

# Isaiah

## “The Evangelical Prophet”

### IV. Isaiah’s *Dire Warnings* to Ephraim and Judah (Chapters 28-35)

- A. Pronouncing *Woe* upon the Leaders of Ephraim and Judah (28:1-29)
- B. Pronouncing *Woe* upon Ariel—Jerusalem (29:1-24)
- C. Pronouncing *Woe* upon Judah for their Alliance with Egypt (30:1-17)
- D. Promising a *Time* of Future Restoration for Israel (30:18-26)
- E. Predicting the coming *Indignation* of God (30:27-33)
- F. Pronouncing further *Woe* upon those Trusting in Egypt (31:1-9)
- G. Proclaiming the *Reign* of the Messianic King (32:1-20)

### H. Pronouncing *Woe* upon Assyria, and a Future *Hope* for Zion (33:1-24)

#### 1. The *Woe Pronounced* (33:1)

**33** *Woe* to you, **O** destroyer, while you were **not destroyed**;  
And he who is **treacherous**, while *others* did **not deal treacherously** with him.  
As soon as you **finish destroying**, **you** will be **destroyed**;  
As soon as you **cease to deal treacherously**,  
*others* will **deal treacherously** with **you**.

#### 2. The *Prayer* of the Righteous (33:2)

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD**, be **gracious** to us; we have **waited for You**.  
Be their **strength** every morning,  
Our **salvation** also in the **time of distress**.

#### 3. The *Plunder* of the Assyrian Army (33:3-4)

<sup>3</sup> At the sound of the **tumult** *peoples flee*;  
At the **lifting up** of Yourself *nations disperse*.

<sup>4</sup> Your **spoil** is **gathered** as the **caterpillar gathers**;  
As **locusts rushing about** men rush about on it.

4. The *Praise* of the Exalted Lord (33:5-6)

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high;  
He has filled Zion with *justice* and *righteousness*.

<sup>6</sup> And He will be the *stability* of your times,  
A wealth of *salvation, wisdom* and *knowledge*;  
the *fear of the LORD* is his treasure.

5. The *Perilous Condition* of Judah (33:7-9)

<sup>7</sup> Behold, their brave men *cry* in the streets,  
the ambassadors of peace *weep bitterly*.

<sup>8</sup> The highways are *desolate*, the traveler has *ceased*,  
He has broken the covenant, he has *despised* the cities,  
He has *no regard* for man.

<sup>9</sup> The land *mourns and pines away*,  
Lebanon is *shamed and withers*;  
Sharon is like a *desert plain*,  
And Bashan and Carmel lose *their foliage*.

6. The *Proclamation* of Judgment (33:10-12)

<sup>10</sup> “Now I will *arise*,” says the LORD,  
“Now I will be *exalted*, now I will be *lifted up*.”

<sup>11</sup> “You have *conceived chaff*, you will give birth to *stubble*;  
My breath will *consume you* like a fire.

<sup>12</sup> “The peoples will be *burned to lime*,  
like *cut thorns* which are *burned in the fire*.”

7. The *Panic* of the Godless (33:13-14)

<sup>13</sup> “You who are *far away*, hear what I have done;  
and you who are *near*, acknowledge My might.”

<sup>14</sup> Sinners in Zion are *terrified; trembling* has seized the godless.  
“*Who* among us can live with the *consuming fire*?  
*Who* among us can live with *continual burning*?”

8. The *Piety* and *Secure Position* of the Righteous (33:15-17)

<sup>15</sup> He who walks *righteously* and speaks with *sincerity*,

He who **rejects *unjust gain*** and shakes **his hands** so that they hold ***no bribe***;  
He who **stops his ears** from hearing about ***bloodshed***  
and **shuts his eyes** from looking upon ***evil***;

<sup>16</sup> He will  **dwell** on the ***heights***, his  **refuge** will be the ***impregnable rock***;  
his ***bread*** will be given ***him***, his ***water*** will be sure.

<sup>17</sup> **Your eyes** will see the **King** in **His beauty**;  
they will behold a  **far-distant land**.

## 9. The **Past Reflections** of the **Righteous** (33:18-19)

<sup>18</sup> Your  **heart** will  **meditate** on ***terror***:  
“**Where** is he who ***counts***?  
**Where** is he who ***weighs***?  
**Where** is he who ***counts the towers***?”

<sup>19</sup> You will  **no longer** see a ***fierce people***,  
a people of ***unintelligible speech*** which no one  **comprehends**,  
of a ***stammering tongue*** which no one  **understands**.

## 10. The **Poetic Picture** of **Zion–Secure** in the Lord (33:20-24)

<sup>20</sup> Look upon **Zion**, the city of our ***appointed feasts***;  
Your eyes will see **Jerusalem**, an ***undisturbed habitation***,  
A  **tent** which will not be  **folded**; its ***stakes*** will  **never be pulled up**,  
Nor any of ***its cords*** be  **torn apart**.

<sup>21</sup> But there the  **majestic *One***, the  **LORD**, will  **be for us**  
a place of  **rivers and wide canals** on which  **no boat** with oars will go,  
and on which  **no mighty ship** will pass—

<sup>22</sup> For the  **LORD** is our  **judge**, the  **LORD** is our  **lawgiver**,  
the  **LORD** is our  **king**; He will  **save us**—

<sup>23</sup> Your  **tackle hangs slack** (Assyria); it cannot hold the  **base** of its  
 **mast firmly**, nor  **spread** out the  **sail**.

Then the  **prey** of an  **abundant *spoil*** will be  **divided**;  
the  **lame** will take the  **plunder**.

<sup>24</sup> And  **no resident** will say, “ **I am sick**”;  
the  **people** who  **dwell there** will be  **forgiven**  **their iniquity**.

## **Insights from Tonight’s Chapter**

1. As in the case of **Assyria**, no matter how **big** and *destructive* an **empire** or **nation** might become, there will be **divine retribution** for its *treachery*, especially when it has affected **God's people**.

As soon as **you finish *destroying*, you will be *destroyed***;  
As soon as **you cease to deal *treacherously***,  
*others will deal *treacherously* with you*. (33:1)

2. No matter how *stressful* and *desperate* **times** may become, **we are** to **wait upon God** for **strength, salvation, stability, and wisdom**.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, be *gracious* to us**; we have **waited for You**.  
Be their *strength* every morning,  
Our *salvation* also in the **time of distress**...

<sup>6</sup> And **He** will be the *stability* of **your times**,  
A **wealth of *salvation, wisdom* and *knowledge***;  
the **fear of the LORD is his *treasure***. (33:2, 6)

3. No matter how *godless* and *sinful* the **nations** and **people** may become, **God** will always **preserve and protect a righteous remnant**.

**“Who among us can live with the *consuming fire*?**  
**Who among us can live with *continual burning*?”**

**He who rejects unjust gain** and shakes his hands so that they **hold no bribe**;  
**He who stops his ears** from **hearing about bloodshed**  
and **shuts his eyes** from **looking upon evil**;

**He will dwell on the heights, his refuge will be the impregnable rock**;  
**his bread will be given *him*, his water will be *sure***. (33:14b-16)

4. No matter how *bleak* and *desperate* it looks for **Zion** and **Jerusalem**, there will come a time when **they**, and **their inhabitants** will be **secure** and **“undisturbed.”**

Look upon **Zion**, the city of our ***appointed feasts***;  
**Your eyes will see Jerusalem**, an ***undisturbed habitation***,  
A **tent** which will ***not be folded***; its **stakes will *never be pulled up***,  
Nor any of its **cords** be ***torn apart***. (33:20)

## Closing Comments