

Youth Worship Service
Saturday 18 April 2026
Title: "But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked"
Text: Deuteronomy 32:15-35

INTRODUCTION

1. God had blessed His people significantly
 - a) They were reminded in the Song of Moses to respond well
 - i. To remember God and what He had done
 - ii. To renew their appreciation for God
 - b) But did they?
2. God knew His people well (Deuteronomy 31:19-21)
 - a) He knew the inclination of the behaviour of the nation of Israel
 - b) He knew that they would turn to other gods and serve them
 - c) He knew that they would provoke Him and break His covenant
 - d) So God asked Moses to write a song
 - i. To testify against them as a witness when they do commit these sins
 - ii. To warn them of the judgment to come

THE POOR RESPONSES OF JESHURUN WHICH WILL PROVOKE GOD

¹⁵ *"But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked;
You grew fat, you grew thick,
You are obese!
Then he forsook God who made him,
And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.*

¹⁶ *They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods;
With abominations they provoked Him to anger.*

¹⁷ *They sacrificed to demons, not to God,
To gods they did not know,*

To new gods, new arrivals

That your fathers did not fear.

¹⁸ *Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful,
And have forgotten the God who fathered you.*

Deuteronomy 32:15-18

1. Israel as Jeshurun (Deuteronomy 32:15)
 - a) A term of endearment and affection for Israel
 - i. It means “righteous and upright one”
 - ii. This was Israel in God’s eyes
 - b) God had every intention of blessing the nation of Israel (Deuteronomy 8:7-10)
 - i. He assured them that He will bring them into a good land
 - ii. They will lack nothing
 - iii. When they have eaten and are full, they are to bless the LORD their God
2. But God knew how Jeshurun will provoke Him to anger and jealousy
 - a) They kicked (Deuteronomy 32:15a)
 - b) They forsook God who made him (Deuteronomy 32:15b)
 - c) They scornfully esteemed the Rock of their salvation (Deuteronomy 32:15c)
 - d) They committed idolatry (Deuteronomy 32:16-17)
 - e) They were unmindful and had forgotten God (Deuteronomy 32:18)
 - i. Though He had begotten them
 - ii. Though He had fathered them

GOD WARNED OF THE MANY EVILS AND TROUBLES THAT WILL COME UPON ISRAEL

¹⁹ *"And when the LORD saw it, He spurned them,
Because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters.*

²⁰ *And He said: 'I will hide My face from them,
I will see what their end will be,
For they are a perverse generation,
Children in whom is no faith.*

²¹ *They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God;
They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols.
But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation;
I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.*

²² *For a fire is kindled in My anger,
And shall burn to the lowest hell;
It shall consume the earth with her increase,
And set on fire the foundations of the mountains.*

²³ *'I will heap disasters on them;
I will spend My arrows on them.*

²⁴ *They shall be wasted with hunger,
Devoured by pestilence and bitter destruction;
I will also send against them the teeth of beasts,
With the poison of serpents of the dust.*

²⁵ *The sword shall destroy outside;
There shall be terror within
For the young man and virgin,
The nursing child with the man of gray hairs.*

²⁶ *I would have said, "I will dash them in pieces,
I will make the memory of them to cease from among men,"*

²⁷ *Had I not feared the wrath of the enemy,
Lest their adversaries should misunderstand,
Lest they should say, "Our hand is high;
And it is not the LORD who has done all this."*

²⁸ *"For they are a nation void of counsel,
Nor is there any understanding in them.*

²⁹ *Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this,
That they would consider their latter end!*

³⁰ *How could one chase a thousand,
And two put ten thousand to flight,
Unless their Rock had sold them,
And the LORD had surrendered them?*

³¹ *For their rock is not like our Rock,
Even our enemies themselves being judges.*

³² 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.

³³ Their wine is the poison of serpents,
And the cruel venom of cobras.

Deuteronomy 32:19-33

1. God warned that He will judge them

a) The hiding of His face from them (Deuteronomy 32:20)

i. He will spurn them

ii. God will see what their end will be

iii. Without God blessing and hearing prayer, their end will come

b) His anger (Deuteronomy 32:22)

c) Disasters (Deuteronomy 32:23-26)

d) God will forsake them (Deuteronomy 32:30)

2. God's purpose when He judged and chastened His people (Amos 4:6-12)

a) So that they would return to the LORD

b) So that they would seek the LORD in humility and repentance

IT IS GOD'S PREROGATIVE TO JUDGE

³⁴ 'Is this not laid up in store with Me,
Sealed up among My treasures?

³⁵ Vengeance is Mine, and recompense;
Their foot shall slip in due time;
For the day of their calamity is at hand,
And the things to come hasten upon them.'

Deuteronomy 32:34-35

1. Vengeance is Mine (Deuteronomy 32:35a)
 - a) God will exercise His vengeance
 - b) His vengeance must be understood in the context of recompense
 - i. It is not revenge without restraint
 - ii. It is God's right and prerogative to make recompense
 - iii. God will do so as a fair and righteous Judge
2. Calamity will happen in due time (Deuteronomy 32:35b)
 - a) Their foot shall slip
 - b) They will experience the day of their calamity and the things to come

RELEVANT LESSONS WE CAN LEARN

1. Let us appreciate how merciful our God is
 - a) He did not bring about calamity immediately though Israel provoked Him greatly
 - b) He knew their inclination to sin
 - c) He provided instruction and warnings
 - d) He chastened His people so that they might return to Him
2. Let us return to God if we have sinned against and departed from God
 - a) By taking heed to the instructions and warnings which are given
 - b) When we are chastened by the Father, to repent in contrition and seek Him humbly