

Week 6: Isaiah Chapters 28 to 35

Groaning for a Better Future

- Chapters 28 to 33 are a series of “groans” (Hebrew: hoy’) that Isaiah has concerning Israel and Judah’s lack of faith that the LORD will accomplish everything He has promised He will do.
- Yet Israel and Judah’s opportunity to experience God’s promises as a whole hinges upon FAITH and REPENTANCE.
- A common theme to keep in mind: Judgement will produce EITHER destruction OR salvation. The same as the Cross of Christ is EITHER foolishness to those perishing OR the power of God to those being saved. God’s actions never have a neutral reaction.

Chapter 28

¹Ah, the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim, and the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is on the head of the rich valley of those overcome with wine! ²Behold, the Lord has one who is mighty and strong; like a storm of hail, a destroying tempest, like a storm of mighty, overflowing waters, he casts down to the earth with his hand. ³The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim will be trodden underfoot; ⁴and the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is on the head of the rich valley, will be like a first-ripe fig before the summer: when someone sees it, he swallows it as soon as it is in his hand. ⁵In that day the LORD of hosts will be a crown of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people, ⁶and a spirit of justice to him who sits in judgment, and strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate. ⁷These also reel with wine and stagger with strong drink; the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are swallowed by wine, they stagger with strong drink, they reel in vision, they stumble in giving judgment. ⁸For all tables are full of filthy vomit, with no space left. ⁹“To whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message? Those who are weaned from the milk, those taken from the breast? ¹⁰For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.” ¹¹For by people of strange lips and with a foreign tongue the LORD will speak to this people, ¹²to whom he has said, “This is rest; give rest to the weary; and this is repose”; yet they would not hear. ¹³And the word of the LORD will be to them precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little, that they may go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. ¹⁴Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers, who rule this people in Jerusalem! ¹⁵Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement, when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter”; ¹⁶therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one

Groan #1

Ephraim = Northern Kingdom of Israel

who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.' ¹⁷And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter." ¹⁸Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it. ¹⁹As often as it passes through it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message. ²⁰For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on, and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in. ²¹For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim; as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused; to do his deed—strange is his deed! and to work his work—alien is his work! ²²Now therefore do not scoff, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard a decree of destruction from the Lord GOD of hosts against the whole land. ²³Give ear, and hear my voice; give attention, and hear my speech. ²⁴Does he who plows for sowing plow continually? Does he continually open and harrow his ground? ²⁵When he has leveled its surface, does he not scatter dill, sow cumin, and put in wheat in rows and barley in its proper place, and emmer as the border? ²⁶For he is rightly instructed; his God teaches him. ²⁷Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin, but dill is beaten out with a stick, and cumin with a rod. ²⁸Does one crush grain for bread? No, he does not thresh it forever; when he drives his cart wheel over it with his horses, he does not crush it. ²⁹This also comes from the LORD of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.

See 1 Peter 2:6. What does it mean that we as living stones are being build with Christ the Living Stone?

The Lord is saying he made a promise to David that will come to pass, but only AFTER terrifying judgement.

Even the simple farmer learns from God's order. Israel should be able to at least do that.

Chapter 29

¹Ah, Ariel, Ariel, the city where David encamped! Add year to year; let the feasts run their round. ²Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be moaning and lamentation, and she shall be to me like an Ariel. ³And I will encamp against you all around, and will besiege you with towers and I will raise siegeworks against you. ⁴And you will be brought low; from the earth you shall speak, and from the dust your speech will be bowed down; your voice shall come from the ground like the voice of a ghost, and from the dust your speech shall whisper. ⁵But the multitude of your foreign foes shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the ruthless like passing chaff. And in an instant, suddenly, ⁶you will be visited by the LORD of hosts with thunder and with earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire. ⁷And the multitude of

Groan #2: Ariel = a symbolic name for Jerusalem which could have two different meanings: "Lion of God" or "Hearth of God"

all the nations that fight against Ariel, all that fight against her and her stronghold and distress her, shall be like a dream, a vision of the night. ⁸As when a hungry man dreams, and behold, he is eating, and awakes with his hunger not satisfied, or as when a thirsty man dreams, and behold, he is drinking, and awakes faint, with his thirst not quenched, so shall the multitude of all the nations be that fight against Mount Zion. ⁹Astonish yourselves and be astonished; blind yourselves and be blind! Be drunk, but not with wine; stagger, but not with strong drink! ¹⁰For the LORD has poured out upon you a spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes (the prophets), and covered your heads (the seers). ¹¹And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." ¹²And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read." ¹³And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, ¹⁴therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden." ¹⁵Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?" ¹⁶You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? ¹⁷Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? ¹⁸In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. ¹⁹The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. ²⁰For the ruthless shall come to nothing and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off, ²¹who by a word make a man out to be an offender, and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate, and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right. ²²Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale. ²³For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. ²⁴And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction."

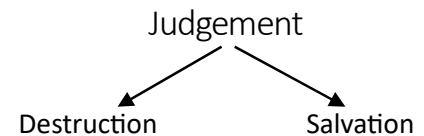
See the parallels of Romans 9:19-24

Vs 7-12 The "Cult" of YHWH
VS
The reality of YHWH

See Romans 11:8 How does this relate to Isaiah's ministry call in Isaiah 6?

Vs 13 See Matthew 15:8-9 and Mark 7:6-7 What are "Doctrines taught by men" and how are those different than "Doctrines taught by God"?

Vs 14 See 1 Corinthians 1:19



Groan #3: (vs 15) We have flipped God's good world upside down.

God's Kingdom will flip things right side up!

Chapter 30

¹“Ah, stubborn children,” declares the LORD, “who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; ²who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! ³Therefore shall the protection of Pharaoh turn to your shame, and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt to your humiliation. ⁴For though his officials are at Zoan and his envoys reach Hanes, ⁵everyone comes to shame through a people that cannot profit them, that brings neither help nor profit, but shame and disgrace.” ⁶An oracle on the beasts of the Negeb. Through a land of trouble and anguish, from where come the lioness and the lion, the adder and the flying fiery serpent, they carry their riches on the backs of donkeys, and their treasures on the humps of camels, to a people that cannot profit them. ⁷Egypt’s help is worthless and empty; therefore I have called her “Rahab who sits still.” ⁸And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. ⁹For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; ¹⁰who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, ¹¹leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.” ¹²Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, “Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, ¹³therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; ¹⁴and its breaking is like that of a potter’s vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern.” ¹⁵For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling, ¹⁶and you said, “No! We will flee upon horses”; therefore you shall flee away; and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. ¹⁷A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill. ¹⁸Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. ¹⁹For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. ²⁰And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity

Groan #4: Judah stubbornness to put their hope in Egypt instead of the LORD.

This is a description of what will be the consequences of Judah’s choice to go this way.

An opportunity for repentance

and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. ²²Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!" ²³And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. In that day your livestock will graze in large pastures, ²⁴and the oxen and the donkeys that work the ground will eat seasoned fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork. ²⁵And on every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be brooks running with water, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. ²⁶Moreover, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day when the LORD binds up the brokenness of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow. ²⁷Behold, the name of the LORD comes from afar, burning with his anger, and in thick rising smoke; his lips are full of fury, and his tongue is like a devouring fire; ²⁸his breath is like an overflowing stream that reaches up to the neck; to sift the nations with the sieve of destruction, and to place on the jaws of the peoples a bridle that leads astray. ²⁹You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept, and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel. ³⁰And the LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard and the descending blow of his arm to be seen, in furious anger and a flame of devouring fire, with a cloudburst and storm and hailstones. ³¹The Assyrians will be terror-stricken at the voice of the LORD, when he strikes with his rod. ³²And every stroke of the appointed staff that the LORD lays on them will be to the sound of tambourines and lyres. **Battling with brandished arm, he will fight with them.** ³³For a burning place has long been prepared; indeed, for the king it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it.

Let your trials teach you what lessons you need to learn.

This is what Repentance will bring about (We'll see in Isaiah 36 & 37)

Isaiah 37:36

Chapter 31

¹**Woe** to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD! ²And yet he is wise and brings disaster; he does not call back his words, but will arise against the house of the evildoers and against the helpers of those who work iniquity.

Groan #5: (Is 31 & 32) STOP putting your hope in Egypt.

³The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and he who is helped will fall, and they will all perish together. ⁴For thus the LORD said to me, "As a lion or a young lion growls over his prey, and when a band of shepherds is called out against him he is not terrified by their shouting or daunted at their noise, so the LORD of hosts will come down to fight on Mount Zion and on its hill. ⁵Like birds hovering, so the LORD of hosts will protect Jerusalem; he will protect and deliver it; he will spare and rescue it." ⁶Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel. ⁷For in that day everyone shall cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which your hands have sinfully made for you. ⁸"And the Assyrian shall fall by a sword, not of man; and a sword, not of man, shall devour him; and he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be put to forced labor. ⁹His rock shall pass away in terror, and his officers desert the standard in panic," declares the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

God fights for His people and is not afraid...so "Turn to him" (vs 6).

God is making promises ("the Assyrian shall fall a sword") that have not happened yet.

Remember prophesy is Foretelling AND Forthtelling

Chapter 32

¹Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. ²Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. ³Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. ⁴The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly. ⁵The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable. ⁶For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. ⁷As for the scoundrel—his devices are evil; he plans wicked schemes to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right. ⁸But he who is noble plans noble things, and on noble things he stands. ⁹Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; you complacent daughters, give ear to my speech. ¹⁰In little more than a year you will shudder, you complacent women; for the grape harvest fails, the fruit harvest will not come. ¹¹Tremble, you women who are at ease, shudder, you complacent ones; strip, and make yourselves bare, and tie sackcloth around your waist. ¹²Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine, ¹³for the soil of my people growing up in thorns and briers, yes, for all the joyous houses in the exultant city. ¹⁴For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become

Promising a righteous King to come.

dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks; ¹⁵until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. ¹⁶Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. ¹⁷And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. ¹⁸My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. ¹⁹And it will hail when the forest falls down, and the city will be utterly laid low. ²⁰Happy are you who sow beside all waters, who let the feet of the ox and the donkey range free.

Judgement will give way to a better future.

There is blurred vision of peace now but not yet Peace.

Chapter 33

¹Ah, you destroyer, who yourself have not been destroyed, you traitor, whom none has betrayed! When you have ceased to destroy, you will be destroyed; and when you have finished betraying, they will betray you. ²O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. ³At the tumultuous noise peoples flee; when you lift yourself up, nations are scattered, ⁴and your spoil is gathered as the caterpillar gathers; as locusts leap, it is leapt upon. ⁵The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, ⁶and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; **the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.** ⁷Behold, their heroes cry in the streets; the envoys of peace weep bitterly. ⁸The highways lie waste; the traveler ceases. Covenants are broken; cities are despised; there is no regard for man. ⁹The land mourns and languishes; Lebanon is confounded and withers away; Sharon is like a desert, and Bashan and Carmel shake off their leaves. ¹⁰**"Now I will arise," says the LORD, "now I will lift myself up; now I will be exalted.** ¹¹You conceive chaff; you give birth to stubble; your breath is a fire that will consume you. ¹²And the peoples will be as if burned to lime, like thorns cut down, that are burned in the fire." ¹³Hear, you who are far off, what I have done; and you who are near, acknowledge my might. ¹⁴**The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: "Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?"** ¹⁵He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking on evil, ¹⁶he will dwell on the heights; his place of defense will be the fortresses of rocks; his bread will be given him; his water will be sure. ¹⁷Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will

Groan #6: Judgement is coming...for Assyria

What is "the fear of the LORD"?

Because of the "Cry" and devastation the Lord will act.

See Hebrews 12:29. Why does Hebrews speak in hope but Isaiah in "trembling" related to the "consuming fire"?

see a land that stretches afar. ¹⁸Your heart will muse on the terror: “Where is he who counted, where is he who weighed the tribute? Where is he who counted the towers?” ¹⁹You will see no more the insolent people, the people of an obscure speech that you cannot comprehend, stammering in a tongue that you cannot understand. ²⁰Behold Zion, the city of our appointed feasts! Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an untroubled habitation, an immovable tent, whose stakes will never be plucked up, nor will any of its cords be broken. ²¹But there the LORD in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, nor majestic ship can pass. ²²For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us. ²³Your cords hang loose; they cannot hold the mast firm in its place or keep the sail spread out. Then prey and spoil in abundance will be divided; even the lame will take the prey. ²⁴And no inhabitant will say, “I am sick”; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.

See James 4:12. How is God being our judge, a life giving hope for ever Christian?

Chapter 34

¹Draw 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. ²For 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. ³Their slain shall be cast out, and the stench of their corpses shall rise; the mountains shall flow with their blood. ⁴All 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. ⁵For my sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; behold, it descends for judgment upon Edom, upon the people I have devoted to destruction. ⁶The 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. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, a great slaughter in the land of Edom. ⁷Wild 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. ⁸For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. ⁹And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch. ¹⁰Night and day it shall not be quenched; its smoke shall go up forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever. ¹¹But 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. ¹²Its nobles—there is no one there to call it a kingdom, and all its princes shall be nothing. ¹³Thorns shall grow over its

Israel, Judah, and Assyria's judgements in previous chapters lead us to a Future Judgement that is GLOBAL in scope.

See Revelation 6:14, Matthew 24:29, and Acts 2:19-20.

Edom/Bozrah: Ancient enemies of Israel which represent ALL evil forces against the LORD.

See Revelation 14:11 and 19:3.

strongholds, nettles and thistles in its fortresses. It shall be the haunt of jackals, an abode for ostriches. ¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵There 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. ¹⁶Seek 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. ¹⁷He 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.

All this points to ETERNAL
Judgement

Chapter 35

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it 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. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say 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." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then 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; ⁷the 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. ⁸And 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. ⁹No 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. ¹⁰And 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.

All this points to ETERNAL
Joy

See Hebrews 12:12...Don't give up in your faith.

The return from captivity will be a picture of our "Everlasting Joy".

BEFORE NEXT WEEK:

- Read Isaiah 36:1 – 39:8
- Suggested reading from *Isaiah: God Saves Sinners* – Chapters 17 thru 21
- Pray through the connection between God's judgement and our salvation.