

## “Twilight of Idols” Isaiah 31:1-35:10

**Context:** We conclude our reflection on the Zion prophecies by considering the eventual deliverance of the Remnant from her enemies, especially Assyria. The Remnant is contrasted with the leaders of Judah, who, instead of trusting God for deliverance, trusted their own guile and cunning. Although they experienced the blessings of the deliverance of the Remnant by associating with them, they were not truly delivered. Their punishment for rejecting God’s exhortations and seeking only self-satisfying teachings came by the swords of Sennacherib and Esarhaddon, as Egypt failed to deliver Judah. The Remnant had hope, for they trusted in the Lord God, whose intense desire remained to work out their deliverance in the midst of their trouble. At Messiah’s return, God promises healing for those who have worked out repentance from their idolatry. **Life Principle:** If you would journey upon the path that leads to life, you must choose to discard any idols you find along the way (cf. Isaiah 31:6-7).

### 1. Twilight of idols – Isaiah 31:6-7

Isaiah reveals that Israel’s deliverance from Assyria is a foregone conclusion. The transcendent value of this deliverance is only experienced by those who have acted on their repentance by discarding the sin of their hands, their idols.

### 2. Dawn of Divinity – Isaiah 32:1-33:15

In place of idols and idiots, Isaiah foretells the destruction of Sennacherib and the reign of Hezekiah. He and his reign are typological for the ushering in of an even more blessed Messianic Age where Christ will reign with the Remnant of the first resurrection and where they will serve as His executors of justice. The curse will be removed, as revealed by the Spirit’s restoration of organs of divine perception.

### 3. Rising of the ransomed – Isaiah 33:15

Isaiah uses the desert bloom after a spring rain to describe the promised restoration of the Ransomed of Christ. The grief and sighing of the curse will disappear. In their place will be an eternity of joy and gladness, accompanied by endless songs of praise.

## Study questions:

- Sometimes the Bible uses a play on the sounds of words in order to emphasize a contrast. As a **Bible study method**, look up the Hebrew word for ‘idol’ in the TWOT (#99a) and contrast the sound and meaning with the Hebrew word for God, *Elohim*. What did you find out about the sounds? How do the meanings differ? Characterize the concept of an idol, *elil*, from your study. Is there anything in your life that you often put in place of serving or worshiping God?
- Stories and descriptions of idols in Scripture often help to identify what they look like. Read Exodus 32:1-6; Judges 17-18; Joshua 7:21; Philippians 3:19; Acts 12:21-25; and Revelation 13: 15-18; 19:20-21. What do these idols have in common with the idols of Isaiah 31:7? What does it mean to cast away an idol?
- Isaiah 35:10 reveals that the Lord restores those whom He has ransomed to a future life of everlasting joy. In what sense does ‘ransom’ fit in with the substitutionary atonement of Jesus (see footnote 9 ‘On Salvation’ in our **doctrinal statement** under **what we believe** at [www.gracepointfellowship.org](http://www.gracepointfellowship.org))? How does a person become ransomed by Jesus?

## Transformation exercise:

Consider Isaiah 31:6-7. Are there appetites in your life that have replaced God to give you pleasure, comfort, protection, control, or hope? If so, repent and cast out the idols! If not, take courage in your coming liberation.