

Man's Response to God's Presence

Text: Isaiah 33:13-24

Date: 2-27-22 @ 10:30 AM

I. Jehovah's presence creates fear for the sinner (Isa. 33:13-14).

Assyria had attempted to become the dominant empire of the day and to exalt itself against God and lift man to godlike status, but Isaiah reminded the people that God's plan would be enacted.

God was calling on all the people of the world, both far off and nearby, to acknowledge His righteousness and His strength.

God wanted His people to know with certainty that this was not just a random happening or a one time event. Instead, the defeat of the Assyrians was a demonstration of the awesome power that only God could display.

Isaiah zeroed in on these sinners in Jerusalem (Zion).

Isaiah said they were afraid and trembled. What are these sinners afraid of? God's judgment! When all was well these people lived without God, but now that times had changed they cried out in desperation.

II. Jehovah's presence gives security to the believing remnant (Isa. 33:15-16).

This verse describes not what people do to escape God's judgment; rather, these are the characteristics of those who do escape judgment.

- **Walk righteously** – A metaphor for living a life that reflects God's righteousness or righteous requirements according to God's law. These are actions that are right and come from a heart that is right with God.
- **Speak uprightly** – This is the person who speaks truth and what is right (Ps. 15:2). This person chooses to adhere to high moral principles without compromise. This demonstrates that the righteous man both acts and speaks in righteous ways.
- **Reject unjust gains** – This person despises financial or economic gain through the oppression of another person.
- **Shakes his hands and rejects bribes** – This is a picture of if a bribe were put in his hands, he would shake them so that the money would fall to the ground. He despises both the thought and actions of those who extort money in this manner. He doesn't just speak against evil; he refuses to take part in it.
- **Stops his ears from those who are plotting murder** – When this person hears of a plan of murder, he will refuse to take part in it since he knows it leads to destruction and death (Prov. 1:10-19).
- **Shuts his eyes from looking upon evil** – He or she refuses to look upon anything of wickedness or participate in any evil deeds. See Prov. 4:25.

In this Isaiah has "included righteous conduct, upright speech, purity of heart and honesty, and ears and eyes turned to divine principles of righteousness" (Hailey 282). In this we find a righteous person eager to follow God and refusing to follow the eager bidding of man's ways.

This person then that chooses to not do the things of v. 15 will receive bountiful blessings for obedience and trust in Jehovah.

- He will dwell on high
- His dwelling place will be in the impregnable rock
- Bread and water will be provided

God richly and fully provides for those who trust and have believed fully upon Him and His name.

III. **Jehovah's current victory sets the stage for the future presence of the Messianic kingdom in Zion (Isa. 33:17-24).**

Jehovah had defeated Sennacherib, but that was just a foretaste of what is to come.

When the redeemed look down the road, they will see this king in a land that is very far off, a land of righteousness and peace.

Once the righteous had seen the vision of the king and the kingdom, the present terror that they had witnessed will be but a distant memory.

As the people looked ahead to the future, they could also look back in hindsight and see all of their enemies who had been conquered.

Isaiah reiterates that the righteous will see the victory over the wicked (in this case, Assyria).

Just as the Assyrians were defeated by God, so in the future those who attempt to thwart God's purposes will be destroyed by Him.

God was calling the people to look to the future, to focus on Zion, not Assyria. For the redeemed, their hope was firmly in the promises of the future Messiah, the kingdom led by a beautiful King in the city of Zion.

Faith will give way to sight and the people will see Jerusalem for what it was supposed to be and not for what it had become in the these days of Assyrian harassment. The people will dwell in peace and safety (Isa 32:18), a longing of the righteous in Isaiah's day.

Conclusion

Godless nations and godless people will rise in power for a period of time, but our righteous and holy God will judge the wicked, bless the faithful, and in the future the Messiah will reign in his kingdom forever and ever, and righteous people will dwell in peace and safety.