;
 a sword, not of mortals, will devour them.

Sunday 7 December 2025

1a. Judah’s trust in *fleshy* Egypt will lead to disaster for both (31:1-3)

1b. God *apex-predators* away the Assyrian threat (31: 4-9)

‘pass over’
The same verb as in Exodus 12:13, 23, 27



God’s mighty rescue
God struck down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a night! cf. Isaiah 10:16, 37:36

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
Bad situation God reverses Happy outcome						

They will flee before the sword
and their young men will be put to forced labour.

⁹ Their stronghold will fall because of terror;
at the sight of the battle standard
their commanders will panic,^a
declares the LORD,
whose fire is in Zion,
whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

2a. A righteous King will bring
a reversal of understanding...
(32:1-4)

32 See, a king will reign in righteousness
and rulers will rule with justice.

² Each one^b will be like a shelter from the wind
and a refuge from the storm,
like streams of water in the desert
and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land.

³ Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed,
and the ears of those who hear will listen.

⁴ The fearful heart will know and understand,
and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear.

⁵ No longer will the fool be called noble
nor the scoundrel be highly respected.

⁶ For fools speak folly,
their hearts are bent on evil:
they practise ungodliness
and spread error concerning the LORD;
the hungry they leave empty
and from the thirsty they withhold water.

⁷ Scoundrels use wicked methods,
they make up evil schemes
to destroy the poor with lies,
even when the plea of the needy is just.

⁸ But the noble make noble plans,
and by noble deeds they stand.

^a at the sight of the battle standard their commanders will panic is translated by the ESV
and his officers desert the standard in panic

^b Literal translation of the Hebrew *And a man*, cf. GNV, KJV, WYC, WEB

<u>31:1-9</u> Judah trust in human Egypt  God brings divine power to rescue	<u>32:1-8</u> Oppressed by injustice  Ruled by a righteous King	<u>32:9-20</u> Judah faces judgement for her complacency  God gifts his Holy Spirit	<u>33:1-24</u> Judah suffers under an unjust destroyer  God rescues Judah and becomes her forever-King!	<u>34:1-35:10</u> 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)
---	---	---	---	--

⁹ You women who are so complacent,
rise up and listen to me;
you daughters who feel secure,
hear what I have to say!

¹⁰ In little more than a year
you who feel secure will tremble;
the grape harvest will fail,
and the harvest of fruit will not come.

¹¹ Tremble, you complacent women;
shudder, you daughters who feel secure!
Strip off your fine clothes
and wrap yourselves in rags.

¹² Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields,
for the fruitful vines

¹³ and for the land of my people,
a land overgrown with thorns and briars –
yes, mourn for all houses of merriment
and for this city of revelry.

¹⁴ The fortress will be abandoned,
the noisy city deserted;
citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland for ever,
the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks,

¹⁵ till the Spirit is poured on us from on high,
and the desert becomes a fertile field,
and the fertile field seems like a forest.

¹⁶ The LORD's justice will dwell in the desert,
his righteousness live in the fertile field.

¹⁷ The fruit of that righteousness will be peace;
its effect will be quietness and confidence for ever.

¹⁸ My people will live in peaceful dwelling-places,
in secure homes,
in undisturbed places of rest.

¹⁹ Though hail flattens the forest
and the city is levelled completely,

²⁰ how blessed you will be,
sowing your seed by every stream,
and letting your cattle and donkeys range free.

3a. The complacent elite women in Judah are punished...
(32:9-14)

3b. ...yet God will bless with the Holy Spirit! (32:15-20)

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

For reflection

Diagnostic

1. To what extent do you think about God doing *decisive reversals* on judgement day? Why?
2. What kinds of *fleshy* (non-God) things (31:1-9) do God's people today (including you) tend to trust in or lean on?
3. What kinds of:
 - a. injustice (32:1-8)
 - b. complacency amongst God's people (32:9-20)

...do you look forward to God *decisively reversing*?

Devotional

4. Are there parts of Isaiah 31-32 that struck you? Are there parts you need God's help to hear?

Next Sunday (14 December):

- Isaiah 33
- Non-match day

