

## A Trek Through Isaiah 41 - 34:1 - 35:10

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Prayer

### Introduction

For today

- The sixth woe: Home at last 33:1 - 35:10 (part 2)

**(9:35)**

### Overview

These chapters form the greatest of Isaiah's interim fulfillments.

He had prophesied one world, one people, one God. Now he answers the the question: Is it real?

The test case was the "Egyptian alliance" situation in the days of Hezekiah. Judah was under Assyria. Merodach-Baladan of Babylon was urging alliance against Assyria. Egypt was promising assistance for a revolt. Isaiah's job was to urge the way of faith, trusting in Yahweh rather than in politics.

Structure:

- 28 - 35 Six woes
- 36 - 37 Epilogue

### The sixth woe: Home at last 33:1 - 35:10

Structure

- Prologue 33:1-12
  - Zion's salvation 33:1-6
  - World judgment 33:7-12
- First proclamation: promise of the new Zion 33:13-24
- Second proclamation: warning of coming judgment 34:1-17
- Epilogue: Pilgrims to Zion 35:1-10

34 and 35 summarize the six woes in 28-35. Followed by the historical section in 36-37

## Second proclamation: warning of coming judgment 34:1-17

- Structure
  - V1-10a The judgment is from the LORD
  - v10b-17 The judgment is forever
  
- V1-10a The judgment is from the LORD
  - V1 Call to **hear**

1 Draw near, O nations, to hear, and give attention, O peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that fills it; the world, and all that comes from it.

- In the previous proclamation the world heard of sin (33:14), the law (33:15), the coming Davidic King (33:16), His victory (33:18-18), the blessings of His rule (33:20-21), forgiveness of sin (33:24). But if that is not heeded then they must hear of coming judgment
- Hear...give attention...hear
  - Repeated for emphasis
- Nations...peoples...earth...world
  - Everyone and everywhere

○ V2-4 The LORD's **anger**

2 For the LORD is enraged against all the nations, and furious against all their host; he has devoted them to destruction, has given them over for slaughter. 3 Their slain shall be cast out, and the stench of their corpses shall rise; the mountains shall flow with their blood. 4 All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.

- V2 The LORD has indignation
  - Is enraged. Lit has indignation.
    - First of four parts starting with “the LORD has”
      - V2 The LORD has indignation
      - V6a The LORD has a sword
      - V6b The LORD has a sacrifice
      - V8 The LORD has a day of vengeance
  - For the LORD is enraged against all the nations
    - God is holy
    - He is not passive or detached or uncaring.
    - He is active against sin
  - Enraged. Sharp outburst
  - Furious. Settled anger
  - has devoted ...has given. Past tense for certainty.
  - devoted them to destruction
    - Heb harem. Place of separation.
    - So appalling it must be given to God to be removed.
  - Slaughter. Death due to sin and sinners
- V3 destruction of the nations
  - cast out, and the stench of their corpses shall rise;
    - Not buried.
    - Ultimate indignity.
    - Picture of complete destruction of the nations. No one is left to bury the dead.
  - the mountains shall flow with their blood.
    - Lit melt. Erode.
    - As Rev 14:20 And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.
      - 1600 stadia = 183 miles
      - From approx 3 billion people
  - Foretaste in Is 37:36 And the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

- V4 Destruction of the host of heaven
  - All the host of heaven
    - Host of heaven: heavenly bodies. Great number and majesty
    - All 2x: completeness
  - Rot away
    - Lit rot, melt, dissolve. Vanish over a period of time.
  - Roll up like a scroll
    - Picture of a book being put away.
    - The LORD determines when the story begins and when it is over.
      - As Ps 102:25-26 Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 26 They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,
  - as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.
    - Two pictures from agriculture
    - Rich green leaves become dry and lifeless and fall to the ground.
  - Destruction of the heavens in the end times
    - As Rev 6:12-14 When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

○ V5-6a The LORD's **sword**

5 For my sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; behold, it descends for judgment upon Edom, upon the people I have devoted to destruction. 6 The LORD has a sword; it is sated with blood; it is gorged with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams.

- V5 My sword
  - Of the LORD
  - As Dt 32:40-42 For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever, 41 if I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me. 42 I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh— with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired heads of the enemy.'
- V5 has drunk its fill in the heavens
  - After destroying the host of heaven
- V5 it descends for judgment upon Edom
  - Edom: an example of the nations
  - Perpetually hostile to Israel
  - Only conquered by David
- V6 Blood...fat
  - Parts that belonged exclusively to the LORD.
  - Speak of sacrifice.

○ V6b-7 The LORD's **sacrifice**

6 ...For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, a great slaughter in the land of Edom. 7 Wild oxen shall fall with them, and young steers with the mighty bulls. Their land shall drink its fill of blood, and their soil shall be gorged with fat.

- Sacrifice
  - How the demands of holiness are met
- Wild oxen
  - Not used in sacrifices of the law
  - May be a metaphor for Edom's leaders.

○ V8-10a The LORD's **day**

8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. 9 And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch. 10 Night and day it shall not be quenched; its smoke shall go up forever.

- Day...year.
  - A period of time
- vengeance...recompense
  - Payment for the evils done to Zion.
  - Exacted by Him to whom vengeance is due.
  - Recompense. Plural (lit recompenses) for emphasis.
- And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch.
  - As Sodom and Gomorrah.
  - The land itself is brought under judgment.
- Night and day
  - Continually
  - Leading into the next section

- V10b-17 **Permanent** desolation

10 ...From generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever. 11 But the hawk and the porcupine shall possess it, the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. He shall stretch the line of confusion over it, and the plumb line of emptiness. 12 Its nobles—there is no one there to call it a kingdom, and all its princes shall be nothing. 13 Thorns shall grow over its strongholds, nettles and thistles in its fortresses. It shall be the haunt of jackals, an abode for ostriches. 14 And wild animals shall meet with hyenas; the wild goat shall cry to his fellow; indeed, there the night bird settles and finds for herself a resting place. 15 There the owl nests and lays and hatches and gathers her young in her shadow; indeed, there the hawks are gathered, each one with her mate.

- V10 generation to generation ...forever and ever
  - Eternal
- V11 But the hawk and the porcupine shall possess it, the owl and the raven shall dwell in it.
  - All unclean animals
- V11 He shall stretch the line of confusion over it, and the plumb line of emptiness.
  - Line
    - Boundaries for the new inhabitants
  - Plumb line
    - Proper and right
  - Confusion...emptiness
    - As Gen 1:2 The earth was without form and void,
    - Here is the end of sin.
- V12 Its nobles—there is no one there to call it a kingdom, and all its princes shall be nothing.
  - Human society and government are gone.
- V13-15 Land become wilderness
  - Overgrown ruins
  - Populated by wild animals
  - Undisturbed by man
- V14 wild goat ... night bird
  - May refer to demons.

- V16-17 **Appeal**

16 Seek and read from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them. 17 He has cast the lot for them; his hand has portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it forever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it.

- Seek and read from the book of the LORD
  - Appeal to all nations. Re v1
  - Seek and read. Come to know about God, His works, His promises.
  - From the book of the LORD. Found through His word
- Not one of these shall be missing
  - All will be as prophesied.
- Four-part description of how the LORD will bring about His will
  - For the mouth of the LORD has commanded,
    - God's word given
  - his Spirit has gathered them.
    - The Holy Spirit accomplishing His word
  - He has cast the lot for them;
    - Decision made.
  - his hand has portioned it out to them with the line
    - Boundaries set
- they shall possess it forever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it.
  - The certain result

### Pilgrims to Zion 35:1-10

- Beautiful poem with exodus theme
  - The land transformed
  - Pilgrims saved
  - Home to Zion
  
- V1-2 Transformation of the **land**

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; 2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

- wilderness and the dry land
  - As when Israel left Egypt
- shall be glad;
  - Land personified
- Shall be given
  - A gift of God
- Three descriptions of blossoming
  - Lebanon
    - The works of God. As Ps 104:16 The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
  - Carmel
    - Garden land
  - Sharon.
    - Standard of beauty. As the king's bride in Song 2:1 I am a rose of Sharon,
- They shall see
  - The wilderness and dry land shall see
- the glory of the LORD,
  - Inherent worth
- the majesty of our God.
  - Outward splendor

- V3-7 Salvation for the **pilgrims**

3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

- V3-4a Call to mutual encouragement in the wilderness
  - Speaking to pilgrims traveling through a land that is initially a wilderness.
  - Strengthen the weak hands
    - Hands: means of action
  - make firm the feeble knees.
    - Knees: ability to stand firm
  - Say to those who have an anxious heart
    - Say to those: encourage fellow pilgrims
    - Anxious heart: tendency to fear
  - Be strong; fear not!
    - Two-part message
      - Be strong: what to do
      - Fear not: how to feel. Not the absence of fear. Rather overcoming the fear.
    - Based on the promises in the word of the LORD
- V4b Deliverance
  - Behold
    - Emphasis
  - your God
    - Where true security resides
  - Vengeance...Recompense
    - For unbelievers: certain destruction
    - Vengeance: Penalty for transgressions against holy God
    - Recompense: Giving sinners what they deserve
    - As 2 Th 1:6 ...God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you
  - He will come and save you
    - For believers: certain salvation

- V5-7 Transformed people and land
  - Then
    - In God's time
  - the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
    - Senses, action. speech: the complete man
  - For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert
    - New life appears in lifeless places
    - People see that it is God's hand
  - the haunt of jackals, ...shall become reeds and rushes
    - Jackals. Wild animals
    - Reeds and rushes. Like papyrus along the Nile.
    - Picture of a wilderness becoming an inhabited area. Reversal of 34:10-15: It shall be the haunt of jackals, an abode for ostriches.

- V8-10 Highway of **homecoming**

8 And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

- Highway
  - Raised causeway visible to all
- it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
  - Qualifications given in 33:15: perfect righteousness
- the unclean shall not pass over it.
  - But God's people are enabled to walk there
  - How? V9&10 give a hint: the redeemed...the ransomed. Here is the gospel.
- even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
  - Coming to the destination does not depend on human ability.
- No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it
  - No threats or dangers
- Redeemed.
  - First use by Isaiah.
  - Technical term for rescue by the next-of-kin who has the right to take on a helpless relative's needs as if they were his own.
  - Picture of the LORD taking on the sins of His people. As Is 53: 4-6 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- shall return and come to Zion. Finally home
- With singing
  - As Eph 5:18-19 ...be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart
- everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away
  - Eternal joy
  - they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away
    - Opposites

## Summary

- End of the six woes.
- God portrayed as the Lord of history who will bring about His will: one people, one world, one God.
- As Rev 21:3-4 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
  - Is 34: the former things have passed away
    - The world city brought down
    - The land made fire and brimstone
    - The heavens rolled up
  - Is 35: no more pain
    - The wilderness and the dry places blossom
    - The pilgrims are transformed and come home to Zion.
  - Why? Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

**(10:00)**

## Discussion

We will break into three groups to discuss today's passage:

1. **For the LORD is enraged 34:2**
  - a. **Ps 80:11 Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?**
2. **Seek and read from the book of the LORD 34:16**
  - a. **Pr 2:4-5 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.**
  - b. **The LORD has a day of vengeance**
  - c. **The ransomed of the LORD shall come to Zion**
3. **Be strong; fear not 35:3-4**
  - a. **Strengthen the weak hands**
  - b. **Make firm the feeble knees**
  - c. **Speak to those with an anxious heart**

In your group, please discuss

- **See:** Something about God that you see in the passage
- **Know:** The effect that this view of God has upon you.
- **Respond:** A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.

For next week: Epilogue 36:1 - 37:38

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