

Isaiah 1:2-5:30 Overview

1:2-31 Problematic Zion

- **Judgment** on Israel
- Call to repentance

2:1-5 Future Glory

- Mountain of the LORD exalted
- Nations streaming to learn

2:6-22 Day of Yahweh

- **Judgment** on human pride
- All that is high brought low

3:1-4:1 Leadership Crisis

- **Judgment** on Judah
- Inversion of power structures

4:2-6 Future Glory

- Branch of the LORD beautiful
- Survivors holy and cleansed

5:1-30 Song of the Vineyard

- **Judgment** on Judah
- Wild grapes instead of good fruit

Isaiah 2:6-22 – The Day of the LORD

- ⁶ For you have rejected your people,
the house of Jacob,
because they are full of things from the east
and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines,
and they strike hands with the children of foreigners.
- ⁷ Their land is filled with silver and gold,
and there is no end to their treasures;
A their land is filled with horses,
and there is no end to their chariots.
idols,
rocks, ⁸ Their land is filled with **idols**;
and they **bow down** to the work of their hands,
terror to what their own fingers have made.
- ⁹ So man is humbled,
and each one is brought low—
do not forgive them!
- ¹⁰ **Enter into the rock**
and hide in the dust
from before the terror of the LORD
and from the splendor of his majesty .
- ¹¹ **The haughty looks of man shall be brought low,
and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled,
and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.**
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- ¹² For the LORD of hosts has a day
against all that is proud and lofty,
against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low;
¹³ against all the cedars of Lebanon,
lofty and lifted up;
and against all the oaks of Bashan;
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- ¹⁴ against all the lofty mountains,
and against all the lifted up hills;
¹⁵ against every high tower,
and against every fortified wall;
¹⁶ against all the ships of Tarshish,
and against all the beautiful craft.
- ¹⁷ **And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled,
and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low,
and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.**
- B**

¹⁸ And the **idols** shall utterly pass away.
¹⁹ And people shall **enter the caverns of the rocks**
 and the holes of the ground,
 from before the terror of the LORD
 and from the splendor of his majesty ,
 when he rises to terrify the earth.
A ²⁰ In that day mankind will cast away
idols, their **idols** of silver and their **idols** of gold,
rocks, which they made for themselves to **worship** ,
and to the moles and to the bats,
²¹ to **enter the caverns of the rocks**
x2 and the clefts of the cliffs,
 from before the terror of the LORD
 and from the splendor of his majesty ,
 when he rises to terrify the earth.
²² Stop regarding man
 in whose nostrils is breath,
 for of what account is he?

Money, Tanks, and Idols

In verses 7-8 we see, in a nice poetic form, what the land of Jacob is really filled with and what kinds of things they're placing their hope in – money (silver and gold), military prowess (horses and chariots), and idols.

It's a stark contrast to verse 4 where Israel is destroying their military tools into productive equipment for the communities benefit.

This is where the "real" Israel is at.

Don't Forgive Them?

So what's going on in verse 9 though? How will we be able to get to v1-5 if there's no forgiveness for the house of Jacob?

"...It seems to express the prophet's deep despair over his people's condition. He seems almost afraid that God might relent and, in violation of his own justice, forget their heinous sins. As such, this phrase exposes the problem of sin. It cannot be simply forgotten, it must be punished; otherwise, the whole chain of cause and effect upon which the world is built would be broken. But the punishment for playing god can be no less than banishment from God, a denial of God's purpose in creating human beings-fellowship with himself. What might the solution be? Chs. 1-39 never really answer the

question. Only in the second part of the book does the answer come (43:1-7; 44:21-22; 52:7; 53:12; 59:15-21; 53:1-6). But whatever the answer, it is not to be found in acting as if the sin had not been committed.”

— John Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*

Forgive

נָשָׂא

na.sa

Definition: "to raise" or "to lift up"

The word "na.sa" is in direct contrast to the bowing down to the idols they're worshipping and the whole theme of this section of bringing low that which is high.

THE SAUCE

Deep dives & rabbit holes

Why is God against the trees? Is this a metaphor for the people? Is this because this is what they were worshipping back in chapter 1?

The "Ships of Tarshish" have a significant role in the Hebrew Bible. Yahewh "bringing them low" has a lot more significance than just "destroying ships"

There's probably more we could do with the Tower of Babel imagery here as well.