

# Isaiah 33 - The Proper Place of Security

## I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1—35:10)

### (3) Condemnation of the world (Is 24:1—35:10)

#### (B) Six woes (Is 28:1—33:24)

##### (f) Destroyer's opposition (33:1-24)

(i) God's promise to visit destruction on Assyria due to Judah's prayer for deliverance (33:1-12)

(ii) God will deliver the righteous (33:13-24)

## Isaiah 33

### (f) Destroyer's opposition (33:1-24)

(i) God's promise to visit destruction on Assyria due to Judah's prayer for deliverance (33:1-12)

**1** **Woe** to you, 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.

**1** 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.

**1** "How terrible it will be for you, destroyer, you who have not been destroyed yourself! And how terrible it will be for you, traitor, one whom people have not betrayed! When you have sunk so low in destroying others, you will be destroyed; and when you have finished betraying, they will betray you."

**1** Woe to thee that spoilest, and thou wast not spoiled; and dealest treacherously, and they dealt not treacherously with thee! when thou shalt cease to spoil, thou shalt be spoiled; and when thou shalt make an end to deal treacherously, they shall deal treacherously with thee.

- "Woe" - 6th woe of 6 (Is 28:1; 29:1,15; 30:1; 31:1; 33:1)

- The "spoiler" here is Sennacherib, who came against Jerusalem during the reign of Hezekiah (Is 36-37)

— This also applies to the final "spoiler." Note the prayer...

- Keeping promises: Alludes to covenant Hezekiah made with Assyria to be left alone (2 Kings 18:18ff)

### **The Prayer of the Remnant**

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

2 O Lord, be gracious to us; we have waited for You. Be their strength every morning, Our salvation also in the time of distress.

2 "LORD, be gracious to us; we long for you; and be our strength every morning, our salvation in times of trouble.

2 O LORD, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble.

### **The Answer of God**

3 At the sound of a roar, peoples flee; At the lifting up of Yourself, nations disperse.

3 At the sound of the tumult peoples flee; At the lifting up of Yourself nations disperse.

3 At the thunder of your voice, the nations flee; at your silence, the nations scatter.

3 At the noise of the tumult the people fled; at the lifting up of thyself the nations were scattered.

4 Your plunder is gathered as the caterpillar gathers; Like an infestation of locusts, people storm it.

4 Your spoil is gathered as the caterpillar gathers; As locusts rushing about men rush about on it.

4 Your plunder is gathered as when grasshoppers gather; just like locusts pounce, people have pounced on it.

4 And your spoil shall be gathered like the gathering of the caterpillar: as the running to and fro of locusts shall he run upon them.

- The idea was to make the world safe for democracy. What they forgot, however, was to make democracy safe for the world... It was the perils of democracy that the founders attempted to protect us from...Hegel was right: history teaches us that man learns nothing from history...

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

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

5 "The LORD is exalted, for he lives on high; he has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.

5 The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.

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

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

6 He will be a sure foundation for your times, abundance and salvation, wisdom and knowledge — the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure."

6 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.

### **The State of the Nation at the Time of the Invasion (33:7-12)**

#### **The Results of the Invasion**

7 Behold, their brave men cry out in the streets, The ambassadors of peace weep bitterly.

7 Behold, their brave men cry in the streets, The ambassadors of peace weep bitterly.

7 "Listen! Their brave men cry out in the streets; the envoys of peace weep bitterly.

7 Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly.

8 The highways are desolate, the traveler has ceased, **He has broken the covenant**, he has despised the cities, He has no regard for mankind.

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

8 The highways are deserted; travelers have quit the road. The enemy has broken treaties; he despises their witnesses, and respects no one.

8 The highways lie waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth: he hath broken the covenant, he hath despised the cities, he regardeth no man.

- "...he has broken the covenant" - Sennacherib, in a local sense, yet also applies in a broader sense to the Coming World Leader

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

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

9 The land mourns and wastes away; Lebanon feels ashamed and withers. Sharon is like a desert; Bashan and Carmel shake off their leaves."

9 The earth mourneth and languisheth: Lebanon is ashamed and hewn down: Sharon is like a wilderness; and Bashan and Carmel shake off their fruits.

- The most beautiful regions will be withered away...

— Lebanon - Leban = white; northern mountains, 120 miles of snow covered with cedars and firs)

— Sharon - foot of Mt Carmel to Shefelah, known for flowers and forests

— Carmel - divides Sharon from Eschaelon, the rocky hills

— Bashan - trans-Jordan upland from Hermon to Gilead with high plains, forests of Oak and known for wild cattle. Idiomatically describing the desolation to come.

### **The Destruction of the Invaders**

10 "Now I will arise," says the LORD, "Now I will be exalted, now I will be lifted up.

10 "Now I will arise," says the LORD, "Now I will be exalted, now I will be lifted up.

10 "Now I'll rise up," the LORD has said, "now I'll exalt myself; now I'll be lifted up.

10 Now will I rise, saith the LORD; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up myself.

11 "You have conceived chaff, you will give birth to stubble; My breath will consume you like a fire.

11 "You have conceived chaff, you will give birth to stubble; My breath will consume you like a fire.

11 You conceive dried grass, you give birth to stubble; your breath is a fire that will consume you.

11 Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: your breath, as fire, shall devour you.

12 "The peoples will be burned to lime, Like cut thorns which are burned in the fire.

12 "The peoples will be burned to lime, Like cut thorns which are burned in the fire.

12 And the nations will be burned as if to ashes; like cut thorn bushes, they will be set ablaze.

12 And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire.

(ii) God will deliver the righteous (33:13-24)

### **The State of the People at the Time of Invasion**

#### **The Insecurity of the Apostates**

13 "You who are far away, hear what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might."

13 "You who are far away, hear what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might."

13 "Those who are far away have heard what I've done; and those that are near have acknowledged my power.

13 Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might.

14 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 everlasting burning?"

14 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?"

14 The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless: "Who among us can live with the consuming fire? Who among us can live with everlasting flames?"

14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

### **The Security of the Remnant**

15 One who walks righteously and speaks with integrity, One who rejects unjust gain And shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe; One who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed And shuts his eyes from looking at evil;

15 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;

15 The one who walks righteously and has spoken sincere words, who rejects gain from extortion and waves his hand, rejecting bribes, who blocks his ears from hearing plots of murder and shuts his eyes against seeing evil—

15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

16 He will dwell on the heights, His refuge will be the **impregnable rock**; His bread will be given *him*, His water will be sure.

16 He will dwell on the heights, His refuge will be the impregnable rock; His bread will be given *him*, His water will be sure.

16 this is the one who will live on the heights; his refuge will be a mountain fortress. His food will be supplied, and his water will be guaranteed.

16 He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

- "...impregnable rock" - describes the place of refuge for the believing remnant after the abomination of desolation (Cf. Matt 24:15f; Rev 12:6f); implies that this location will be easy to defend

Since the context is dealing with end time events, this passage also points out a distinction between the apostates and the Faithful Remnant as far as their protection and preservation is concerned. The means by which protection for the Remnant will be accomplished is given in v16. Beside reaffirming the promise mentioned in Is 41:17-20 and 65:8-16 that food and water would be provided, this passage gives some insight as to the nature of the hiding place itself.

### **The State of the People at the Time of Restoration**

17 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; They will see a distant land.

17 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; They will behold a far-distant land.

17 "Your eyes will see the king in his elegance, and will view a land that stretches afar.

17 Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.

18 Your heart will meditate on terror: "Where is one who counts? Where is one who weighs? Where is one who counts the towers?"

18 Your heart will meditate on terror: "Where is he who counts? Where is he who weighs? Where is he who counts the towers?"

18 Your mind will ponder at that time of terror: 'Where is the king's accountant? Where is the one who weighed the revenue? Where is the officer who supervises the towers?'

18 Thine heart shall meditate terror. Where is the scribe? where is the receiver? where is he that counted the towers?

19 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.

19 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.

19 No longer will you see those arrogant people, those people with their obscure speech you cannot comprehend, stammering in a language you cannot understand.

19 Thou shalt not see a fierce people, a people of a deeper speech than thou canst perceive; of a stammering tongue, that thou canst not understand.

### **The State of the Nation at the Time of Restoration**

#### **The State of Jerusalem**

20 Look at Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an undisturbed settlement, A tent which will not be folded; Its stakes will never be pulled up, Nor any of its ropes be torn apart.

20 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.

20 "Look at Zion, city of our festivals! Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an undisturbed abode, an immovable tent; its stakes will never be pulled up, nor will any of its ropes be broken.

20 Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.

21 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—

21 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—

21 But there the LORD in majesty will be for us our source of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, where no stately ship can sail.

21 But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby.

### **The State of Government**

22 For **the LORD is our judge, The LORD is our lawgiver, The LORD is our king**; He will save us—

22 For the LORD is our judge, The LORD is our lawgiver, The LORD is our king; He will save us—

22 For the LORD is our judge, and the LORD is our lawgiver; and the LORD is our king, and it is he who will save us.

22 For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

- This verse was referenced in our founding documents as the template for our three branches of government

- "...the LORD is our judge" - judicial branch

- "...The LORD is our lawgiver" - legislative branch

- "...The LORD is our king" - executive branch

- Our founding fathers recognized that every person has a sin nature (Cf. Gen 8:21), including those in government office. They recognized that the only Person who could occupy more than one office, let alone all three, is Someone without a sin nature.

- Then, our founding fathers recognized that this horizontal separation of government into three branches was not enough. Government also needed to be separated vertically, so they created state governments.
- State governments were originally set up to hold the most amount of power because they were the government entity closest to the people
- Then they began thinking that even this horizontal and vertical separation of powers was still not enough to stop tyranny, so they came up with a Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.
- This Bill of Rights articulated rights that people have that come from God. They were meant to be a set of handcuff on tyrannical human government and their ruling over the people.
- See Neo-Calvinism vs The Bible 01 Introduction; Calvinism's Mixed Blessing (2 Thess 3:14-15) for a historical recap on how the Bible influenced America's founding fathers and documents.

23 Your *ship's* tackle hangs slack; It cannot hold the base of its mast firmly, Nor spread out the sail. Then the prey of an abundant spoil will be divided; Those who limp will take the plunder.

23 Your tackle hangs slack; 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.

23 "Your rigging hangs loose; it cannot reliably hold the mast in its place, and the sail cannot spread out. Then an abundance of spoils will be divided — even the lame will carry off plunder.

23 Thy tacklings are loosed; they could not well strengthen their mast, they could not spread the sail: then is the prey of a great spoil divided; the lame take the prey.

24 And no resident will say, "I am sick"; The people who live there will be forgiven *their* wrongdoing.

24 And no resident will say, "I am sick"; The people who dwell there will be forgiven *their* iniquity.

24 And no one living there will say, 'I am ill.' The people living there will have their sins forgiven."

24 And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.