

A Trek Through Isaiah 29 - 34:1 - 35:10

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In Isaiah's book of the King. Where is true security?

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

<u>The Lord of History (28:1 - 37:38)</u>					
1st Woe: The word of God and the purpose of God 28:1-29	2nd Woe: Is anything too hard for the LORD? 29:1-14	3rd Woe: Spiritual transformation 29:15-24	4th Woe: Faithlessness and faithfulness 30:1-33	5th Woe: All things new 31:1 - 32:20	6th Woe: Home at last 33:1 - 35:10
Historical Epilogue 36:1 - 37:38					

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 universal proclamation: promise of the new Zion 33:13-24
- Second universal proclamation: warning of coming judgment 34:1-17
- Epilogue: Pilgrims to Zion 35:1-10

Also

- 34 and 35 summarize the six woes in 28-35.
 - 34: The world city brought down
 - 35: Yahweh's people and city redeemed

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

Structure

- The summons 34:1
- The sentence 34:2-17
 - The judgment is from Yahweh 34:1-10a
 - The judgment is forever 34:10b-17

The summons 34:1

Isaiah 34:1 (LSB)

1 Draw near, O nations, to hear; and pay attention, O peoples! Let the earth hear, as well as its fullness, the world and all that springs from it.

- Draw near.
 - Summons to sentencing.
 - 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...pay attention...hear
 - Repeated for emphasis
- Nations...peoples...earth...world
 - Everyone and everywhere

The sentence 34:2-17

- Structure: Four parts each starting with "For"
 - V2 For the indignation of Yahweh
 - V6a For My sword
 - V6b For Yahweh has a sacrifice
 - V8 For Yahweh has a day of vengeance

Yahweh's indignation 34:2-4

Isaiah 34:2-4 (LSB)

2For the indignation of Yahweh is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their hosts; He has devoted them to destruction; He has given them over to slaughter.

3So their slain will be cast out, And their corpses will give off their stench, And the mountains will be drenched with their blood.

4And all the host of heaven will rot away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree.

- V2 Yahweh's anger
 - For the indignation of Yahweh is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their hosts
 - Indignation. Settled anger
 - wrath. Sharp outburst
 - God is holy and full of wrath about sin.
 - He is not passive or detached or uncaring.
 - He has been patient, but the time has come for action.
 - has devoted ...has given. Past tense for certainty.
 - devoted them to destruction
 - Heb harem. Placed under the ban.
 - As Jericho in Josh 6:17-18 "And the city shall be devoted to destruction, it and all that is in it belongs to Yahweh...But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest as you are devoting them to destruction, you also take some of the things devoted to destruction and make the camp of Israel devoted to destruction and bring trouble on it.
 - Nations which oppose Yahweh bring destruction upon themselves.
 - Their people and belongings are His since the victory is His.
 - All are destroyed to keep His people from taking them and bringing destruction upon themselves.
- Slaughter. Death due to sin and sinners

- V3 The nations' shame
 - So their slain will be cast out, And their corpses will give off their stench
 - Not buried.
 - Ultimate indignity.
 - Picture of complete destruction of the nations. No one is left to bury the dead.
 - the mountains will be drenched with their blood.
 - Drenched. Lit be dissolved. Eroded.
 - 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 Then the angel of Yahweh went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And the men arose early in the morning, and behold, all of them were dead bodies.
- V4 Destruction of the host of heaven
 - All the host of heaven
 - Host of heaven: (1) physical heavenly bodies: sun, moon, planets, stars (2) pagan gods
 - All 2x: completeness
 - Rot away
 - Lit rot, melt, dissolve. Vanish over a period of time.
 - Rolled up like a scroll
 - Picture of a book being put away.
 - Yahweh determines when the story begins and when it is over.
 - As Ps 102:25-26 Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You will remain; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.
 - As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree
 - Picture 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 Then I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Yahweh's sword 34:5-6a

Isaiah 34:5–6a (LSB)

5For My sword is satiated in heaven; Behold, it shall descend for judgment upon Edom And upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.

6The sword of Yahweh is filled with blood; It is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams.

- V5 My sword
 - Of Yahweh
 - As Dt 32:40-42 'Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, And say, as I live forever, If I sharpen My flashing sword, And My hand takes hold on judgment, I will render vengeance on My adversaries, And I will repay those who hate Me. 'I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword will devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.'
 - is satiated in heaven
 - After destroying the host of heaven
 - it shall descend for judgment upon Edom
 - Edom.
 - Descended from Esau. Perpetually hostile to Israel.
 - Conquered by David
 - Represents the nations
 - Devoted to destruction. As v2.
- V6a Blood...fat
 - Parts that belonged exclusively to Yahweh.
 - Speak of sacrifice.

Yahweh's sacrifice 34:6b-7

Isaiah 34:6b–7 (LSB)

6... For Yahweh has a sacrifice in Bozrah And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

7And wild oxen will also fall with them, And young bulls with strong ones; Thus their land will be soaked with blood, And their dust become greasy with fat.

- Sacrifice
 - Sin must be atoned for by sacrifice
 - The nations refuse to turn to God so they become the sacrifice.
- Wild oxen...young bulls with strong ones
 - Metaphor for all Edomites from leaders to common people

Yahweh's day 34:8

Isaiah 34:8 (LSB)

8For Yahweh has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

- V8 Day...year.
 - A definite time
- V8 vengeance...recompense
 - Payment for the evils done to Yahweh's city.
 - Exacted by Him to whom vengeance is due.
 - Recompense. Plural (lit recompenses) for emphasis.

Permanent desolation 34:9-15

Isaiah 34:9–15 (LSB)

9And its streams will be turned into pitch, And its dust into brimstone, And its land will become burning pitch.

10It will not be quenched night or day; Its smoke will go up forever. From generation to generation it will be laid waste; None will pass through it forever and ever.

11But pelican and hedgehog will possess it, And owl and raven will dwell in it; And He will stretch over it the line of utter formlessness And the plumb line of utter void.

12Its nobles—there is no one there Whom they may proclaim king— And all its princes will be non-existent.

13And thorns will come up in its fortified towers, Weeds and thistles in its fortified cities; It will also be a haunt of jackals And an abode of ostriches.

14And the desert creatures will meet with the wolves; The hairy goat also will cry to its kind; Surely, the night creature will obtain relief there And will find itself a resting place.

15The owl will make its nest and find its escape there, And it will hatch its eggs and gather them in its shade. Surely, the falcons will be gathered there, Every one with its kind.

- Desolation of the nations. Strong language to touch hard hearts.
- V9-10 Land
 - And its streams will be turned into pitch, And its dust into brimstone, And its land will become burning pitch.
 - As Sodom and Gomorrah. The land itself is brought under judgment.
 - Night and day... generation to generation ...forever and ever
 - Continually and eternally
 - As required for the altar of sacrifice in Lev 16:13 <the fire> shall be kept burning continually on the altar; it shall not go out.

- V11-15 Inhabitants
 - But pelican and hedgehog will possess it, And owl and raven will dwell in it
 - All unclean animals
 - And He will stretch over it the line of utter formlessness And the plumb line of utter void.
 - Line...plumb line
 - Marked out for utter desolation
 - Formlessness...utter void
 - As Gen 1:2 The earth was without form and void,
 - Here is the end of self-reliance.
 - Its nobles—there is no one there Whom they may proclaim king— And all its princes will be non-existent.
 - Human society and government are gone.
 - Fortified towers...fortified cities
 - Symbols of rule based on oppression. Now overgrown ruins
 - Desert creatures
 - Populated by wild animals
 - Undisturbed by man
 - night creatures
 - May refer to demons.

Appeal 34:16-17

Isaiah 34:16–17 (LSB)

16 Seek from the book of Yahweh, and read: Not one of these will be missing; None will lack its mate. For His mouth has commanded, And His Spirit has gathered them.

17 He has cast the lot for them, And His hand has divided it to them by line. They shall possess it forever; From generation to generation they will dwell in it.

- Appeal to all nations. Re v1
- V16 Seek from the book of Yahweh, and read
 - Maybe “seek and read the prophecy given previously”. Re Is 13:19-22 referring to Babylon being made a ruin inhabited by wild animals
 - Or “seek and read because”. Come to know about Yahweh, His works, His promises and repent or you will be destroyed
- V16 Not one of these will be missing
 - All will be as prophesied.
- Four-part description of how Yahweh will bring about His will
 - V16 For His mouth has commanded,
 - God’s word given
 - V16 his Spirit has gathered them.
 - The Holy Spirit accomplishing His word
 - V17 He has cast the lot for them;
 - Decision made.
 - V17 his hand has divided it to them by line
 - Action taken according to plan
- V17 they shall possess it forever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it.
 - Eternal outcome

Pilgrims to Zion 35:1-10

- Beautiful poem with exodus theme
- The land transformed
- Yahweh's people, transformed and saved , come home to Zion

Ch 34 saw the world made into a desert and the world city destroyed

In Ch 35 Yahweh transforms the desert into a garden and brings His people home to a restored Zion,

Structure

- Glory promised 35:1-2
- Encouragement for the remnant 35:3-4
- Glory realized 35:5-7
- Highway of homecoming 35:8-10

Glory promised 35:1-2

Isaiah 35:1–2 (LSB)

1The wilderness and the desert will be delighted, And the Arabah will rejoice and flourish; Like the crocus

2It will flourish profusely And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of Yahweh, The majesty of our God.

- wilderness and the desert
 - As when Israel left Egypt
- Will be delighted;
 - Land personified
- The glory of Lebanon will be given to it
 - A gift of God
- Three descriptions of blossoming
 - Lebanon
 - The works of God. As Ps 104:16 The trees of Yahweh are satisfied, The cedars of Lebanon which 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 will see the glory of Yahweh, the majesty of our God
 - The wilderness and desert will be transformed
 - Yahweh's inherent worth and outward splendor will be manifested in them.

Encouragement for the remnant 35:3-4

Isaiah 35:3–4 (LSB)

3Strengthen limp hands, and give courage to the knees of the stumbling.

4Say to those with an anxious heart, “Be strong, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you.”

- V3-4a Call to mutual encouragement in the wilderness
 - As in the Exodus, speaking to pilgrims traveling through a land that is initially a wilderness.
 - Strengthen limp hands
 - Hands: means of action
 - give courage to the knees of the stumbling.
 - Knees: ability to stand firm and walk boldly
 - Say to those with an anxious heart
 - Anxious heart: tendency to fear
 - The cause of the limp hands and weak knees
 - Be strong; fear not!
 - Two-part message
 - Be strong: what to do
 - Fear not: How to do it. Not about feelings (absence of fear) but about will (deciding not to give in to the fear).
 - Based on the promises in the word of Yahweh
- 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 ...Since it is right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,
 - A fearful time
 - But He will save you
 - For believers: certain salvation

Glory realized 35:5-7

5Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.

6Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness And streams in the Arabah.

7Then the scorched land will become a pool And the thirsty ground springs of water; In the haunt of jackals, its resting place, Grass becomes reeds and rushes.

- V5-6a Transformed people
 - Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.
 - 6Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.
 - In God's time.
 - Senses, action. speech: the complete man
- V6b-7 Transformed land
 - For waters will break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the Arabah
 - New life appears in lifeless places
 - People see that it is God's hand
 - the haunt of jackals, ...grass becomes reeds and rushes
 - Jackals. Wild animals of 34:11-15
 - Reeds and rushes. Like papyrus along the Nile.
 - The desert and wilderness become a well-watered garden.

Highway of homecoming 35:8-10

Isaiah 35:8–10 (LSB)

8And a roadway will be there, a highway, And it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not pass by on it, But it will be for him who walks in that way, And ignorant fools will not wander on it.

9No lion will be there, Nor will any vicious beast go up on it; These will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there,

10And the ransomed of Yahweh will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting gladness upon their heads. They will attain delight and gladness, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

- Easy travel in Yahweh's land. Contrast the devastated land in 34:10 none will pass through it forever and ever
- V8-9 the highway
 - roadway...highway
 - Raised causeway visible to all
 - it will be called the Highway of Holiness;
 - Qualifications given in 33:15: He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly...
 - The unclean will not pass by on it...And ignorant fools will not wander on it.
 - Because the requirement is holiness
 - it will be for him who walks in that way
 - Yahweh's people are enabled to walk there
 - How? V9&10 give a hint: the redeemed...the ransomed. Here is the gospel.
 - No lion will be there, Nor will any vicious beast go up on it
 - No threats or dangers
 - the redeemed will walk there.
 - 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.
- V10 the pilgrims
 - And the ransomed of Yahweh will return
 - By payment of their debt
 - to Zion. Finally home
 - And come with joyful shouting...with everlasting gladness upon their heads.
 - No restraint here
 - They will attain delight and gladness, And sorrow and sighing will flee away
 - What they have longed for...eternal joy

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 tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain. The first things passed away."
- Is 34: the first things 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 tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them

Application: Be strong, fear not

Is 35:3-4 Strengthen limp hands, and give courage to the knees of the stumbling. Say to those with an anxious heart, "Be strong, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you."

- God is coming to bring judgment on an unbelieving world. Times will be hard.
- He will save the remnant.
- Therefore, they are to not fear but to be strong.

Examples of true believers who experienced hard times because of Yahweh's judgment on unbelievers around them

- Moses, Joshua, Caleb: 40y in the wilderness until the unbelieving generation passed away.
- Daniel: When Jerusalem was conquered by Babylon, taken into exile away from the Temple
- Jeremiah: Experienced opposition, imprisonment, famine during the siege and conquest of Jerusalem by Babylon. Was forced to accompany the Jews when they disobeyed Yahweh and fled to Egypt. He died there.

All of these remained faithful

Is 35:3 quoted in Heb 12:12

- Hebrews written to believers fainting under oppression.
- Heb 12:5-13 says that trials are to be seen as discipline by a loving Father for our benefit so that we may share His glory (12:10)
- 12:4 says that the Hebrews had not yet shed blood resisting sin. Links to the previous section where Jesus shed His blood on the cross. He is the ultimate example of one suffering because of the sins of others.
- 1 Pet 2: 23 tells us where Jesus put His trust: who being reviled, was not reviling in return; while suffering, He was uttering no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.
 - While suffering for the sins of others, He entrusted Himself to His Father, who would judge righteously.
- 1 Pet 4:19 says we are to do the same: Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God must entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing good.

Back to Isaiah 35. Isaiah 35:4 says God will save us even as He brings judgment on the unbelievers around us. So no matter what happens around us, let us entrust ourselves to Him, not fear, be strong, encourage each other, fulfill our ministry.

References

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