

Isaiah 34

Come near, you nations, and listen;
pay attention, you peoples!
Let the earth hear, and all that is in it,
the world, and all that comes out of it!
² The LORD is angry with all nations;
his wrath is on all their armies.
He will totally destroy them,
he will give them over to slaughter.
³ Their slain will be thrown out,
their dead bodies will stink;
the mountains will be soaked with their blood.
⁴ All the stars in the sky will be dissolved
and the heavens rolled up like a scroll;
all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the
vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.
⁵ My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens;
see, it descends in judgment on Edom,
the people I have totally destroyed.
⁶ The sword of the LORD is bathed in blood,
it is covered with fat—the blood of lambs and
goats, fat from the kidneys of rams.
For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah
and a great slaughter in the land of Edom.
⁷ And the wild oxen will fall with them,
the bull calves and the great bulls.
Their land will be drenched with blood,
and the dust will be soaked with fat.
⁸ For the LORD has a day of vengeance,
a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause.
⁹ Edom's streams will be turned into pitch,
her dust into burning sulfur;
her land will become blazing pitch!
¹⁰ It will not be quenched night or day;
its smoke will rise forever.
From generation to generation it will lie desolate;
no one will ever pass through it again.
¹¹ The desert owl and screech owl will possess it;
the great owl and the raven will nest there.
God will stretch out over Edom the measuring line of
chaos and the plumb line of desolation.
¹² Her nobles will have nothing there to be called a
kingdom, all her princes will vanish away.
¹³ Thorns will overrun her citadels, nettles and
brambles her strongholds. She will become a haunt for
jackals, a home for owls.
¹⁴ Desert creatures will meet with hyenas,
and wild goats will bleat to each other;
there the night creatures will also lie down
and find for themselves places of rest.
¹⁵ The owl will nest there and lay eggs,
she will hatch them, and care for her young

under the shadow of her wings; there also the
falcons will gather, each with its mate.

¹⁶ Look in the scroll of the LORD and read:
None of these will be missing,
not one will lack her mate.
For it is his mouth that has given the order,
and his Spirit will gather them together.
¹⁷ He allots their portions;
his hand distributes them by measure.
They will possess it forever
and dwell there from generation to generation.

Isaiah 35

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.
³ Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you."
⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
⁸ And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.
⁹ No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Just Around the Corner: Judgment or Joy

Isaiah 34-35



- the view around the corner

- certain future (34:16)

Salvation: the garden city (35:1-10)

- endless joy (35:1-2, 10)

Judgment: the desert wasteland (34:1-17)

- universal warning (34:1-2)

- personal intervention (34:2, 5-8)

- horrific carnage (34:2-3)

- cosmic dissolution (34:4)

- Just punishment (34:8)

- total devastation (34:9-17)

- eternal loss (34:10)

- renewed creation (35:1-2, 7)

- divine presence (35:2)

- restored bodies (35:5-6)

- rescued people (35:8-10)

➡ to the weary – press on

➡ to the drowsy – wake up

➡ to the rebellious – turn back