

LANGUAGE OF ISAIAH

I. STRIKING IMAGES.

A. Assyria is a swarm of bees.

ISA 7:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that Jehovah will hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.

1. A raging stream.

ISA 8:7 now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the River, strong and many, {even} the king of Assyria and all his glory: and it shall come up over all its channels, and go over all its banks; and it shall sweep onward into Judah; it shall overflow and pass through; it shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of its wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel.

2. A razor.

ISA 7:20 In that day will the Lord shave with a razor that is hired in the parts beyond the River, {even} with the king of Assyria, the head and the hair of the feet; and it shall also consume the beard.

3. A lion.

ISA 5:29 their roaring shall be like a lioness, they shall roar like young lions; yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and carry it away safe, and there shall be none to deliver.

4. A rod.

ISA 10:5 Ho Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, the staff in whose hand is mine indignation!

5. An axe.

ISA 10:15 Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? shall the saw magnify itself against him that wieldeth it? as if a rod should wield them that lift it up, {or} as if a staff should lift up {him that is} not wood.

B. Jehovah is described as:

1. A potter.

ISA 29:16 Ye turn things upside down! Shall the potter be esteemed as clay; that the thing made should say of him that made it, He made me not; or the thing formed say of him that formed it, He hath no understanding?

ISA 45:9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! a potsherd among the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

2. A shepherd.

ISA 40:11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom, {and} will gently lead those that have their young.

3. A man of war.

ISA 42:15 I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and will dry up the pools.

4. A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.

ISA 8:14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

5. A purger of metals.

ISA 1:25 and I will turn my hand upon thee, and thoroughly purge away thy dross, and will take away all thy tin;

6. A lyon.

ISA 31:4 For thus saith Jehovah unto me, As the lion and the young lion growling over his prey, if a multitude of shepherds be called forth against him, will not be dismayed at their voice, nor a base himself for the noise of them: so will Jehovah of hosts come down to fight upon mount Zion, and upon the hill thereof.

7. A strong fortress.

ISA 33:21 But there Jehovah will be with us in majesty, a place of broad rivers and streams, wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby.

8. A rock.

ISA 17:10 For thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength; therefore thou plantest pleasant plants, and settest it with strange slips.

C. Zion is pictured as:

1. A cottage in a vineyard.

ISA 1:8 And the daughter of Zion is left as a booth in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

2. The mountain of the Lord.

ISA 2:3 And many peoples shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem.

3. A captive sitting in the dust.

ISA 52:2 Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit {on thy throne}, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bonds of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

4. A woman in travail.

ISA 66:8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? shall a nation be brought forth at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

D. Israel is described as:

1. A diseased body.

ISA 1:5 Why will ye be still stricken, that ye revolt more and more? the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; {but} wounds, and bruises, and fresh stripes: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with oil.

2. An oak whose leaf has faded.

ISA 1:30 For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water.

3. An unproductive vinyard.

ISA 5:7 For the vineyard of Jehovah of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for justice, but, behold, oppression; for righteousness, but, behold, a cry.

4. A bulging wall that is about to burst.

ISA 30:13 therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly in an instant.

E. The Messiah is described as:

1. A root of Jesse.

ISA 11:10 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the root of Jesse, that standeth for an ensign of the peoples, unto him shall the nations seek; and his resting-place shall be glorious.

2. A rod.

ISA 11:1 And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots shall bear fruit.

3. A tender plant.

ISA 53:2 For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

4. A man of sorrows.

ISA 53:3 He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we esteemed him not.

4. A lamb brought to slaughter.

ISA 53:7 He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he opened not his mouth; as a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.

5. A sheep dumb before its shearers.

ISA 53:7 He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he opened not his mouth; as a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.

F. Degenerates are described as:

1. Silver that has become dross and wine mixed with water.

ISA 1:22 Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water.

2. Drawing iniquity with cords of vanity.

ISA 5:18 Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of falsehood, and sin as it were with a cart rope;

G. Boasters are those who "Conceive chaff and bring forth stubble.

ISA 33:11 Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: your breath is a fire that shall devour you.

H. Humanity in general as "grass that withereth."

I. Beautiful metaphors.

ISA 7:2 And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart trembled, and the heart of his people, as the *trees of the forest tremble with the wind*.

ISA 9:2 The people *that walked in darkness have seen a great light*: they that dwelt in *the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined*.

ISA 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, *as the waters cover the sea*.

ISA 12:3 Therefore with joy shall ye *draw water out of the wells of salvation*.

ISA 32:2 And a man shall be as a hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, as streams of water in a dry place, as *the shade of a great rock in a weary land*.

II. ANTITHESIS IS USED VERY EFFECTIVELY BY ISAIAH.

A. ISA 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: *though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*.

B. ISA 3:24 And it shall come to pass, that instead of *sweet spices* there shall be *rottenness*; and instead of *a girdle, a rope*, and instead of *well set hair, baldness*; and instead of *a robe, a girding of sackcloth, branding instead of beauty*.

C. ISA 5:7 For the vineyard of Jehovah of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for *justice*, but, behold, *oppression*; for *righteousness*, but, behold,

a cry.

- D. ISA 5:10 For *ten acres* of vineyard shall yield *one bath*, and a *homer of seed* shall yield {but} an *ephah*.
- E. ISA 65:13-14 Therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Behold, *my servants shall eat*, but ye shall *be hungry*; behold, *my servants shall drink*, but ye shall *be thirsty*; behold, *my servants shall rejoice*, but ye shall *be put to shame*; behold, my servants *shall sing for joy of heart*, but ye *shall cry for sorrow of heart*, and shall *wail for vexation of spirit*.

III. STRONG EXPRESSIONS.

- A. ISA 1:6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; {but} wounds, and bruises, and fresh stripes: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with oil.
- B. ISA 2:10 Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, from before the terror of Jehovah, and from the glory of his majesty.
- C. ISA 3:15 what mean ye that ye crush my people, and grind the face of the poor? saith the Lord, Jehovah of hosts.
- D. ISA 5:14 Therefore Sheol hath enlarged its desire, and opened its mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth among them, descend {into it}.
- E. ISA 5:28 whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent; their horses' hoofs shall be accounted as flint, and their wheels as a whirlwind:
- F. ISA 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- G. ISA 11:4 but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.
- H. ISA 24:20 The earth shall stagger like a drunken man, and shall sway to and fro like a hammock; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it, and it shall fall, and not rise again.
- I. ISA 25:8 He hath swallowed up death for ever; and the Lord Jehovah will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the reproach of his people will he take away from off all the earth: for Jehovah hath spoken it.
- J. ISA 57:20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea; for it cannot rest, and its waters cast up mire and dirt.
- K. ISA 66:24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the dead bodies of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.