

Sovereign and Stable

Text: Isaiah 33

Date: 2-20-22 @ 10:30 AM

I. The woe upon Assyria (Isa. 33:1)

These Assyrian officials had dealt with Hezekiah and Judah in bad faith even though they themselves had not been dealt in that way. In every way Sennacherib and Assyria were thieves, traitors, and tyrants.

When God's work of using the Assyrians to judge His people and other nations was complete, He Himself would judge and destroy them. The enemy can think that they are in control but in reality they are but an instrument in the hands of God.

II. The prophet's prayer (Isa. 33:2-6)

Either Isaiah himself or the righteous remnant offer a prayer to God demonstrating their trust in God and waiting upon the Lord to deliver them.

The righteous are always rewarded for their patience in waiting upon Jehovah.

Isaiah was readily admitting that if the city of Jerusalem was to be saved, it would be a direct act of the grace of God upon the people. Both the destiny of the Assyrians and the fate of the Jews were in the hands of Jehovah. The battle then was the Lord's and the people trusted that Jehovah would win the victory in the time of trouble.

At the sound of His voice and His action He will cause the armies of the enemy to scatter.

The Assyrians had spent many days working for their spoils, but like the wheat is quickly harvested, their spoils will be quickly taken from them.

The result of the Assyrian's defeat will be that the Lord is exalted.

"Assyria had conquered many gods, casting them down as she wished. To her Yahweh appeared to be like them; He, however, is different, and in overthrowing them He has shown that He is exalted. He dwells on high, where no mere man can ascend to bring Him down (c.f. v. 16)" (Young 408).

The idea then is that Jehovah will be the constancy and trustworthiness of the times. While everything around is unsettled, the Lord God will always remain our stability and security. He is truly the One constancy of our day and of Isaiah's day.

All the abundance of salvation is found in God.

The true treasure then is rooted in the grand view of God and His character, and that treasure, which belongs to God, is brought to His people. They can partake in it and it stands in great contrast to the ever changing false treasures the nation trusted in and pinned its hopes upon. "As they [we] draw upon His treasure, the fear of Jehovah inspires faith and love which lead to obedience to His will" (Hailey 279).

"Fearing God does not mean being terrified of Him (except for those who are being or will be judged). It means to recognize and respect Him and His authority and righteous demands, which in turn results in godly living, worshiping, trusting, serving, and obeying Him. Those who fear Him find Him to be their **sure Foundation**, their Source of inner security and peace (cf. "Rock," Isa. 26:4)".¹

¹ Martin, J. A. (1985). [Isaiah](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*

III. **The miserable plight of those who follow their own ways (Isa. 33:7-9).**

The realization that Jerusalem was in grave danger reduced the mighty men and the ambassadors to weeping.

Meanwhile, the conditions outside of Jerusalem were in bad shape. The roads were in waste, travel was dangerous, covenants were broken, cities were despised, and man's life was treated with total disrespect.

The picture of the land is one of total destruction of people and land. Assyria's conquest had dominated the land causing it to become still, cold, and lifeless.

IV. **Jehovah shows His sovereign control over His people (Isa. 33:10-12).**

God is waiting, but He will arise. He is biding His time and withholding His judgment, but the time will come when where He will intentionally engage in action against His enemies. All men will know that the Lord, He is God.

"Their army was panting to attack, but their hot breath would only become a fire that would destroy them like dead bones or cut bushes. God is long-suffering with His enemies; but when He decides to judge, He does a thorough job".²

What can we learn?

- 1) **Fighting against God is a worthless venture.**
- 2) **Making our plans without God in mind is a worthless activity.**
- 3) **While everything around is unsettled, the Lord God will always remain our stability and security.**

(Vol. 1, p. 1083). Victor Books.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Comforted* (p. 85). Victor Books.