



1

³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached the good news of Jesus to him. (Acts 8:35)

2

Isaiah 28-35

- *historical setting* – Assyria's looming invasion of Judah/Jerusalem (704-701B.C.); King Hezekiah's unwise alliance with Egypt for help (31:1)
- *message* – a series of six “woes” pronouncing the inevitable judgment of Judah, yet also announcing a future, “wonderful” work of transformation

3

Isaiah 29:15-24

- ¹⁵ Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD,
And whose deeds are *done* in a dark place,
And they say, “Who sees us?” or “Who knows us?”
- ¹⁶ You turn *things* around!
Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay,
That what is made would say to its maker, “He did not make me”;
Or what is formed say to him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?
- ¹⁷ Is it not yet just a little while
Before Lebanon will be turned into a fertile field,
And the fertile field will be considered as a forest?

4

Isaiah 29:15-24

- ¹⁸ On that day the deaf will hear words of a book,
And out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.
- ¹⁹ The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the LORD,
And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.
- ²⁰ For the ruthless will come to an end and the scorner will be finished,
Indeed all who are intent on doing evil will be cut off;
- ²¹ Who cause a person to be indicted by a word,
And ensnare him who adjudicates at the gate,
And defraud the one in the right with meaningless arguments.

5

Isaiah 29:15-24

- ²² Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham,
concerning the house of Jacob:
“Jacob shall not now be ashamed,
Nor shall his face now turn pale;
- ²³ But when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst,
They will sanctify My name;
Indeed, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob
And will stand in awe of the God of Israel.
- ²⁴ Those who are wayward in spirit will know the truth,
And those who murmur will learn instruction.”

6

A Complete Reversal

1. A Present (Absurd!) Reversal

- he indicts the worldly mind that thinks one can hide plans from the Lord (*"who sees us?"*)
- they deny the Lord's absolute distinctiveness, His sovereignty, and His wisdom (*the potter and clay*)

7

A Complete Reversal

➤ *Potter and Clay Principle*

- it conveys the categorical distinction between God, the self-existent Creator, and human beings, finite and dependent creatures
- as such, God has absolute right over His creation, and rules it with wisdom and purpose
- failure to trust God's word and His wisdom is like the pot speaking against the Potter

8

A Complete Reversal

2. A Coming World Reversal

- in a little while the present situation will be reversed; a creational, spiritual, societal transformation
- all who oppress the helpless and pervert justice to their own advantage will be removed

9

A Complete Reversal

3. A Reversal for Jacob/Israel

- the children of Jacob will at last acknowledge the Lord as holy and tremble with awe before Him – they are the work of His hands
- their waywardness and criticism will be replaced with true discernment and a teachable spirit

10

A Complete Reversal

➤ Fulfillment in Jesus

- Christ has inaugurated this complete reversal – He presently brings spiritual transformation
- in "just a little while" He will consummate this great reversal – we wait in certain hope

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