A Prophet Reading Scripture:
Allusion in the Poetry of Second Isaiah
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Example 1. (Reversal.)

Isaiah 28.1–5:
Woe to you, haughty crown of Ephraim’s drunkards!
Samaria’s magnificent honor (צבי) is a flower that fades (ויצר נבל).
Those above the fertile valley (אגיא) are besotted with wine.
Behold the Lord has a strong and powerful one (יהוה אל אדני)
who like a stream of hail, a torrent of pestilence, . . .
will throw [the drunkard of Ephraim] down to earth with his hand (כן).
The magnificent honor of the city [Samaria] above the fertile valley (אגיא)
will be a flower that fades (ציץ נבל). . .
On that day, Hashem of hosts will become a magnificent crown
and an honorable diadem for those of His people (צויא) who remain.

Isaiah 40.1–10:
Comfort, O comfort My people (עמי)_ Your God is saying _
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem
and proclaim to her:
It’s true: her term of service (צבאה) is complete;
it’s true: her punishment has been fulfilled;
it’s true: she has received from YHWH’s hand (מד) a two-fold penalty for all her sins.
A voice calls:
In the wilderness, prepare the way for Hashem!
set up a highway for our God in the desert!
Every valley (אג) will be exalted,
and every mountain and hill will be lowered. . .
A voice says, “Proclaim!”
And I said, “What shall I proclaim?”
“All flesh is grass,
and all its loyalty like the flower in the field (ציצנים חשתות).
The grass withers, the flower fades (נבל צרי)
when the wind from Hashem blows on it. . .
The grass withers, the flower fades (נבל צרי),
but the word of our God stands forever. . .
Behold! the Lord Hashem is coming as a strong one (יהוה ארדני אלהים),
His might is triumphant.”
Example 2. (Confirmation.)

Jeremiah 16.17–18:
   It’s true (ֵכָ): I descry all their ways;
   They are not hidden from Me.
   Their transgression (שָנָם) is not concealed from My eyes.
   I shall fully repay double for their transgression and their sin (משנה ועון וחטא)
   Because they profaned my land (ластרא).

Isaiah 40.2:
   It’s true (ֵכָ): Her term of service is complete!
   It’s true: Her punishment (שָנָה) has been accepted!
   It’s true: She has received from Hashem
   a two-fold penalty for all her sins (חטאת).

Isaiah 61.7:
   Because they were put to shame doubly (משנה
   and inherited contempt as their portion,
   therefore they will inherit doubly (משנה) in their land (בארץ).
Example 3. (Reversal.)

Jeremiah 29.4–6:
Thus says Yhwh of Hosts, the God of Israel to all the exile (גֹוָלָה) that I have exiled from Jerusalem (ירָשָׁלִם) to Babylonia. Build houses (בֹּנֶת בַּתִּים) and settle (שָׁבַע), and plant (נָטֵעַ) gardens, and eat their fruit (אָכָלָה אֶת פָּרָין). Take wives and beget (יָוֹלְדוּ) sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give men your daughters that they may give birth (נְלִיָּה) to sons and daughters, and you will increase and not be few.

Isaiah 65.18–23:
Rejoice and exult (גָּלְיָה) forever and ever, which I create!
For I am about to create exultation (גָּלְיָה יְרוֹשָׁלִּים) for Jerusalem, and for its people, joy.
I exult in Jerusalem (גָּלְיָה יְרוֹשָׁלִּים) and rejoice over my people.
No more will there be heard in it the sound of crying or the sound of sobbing.

... They will build houses (בֹּנֶת בַּתִּים) and settle (שָׁבַע) in them; they will plant (נָטֵעַ) vineyards and eat their fruit (אָכָלָה פָּרָין).
They will not build for another to dwell in it; they will not plant for another to eat it.

... They will not toil for nothing at all, for they are seed blessed by Yhwh, and their offspring are with them.
Example 4. (Re-prediction.)

Jeremiah 31.16:
Hold back your voice from crying (מְנִעי קֹוֵלְךָ מְבִכֶּךָ), and your eyes from tears.
For there is a reward for your service (שָׂכָר לְפֻעָּלְּךָ) says Hashem _
and they will return from the enemy's land.

Isaiah 40.9–10:
Go up on a high mountain,
you who bring good tidings to Zion!
Raise your voice in strength (הִרֵיָּה בּוֹכַח קֹוֵלְךָ),
you who bring good tidings to Jerusalem!
Go up, do not fear!
Say to the cities of Judah,
Behold your God!
Behold, the Lord Hashem is coming as a strong one,
and His arm brings dominion for Him.
His reward (שָׂכָר) is with Him,
and His recompense (וְפֻעָּלתּוֹ) before Him.
Example 5. (Reprediction.)

Jeremiah 31.7–9:

Thus says Yhwh:
Sing (יִרְנוּ ronnu) to Jacob joyously (שְׁמַחָּה simḥa),
and shout to the chief (רָאשׁ rosh) of nations.

... Make it known! Give praise! And say (וְאִמְרוּ ve’imru):

I am about to bring (הִנֵּנִי מביא hineni mevi’) them from a northern land,
and I will gather them from the ends of the earth;
the blind and the lame (בָּמֶס זֶרֶה ufiseah) will be among them,
together with those pregnant and giving birth.
A great multitude will return here (יָשָׁבוּ הַנֶּה yashuvu hena).
With weeping they will come (יָבֹאו yavo’u),
and in supplication I will bring them in (אָבוֹלֶם ovilem).
I will lead them (אִלִּכְהֶם olilehem) to streams of water (נַהֲלֵי מָיִם nahalei mayim),
on a straight path (דֶּרֶךְ derekh) where they will not falter.

Isaiah 35.4–10:

Say (אִמְרוּ imru) to the anxious,
Be strong! Do not fear.
Behold your God will come with requital (וְהִנֵּה...יָבֹא hineh...yavo’).

... Then the eyes of the blind (יִזָר ivver) will open,
and the ears of the deaf will be unsealed.
Then the lame (פִּסֵא הַר yaron) will jump like gazelles,
and the tongue of the mute will sing (יַרְון yaron).
For water (מָיִם mayim) gushes in the desert,
and streams (נְהָלִים nehalim) in the desolate places.
The dry land will become a pool,
and a parched wilderness—founts of water (מָיִם mayim).

And there will be a way and a path (דֶּרֶךְ derekh),
and it will be called the path (דֶּרֶךְ derekh) of the Holy One.

... Those who go on this path, even fools (ואֶוָילֵים ve’evilim), will not err.
No lion will be there,
Nor will any violent beast enter it;
these shall not be found there.
The redeemed will go (וֹהָלֵךְ vehalekhu),
and those ransomed by Yhwh will return (יִשְׁבּוּ yeshuvu).
and they will come to Zion in song (באו ציון ברぬ uva’u tsiyon berinna),

with eternal happiness (עולם שמחה simḥat ‘olam) on their heads (ראשם rosham);

they will achieve joy and happiness (שמחה simḥah),

and sorrow and sighing will flee.
Example 6. (Reprediction and reversal.)

Jeremiah 6.11, 13–14:

It is Yhwh’s wrath that I’m filled with,  
I cannot hold it in.  

\ldots  

From the least among them to greatest,  
they all pursue unjust gains (בֹּצַע).  
Whether prophet or priest,  
they all practice deception.  
They would heal (וְיַרְפֵּא) the wound of my people easily, saying,  
“Things will be fine! Things will be fine!”—  
but things will not be fine (שָׁלוֹם).  

Isaiah 57.17–21:

For the sin of his unjust gains (בֹּצַע) I was angry,  
and I smote him, turning away and raging  

\ldots  

I have seen his ways—and I shall heal him (וְרָפֵא).  

\ldots  

Things will be fine, things will be fine (שָׁלוֹם)  
for those far away and those nearby  
(Yhwh has said),  
and I shall heal him (וְרָפֵא).  
But the wicked are like a sea stirred up,  
for tranquility they will not find,  
their waters cast up murk and mud.  
Things will not be fine (רָפֵא)  
(my God has said),  
for the wicked.
Example 7. (Re-prediction with variation.)

Isaiah 2.2–4 (Micah 4.1–4 is almost identical):

In future days,
the mountain of Yhwh’s house
will be fixed as the greatest of mountains
and lifted up (ְוִנָּׂשא) above the hills.
All nations will flow towards it (ְוָנֲהרּו ֵאָליו),
and many peoples will come (ְוָהְלכּו ַעִּמים) and say,
Come! Let us go up (ְוַנֲעֶלה) to the mountain of YHWH,
to the House (ֵּבית) of the Jacob’s God,
that He will teach us some of His ways
that we may walk in His paths.
for out of Zion a ruling will go forth (ִּכְי מִצּיֹון ֵתֵצא תֹוָרה),
and Yhwh’s word from Jerusalem.
He will judge (ְוָשַפט) among the nations,
And rebuke many peoples,
and they will beat their swords (ַחְרבוֹתָם) into plowshares
their weapons into pruning forks;
Nation will not lift up (ִיָּׂשא) sword (ֶחֶרב) against nation,
and they will learn war no more.

Isaiah 51.3–5:

For Yhwh has comforted Zion (צּיֹון),
comforted all her ruins (כְלִל הָרְבֵּתֶיהָ);
He has made Zion’s wasteland as Eden,
her desert as a garden of Yhwh

... Listen to Me, My nation (עִּמִּי),
and My folk, give ear!
For a ruling will go forth from Me (כַי הָלְהָה אֶבּרַיהֵי),
and I shall hasten My judgment (מְשָפִטי) as a light to nations (עִּמִּי),
My triumph is near,
My salvation goes forth (כְי),
and My arms will judge nations (שֶׁפֶטָם).
Islands will look eagerly to Me,
and in My arms they will have hope.

Isaiah 60.1–7:

Rise, shine, for your light has come,
and Yhwh’s glory has risen above you.
For look! Darkness covers the earth,
and mist cloaks peoples,
but Yhwh will shine on you,
and His glory will appear above you.
Nations will come (יְהוָהֵלָה גוֹיִם) to your light,
and kings to the splendor of your beacon.
Lift up (יִשָּׂא) your eyes and see:
they have gathered together, they’ve come to you.
It is your sons from afar who come to you,
Your daughters, supported and nursed.
Then you will see and glimmer (יְנַהְרְת),
you will be amazed and your heart grow wide,
for the abundance of the sea will be turned over for you,
and the wealth of the nations (גוֹיִם) will come to you.
Riches borne by camels will cover you,
Dromedaries from Midian and Ephah.
They all shall come from Sheba;
gold and frankincense,
they will lift up (יִשָּׂא) gold and frankincense to you,
proclaiming praise to Yhwh.
All the flocks of Kedar will gather for you;
the rams of Nebaioth will serve you.
They will go up (יָּוָלְו) willingly on my altar,
and I shall glorify My glorious House (וֵבית).
Example 8. (Re-prediction with variation — the Davidic promise.)

Isaiah 11:1-10:
A branch will go forth (ְוָיָצא) from the trunk of Jesse,
   a shoot shall flower from his stock.
And Yhwh’s spirit (רּוַח) will rest on him—
   a spirit (רּוַח) of wisdom and understanding,
   a spirit (רּוַח) of counsel and might,
   a spirit (רּוַח) of knowledge and awe before Yhwh,
   and inspiration as awe for Yhwh will waft through him.
He will not judge (ִיְׁשּפֹוט) [merely] by the sight of his eyes (ֵעיָניו),
   nor will he decide cases [merely] by what his ears hear (ְוֹלא־ְלִמְׁשַמע).
He will judge the poor righteously,
   and he will decide the case of the land’s poor (ָאֶרץ) in justice.

Righteousness will be the clothing he wears,
   and truthfulness (ְוָהֱאמּוָנה) his garment.

And on that day,
the enduring root of Jesse will be a standard for nations (ַעִּמים);
   peoples (גֹוִים) will seek him out, and his rest shall be glorious (ָּכבֹוד).

Isaiah 42.1–8:
Behold My servant, whom I support;
   My chosen one, who pleases Me.
I have given My spirit (רִחי) to him,
   so that he will send forth (יֹוִציא) justice (ִמְׁשָּפט) to the nations (לָגֹוִים).
He does not cry out or shout,
   he does not make his voice heard (ְוֹלא־ַיְׁשִמיַע).

He would not break even a crushed reed,
   nor would he extinguish a dim flame;
he puts forth (יֹוִציא) justice in truth (לֶאֶמת).

The distant coastlands look towards his teaching.
Thus says the the LORD God,
   Who created the heavens and stretched them out,
   Who spread forth the earth (ָהָאֶרץ) and its inhabitants,
Who gives breath to the people (לָעם) on it,
   and spirit (רּוַח) to those who walk it:
I, Yhwh, called you in justice (בֶצֶדק),
   and I took your hand.
I created you and made you a covenant-people,
a light of nations (עָמִים),
by opening the eyes (עֵינֵי) of the blind
and taking (אֵלְכָּהוּ) the prisoner out of the jail.
I am Yhwh;
that is My name,
and I shall not give My glory (כְּבוֹדִי) to another.
Example 9. (Repetition with variation — the Davidic promise.)

Psalm 72.1–17:

O God, give your justice to the king (מלך) and righteousness to the king’s son (שומר שלום).

May he judge your nation righteously (צדק) and your poor ones justly.

Let mountains bring (יָשָׁו) well-being (שלום) for the people, and hills bring righteousness (צדקה).

Let them fear you with the sun (שמש) and before the moon (ירח) for all generations (דור).

A righteous man (צדיק) will flourish in his [i.e., the king’s] time, and there will be abundant well-being (שלום) until the moon (ירח) is no more.

Let him rule from sea to sea (מים עד ים) from the ocean current (נחל) to the ends of the earth.

Let those from the desert bow before him, Let his enemies lick the dust in front of him.

The kings of Tarshish and the islands (מלכים ורשיש ועמים) shall bring tribute; the kings of Sheba (מלך שבא) and Seba shall offer presents.

All the kings shall bow down to him (וישתחו לו כל מלכים), all the nations shall serve him (כל גוים יעבדו). He should have pity on the destitute and the poor, saving the lives of the needy.

He should redeem them from oppression and lawlessness (וישלחם), Their blood should matter much to him.

Let him live and have some of Sheba’s gold (מקב遥控), let him pray for him be said always, constantly blessings him.

Let there be abundant grain in the land (בראץ), let it shake at the tops of mountains (בראש). Let his fruit be like Lebanon (לבנון), and let city-dwellers flourish like grass.

May his name remain forever below the sun (שמש) and let his name endure, and let all nations (כガー ועמים) invoke his blessings and pronounce him happy (יושבר).
Isaiah 60.3–21 (spoken to Jerusalem, personified as a woman):

Nations (גֹוִים) will come to your light,
and kings (ְּמָלִכים) to the splendor of your beacon.

Lift up (ְׂשִ’ai) your eyes and see:
they have gathered together, they are coming to you,
It is your sons from afar who come to you,
Your daughters, supported and nursed.

Then you will see and glimmer (וָנַהְרְת),
you will be amazed and your heart grow wide,
for the abundance of the sea (ם) will be turned over for you,
and the wealth of the nations (גֹוִים) will come to you.

They will all come from Sheba (מְשָאָב),
they will bring (יָשֵא) gold (זָהָב) and frankincense,
and they will proclaim praise to Yhwh.

Vessels from the islands (אסִים) will gather,
with ships from Tarshish (תַּשְׁרִישָׁ) at the forefront (בִּרְאֹושׁ),
they will bring your children from afar,
carrying their silver and gold (וְזָהָבם) with them.

Foreigners will build your walls,
and their kings (וּמְלֵכיֶם) will attend to you.

For the nation (ַהּגֹוי) and the kingdom (ְוַהַּמְמָלָכה) which does not serve you (יַעְבדוּך) will pass away.

The wealth of Lebanon (הָלָבנֹון) will come to you:
cypress and pine and juniper (ְתַאּׁשּוּר) all together.
And the children of your oppressors will walk prostrate before you,
and all who spurned you will bow down (וִהְשַתֲחוּו) to your feet.

I will make you an eternal majesty,
a thing of joy for all generations (דֹור ָודֹור).
You will suck the milk of nations (גֹוִים)
and drink from the breasts of kings (מָלִכים);
you will know that I, Yhwh, am your savior,
your rescuer, the mighty one for Jacob.

Instead of copper I shall bring gold (גּגָב)
instead of iron I shall bring silver;
instead of wood—copper;
and instead of stone—iron!
And I shall make well-being (מל 합니다) your mandate
and victory (נצח) your ruler.
No more will lawlessness (פשע) be heard in your land (lander)
no devastation, no destruction.
The sun (שמש) will be your light not only by day,
and as for the brightness of the moon (-pills) —
it will not shine for you only at night.

... 
Your sun (שמש) will never set,
nor your moon (ירח) go away.
For Yhwh will be your eternal light,
and your days of mourning are now complete.
And your people, all of them righteous (צדק),
will inherit the land forever (ארץ).
They are the shoot I planted,
My handiwork through which I gain glory.
Example 10. (Repetition with variation — the Davidic promise.)

Psalm 89.20–38:

Then You spoke to those loyal to you (לְחִסְדֵּיךָ), saying, “I have given strength to a warrior;
I have raised up a chosen fighter from the nation.
I have found My servant, David,
I have anointed him with my holy oil.

My enduring loyalty (ֶוֶאמּוָנִתי ְוַחְסִּדי) is with him;
by means of My name he will achieve victory.

I will remain loyal to him forever;
my covenant will endure for him (ְלעֹוָלם ֶאְׁשָמר־לֹו ַחְסִּדי ּוְבִריִתי ֶנֱאֶמֶנת לֹו).
I promise that his offspring will last forever;
his throne will last as long as the heavens.

If his sons abandon My Law,
and do not live by My rules;
if they break My laws,
and fail to guard My commandments (ּוִמְצֹוַתי),
I shall punish their transgression with the rod,
their sin with plagues.

But I shall not break my loyalty (חְסִּדי) to him,
and I shall not go back on My faithfulness (ֶּבֱאמּוָנִתי);
I shall not violate My covenant (בִּריִתי);
what has gone through My lips I shall not alter.

Indeed, I have sworn by My own holiness,
Never shall I fail David.
His offspring will last forever (ְלעֹוָלם),
and his throne will be as enduring as the sun before me (נְגִּדי).
It will be firmly established like the moon,
an enduring witness (ֶנֱאָמן...ְוֵעֵד) in the sky.

Isaiah 55.3–4 (spoken to the whole nation; “you” is in the plural form):

Incline your ears and come to Me;
Listen, that you may live.
Let me fashion an eternal covenant with you,
the enduring loyalty belonging to David (בָּרָית עֹוָלם חְסֵדי ָדִוד ַהֶּנֱאָמִנים).
Look! I have made you a witness to the nations (וֵעֵד),
a leader and commander (נִגְדִּי) for the peoples.