

Deuteronomy 32:1-46 Chiasms

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- v1 **A** 1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak;
v2 1 and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.
v2 2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain,
2 my speech shall distil as the dew,
3 as the small rain upon the tender herb,
3 and as the showers upon the grass:
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- v3 **A** Because I will publish the name of the LORD:
v4 **A** ascribe ye **greatness** unto our God.
v4 **B** He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment:
v5 **B** a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.
v5 **C** They have *corrupted themselves*,
v6 **C**₁ *their spot is not the spot of his children*:
v6 **C** they are a *perverse and crooked* generation.
v6 **D** *Do ye thus requite the LORD*, O foolish people and unwise?
v7 **E** is not he thy father that hath bought thee?
v7 **E** hath he not made thee, and established thee?
v7 **F-1** Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.
v8 **F-2** When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.
v9 **F-3** For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.
v10 **G-1** He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about,
v11 **G-2** he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.
v11 **G-3** *As an eagle* stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:
v12 **G-1'** So the LORD alone did lead him,
v12 **G-2'** and there was no strange god with him.
v13 **G-3'** He *made him ride on the high places of the earth*,
v13 **F-1'** that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;
v14 **F-2'** Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.
v15 **F-3'** But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness;
v16 **E'** then he forsook God which made him,
v16 **E'** and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.
v16 **D'** They **provoked** him to jealousy with strange gods,
v17 **D'** with abominations **provoked** they him to anger.
v17 **C'** They *sacrificed unto devils*, not to God;
v17 **C'** to gods whom they knew not,
v17 **C**_{1'} to new gods that came newly up, whom *your fathers feared not*.
v18 **B'** Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful,
v18 **B'** and hast forgotten God that formed thee.
v19 **A'** And when the LORD saw it, he **abhorred** them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.

*This chiasm runs seven levels deep.

v15 ¹A ...then he forsook God which made him,
²A and **lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.**

v16 ³A They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods,
⁴A with abominations provoked they him to anger.

v17 ⁵A They sacrificed unto devils, not to God;
⁶A to gods whom they knew not,
⁷A to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

v18 **B** Of the Rock that begat thee
B thou art *unmindful*,
C and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

v19 **C** And when the LORD saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.

v20 **D** And he said, I will hide my face from them,
D I will see what their end shall be:
E for they are a *very froward generation*,
E children in whom is *no faith*.

v21 **F** They have *moved me to jealousy* with that which is not God;
F they have *provoked me to anger with their vanities*.
G and I will move them to jealousy with *those which are not a people*,
G I will provoke them to anger with a *foolish nation*.

v22 **H** For a *fire is kindled* in mine anger,
H and *shall burn* unto the lowest hell,
I and shall *consume* the earth with her increase,
I and *set on fire* the foundations of the mountains.

v23 **J** I will *heap mischiefs* upon them;
J I will spend mine arrows upon them.

v24 **K** They shall be *burnt with hunger*,
K and *devoured with burning heat*,
L and **with BITTER DESTRUCTION:**

v25 **K'** I will also send the *teeth of beasts* upon them,
K' with the *poison of serpents* of the dust.
J' The sword without,
J' and *terror* within,
I' shall *destroy* both the young man and the virgin,
I' the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

v26 **H'** I said, I would *scatter them* into corners,
H' I would *make the remembrance of them to cease* from among men:

v27 **G'** Were it not that I feared the wrath of the *enemy*,
G' lest their *adversaries should behave themselves strangely*,
F' and lest they should say, **Our hand** is high,
F' and *the LORD hath not done all this*.

v28 **E'** For they are a nation void of counsel,
E' *neither is there any understanding* in them.

v29 **D'** O that they were wise, that they understood this,
D' that they would consider their latter end!

v30 **C'** How should one chase a thousand,
C' and two put ten thousand to flight,
B' except their Rock had *sold them*,
B' and the LORD had *shut them up*?

v31 ¹A' For **their rock is not as our Rock**, even our enemies themselves being judges.

v32 ²A' For their vine is of the vine of Sodom,
³A' and of the fields of Gomorrah:
⁴A' their grapes are grapes of gall,
⁵A' their clusters are bitter:

v33 ⁶A' Their wine is the poison of dragons,
⁷A' and the cruel venom of asps.

*This chiasm runs *twelve* levels deep.

v22 **A** For a fire is kindled in mine anger,
A and shall burn unto the lowest hell,
A and shall consume the earth with her increase,
A and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

v23 **B** I will heap mischiefs upon them;
B₁ I will spend mine arrows upon them.

v24 **B** They shall be burnt with hunger,
B₂ and devoured with burning heat,
C and with bitter **destruction**:
D I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them,
D with the poison of serpents of the dust.

v25 **E** The sword without,
E and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

v26 **F** I said, I would scatter them into corners,
F I would make the *remembrance of them to cease* from among men:

v27 **G-1** Were it not that I feared the wrath of the enemy, lest their adversaries should behave themselves
strangely, and lest they should say, Our hand is high, and *the LORD hath not done all this*.

v28 **G-2** For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them.

v29 **G-3** O that they were wise, that they understood this,
G-4 that they would consider their latter end!

v30 **H** How should one chase a thousand,
H and two put ten thousand to flight, (See D&C 133:58)
I-1 except *their Rock had sold them*,
I-2 and the LORD had shut them up?

v31 **I-3** For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

v32 **I-4** For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are
grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter:
I-5 Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.

v33 **[omission]** Is not this *laid up in store* with me, and **SEALED UP** among my treasures?
J To me belongeth **vengeance**,
J and **recompense**:
K-1 their *foot shall slide*
K-2 in *due time*.
L for **THE DAY OF THEIR CALAMITY IS AT HAND**,
K-1' and the *things that shall come upon them*
K-2' *make haste*.

v36 **J'** For the LORD shall **judge** his people,
J' and **repent himself** for his servants, (See Rom. 11:25)
I-1' when he seeth that *their power is gone*,
I-2' and there is none shut up, or left.

v37 **I-3'** And he shall say, Where are their gods, their rock in whom they trusted,
v38 **I-4'** Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices,
I-5' and drank the wine of their drink offerings?
H' let them rise up and help you,
H' and be your protection.

v39 **G-1'** See now that *I, even I, am he*,
G-2' and there is no god with me:
G-3' I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: (See 1 Ne. 17:37; Hel. 7:28; Jacob 5:65; Jer. 1:10)
G-4' **neither is there any that can deliver** out of my hand. (See "and none can deliver" 3 Ne. 20:16; 21:12; D&C
133:71)

v40 **F'** For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, *I live for ever*.
v41 **E'** If I whet my glittering sword,
D' and mine hand take hold on *judgment*,
C' I will render **vengeance** to mine enemies,
C' and will *reward* them that hate me.

v42 **B₁'** I will make mine arrows drunk with blood,
B₂' and my sword shall devour flesh;
B' and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives,
B' from the beginning of revengers upon the enemy.

v43 **A'** Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people:
A' for he will avenge the blood of his servants,
A' and will render vengeance to his adversaries,
A' and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.

v34 **A** **Is not this laid up in store** with me,
A and sealed up among my treasures?
v35 **B-1** To me belongeth vengeance,
B-2 and recompense,
B-3 their *foot shall slide* **in due time**:
B-3 for the day of their *calamity* **is at hand**,
B-3 and the *things that shall come upon them* **make haste**.
v36 **B-4** For the LORD shall judge his people,
B-5 and repent himself for his servants,
C when he seeth that their power is gone,
C and there is none shut up, or left.
v37 **D-1** And he shall say,
D-2 *Where are their gods,*
E their rock *in whom they trusted*,
v38 **F** Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink
offerings?
G let them rise up and help you,
G and be your protection.
v39 **G'** See now that I, even I, am he,
G' and there is no god with me:
F' I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal:
E' *neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand*.
v40 **D-1'** For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say,
D-2' *I live for ever*.
v41 **C'** If I whet my glittering sword,
C' and mine hand take hold on judgment;
B-1' I will render vengeance to mine enemies,
B-2' and will reward them that hate me.
v42 **B-3'** I will make mine *arrows drunk with blood*,
B-3' and my *sword shall devour flesh*;
B-3' and that with the *blood of the slain* and of the captives, **from the beginning** of revengers upon
the enemy.
v43 **B-4'** Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people:
B-5' for he will avenge the blood of his servants,
A' and will render **vengeance** to his adversaries,
A' and will be **merciful** unto his land, and to his people.

*This chiasm runs *seven* levels deep.

Chiasm Covering the Four Chiasms in Deuteronomy 32:1-46

A

(PREFACE: Deuteronomy 32:1,2)
Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak;
and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth....

B-1

(FOCUS of Chiasm covering Deuteronomy 32:3-19)
G-1 ...he led him about,
G-2 he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye....

B-2

G-1' So **the LORD alone** did lead him,
G-2' and there *was no strange god with him*....

C

(FOCUS of Chiasm covering Deuteronomy 32:15-34)
L and **with BITTER DESTRUCTION:**

C'

(FOCUS of Chiasm covering Deuteronomy 32:22-43)
L for **THE DAY OF THEIR CALAMITY IS AT HAND,**

B-1'

(FOCUS of Chiasm covering Deuteronomy 32:34-43)
G let them rise up and help you,
G and be your protection.

B-2'

G' See now that **I, even I, am he**,
G' and there *is no god with me*.

A'

(EPILOGUE: Deuteronomy 32:44-46)
And Moses came and speak all the words of this song in the ears of the people....
And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel....