

Rick Miller - Isaiah 34 – Feb. 5, 2023

Some people ask, “I wonder what God would say if I could stand before him.” We have it right here. He speaks to us now through his word in black and white.

We thank you for that Lord. Give us more and more of a desire for your word and discipline to be in your word and to just love it and to let it transform our thinking. Lord, we do yield our minds and our hearts even now for you to teach us, Lord, to be open to what you have to say. So we commit this time to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

So Isaiah 34:1- *“Come near, you nations to hear; and heed, you people. Let the earth hear and all that is in it, the world and all things that come forth from it. For the indignation of the Lord is against all nations and his fury against all their armies. He has utterly destroyed them. He has given them over to the slaughter.”*

So remembering the context of where we're at here in the book of Isaiah, that the nation of Assyria is threatening Jerusalem, threatening the Kingdom of Judah, and they've been destroying one nation after another. They've already taken the northern kingdom of Israel and now this threat is hanging over the people, of the Assyrian empire coming and taking over their country.

So this is a real threat. It's a real stress the people are living under. I don't know if they had Assyrian balloons, flying over like we do. But we can relate to having enemies putting pressure on us. We live in a fallen world and it has always been like this since Cain and Abel. The people of God have always been under a certain amount of stress because we live in a fallen world and we've had to learn how to deal with that.

We can learn a lot of lessons from how God spoke to the people in Judah, how they were to respond to this threat. This has been going on now for several chapters and we saw how some in the leadership of Judah were tempted to go to Egypt for help instead of going to the Lord.

And of course, that's a picture of us as believers, not looking to the Lord for answers, not trusting in the Lord, but looking to natural resources. So there's always that temptation to just react to a problem out of the flesh rather than waiting upon the Lord, praying about it, saying Lord, I really want to hear from you, what your answer is.

So what we've seen in the last couple chapters is this encouragement for the people of God that are trusting God, that are waiting upon God. So it's not easy to wait upon God and to pray and wait for an answer because he doesn't always answer instantaneously in the way we would like.

There are certain things you're praying for, for years. You're trusting the Lord with this. It's not changing, but you're saying God, I surrender it into your hands. I'm trusting you. And then the Lord, he's so faithful to come along through his word, through perhaps people in the church to encourage you and to say keep trusting.

The Lord sees your heart. He sees your trusting. God is pleased by faith. Without faith it's impossible to please God, it talks about in Hebrews, and that we're not to shrink back from trusting the Lord and believing the Lord. So we saw in the last chapter, that encouragement to the godly, but we also saw warnings to the Assyrian Empire.

If we jump back to chapter 33:1 he says -, "*Woe to you who plunder, though you have not been plundered; and you who deal treacherously, though they have not dealt treacherously with you.*" God is warning the Assyrian Empire. Isn't God good that he gives warnings of his judgment coming.

I was thinking when John the Baptist was preaching. He was preparing the way for the Messiah, and he said to the Pharisees, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? But bring forth fruit in keeping with your repentance. So warning sinners, or even the righteous, they were the supposed righteous, the Pharisees that John was speaking to then, he was warning them, hey, you need to not just be religious, you need to show repentance, bring forth repentance and fruit in keeping with your repentance.

But that warning - who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come, we shouldn't be afraid to proclaim as part of the gospel message, that there is judgment coming.

And so God's warning to the Assyrian Empire Woe to you who plunder. You're plundering these nations and there's going to be judgment upon you Assyria. But they weren't responding to the warning. So now what we see is God taking that warning to the Assyrian Empire, and now he's turning that warning of judgment to the whole world.

That's what we see in Isaiah 34, where God in verse 1, he's saying, "*Come near, you nations to hear.*" He's calling all nations to hear. He is more focused on the

Assyrians, but now he's saying, look, the entire world is under the judgment of God. Notice how the Lord is appealing for people to hear him.

He says, look come near to me. Hear me, heed me, people. He keeps repeating himself. Notice in verse 1 he says “*Come near to hear, heed, you people, let the earth hear, and all that is in it.*” So this repetition of God is saying you need to listen to me. I'm appealing to people to listen and then to respond to my word.

We see this over and over again in the word of God. I was thinking about the Book of Proverbs. Now you want to get wisdom in your life? You might say, Lord I lack wisdom. I need wisdom. Wouldn't Proverbs be one of the logical places to go, because it speaks of wisdom?

You'll notice in the first eight or nine chapters of Proverbs an overwhelming theme really of God saying a wise person listens and pays attention. It could be David appealing to his son Solomon, my son listen, take heed. Watch out for these kinds of sins. Don't be around people who are sinning because they're going to pull you down.

Don't be around an immoral woman, because she's going to come your way. Watch for it. Be careful young man. This is a calling out to the world and to us as believers, if we want wisdom, to listen to the Lord, to be into his word. Let's read a few excerpts from Proverbs just to get that sense of God calling us to pay attention to his word.

Proverbs 1:1, “*The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; to know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear and increase learning. A man of understanding will attain wise counsel to understand a proverb and an enigma. The words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

So right there he is telling you the difference between a foolish person and a wise person. It's easy for us to point to others, oh, that person's a fool. They never read the Bible. But we have to look in our own lives and say, Lord, am I being foolish in certain ways I think or speak or act.

I'm not allowing your word to saturate my life in this particular area. So that calling to pay attention to the Lord. Let's just read on. He says in verse 8 “*My*

son, hear the instruction of your father. Do not forsake the law of your mother, for they will be a graceful ornament on your head and chains about your neck.”

And then it goes on to give exhortations about not letting sinners entice you. See, wisdom is not just about “I know the Bible. I've gone to Bible college, or I study the Bible a lot.” It's beyond that. It's the way you live your life morally. Are you following the Lord and wanting to be a holy person and avoiding hanging around people that could pull you down.

And so it's not just about knowing things, it's about acting in a way that is wise, and where we walk and the people we hang around with. Let's jump down to verse 20, because you see this continual calling to wisdom. Verse 20 –

“Wisdom calls aloud outside. She raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses at the openings of the gates in the city. She speaks her words. How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorings, and fools hate knowledge. Turn at my rebuke. Surely I will pour out my spirit on you. I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdain all my counsel and you would have none of my rebuke. I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes. When your terror comes like a storm and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.”

So you see the warning. We can have the attitude God will forgive me of my sins. And you live a sloppy life and you're engaged in things that are wrong. There are going to be consequences to that. We think I can just call out to the Lord, and he'll pull me out of my sin.

And the Lord says there are times where, no, you're going to feel the consequences of your sin. It says, *“I will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when your tear comes.”* It's not so much like God laughing at you. It's almost like the circumstances and wisdom saying, look I tried to warn you and you ignored me, and now you're reaping the consequences of your sin.

I think that's just healthy for us to have that understanding of the consequences of sin. Let's go on, chapter two – *“My son, if you receive my words and treasure my commands within you, so you incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding. Yes, if you cry out for discernment and lift up your voice for understanding.*

If you seek her as silver and search for her as hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” You can't miss the emphasis here of the exhortation to be in the word of God, to take it very seriously.

Then chapter 3 – *“My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you.”* One exhortation after another. Chapter 4 – *“Hear my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding for I give you good doctrine. Do not forsake my law.”*

Just amazing exhortation. Then one more I want to read out of chapter 8 of Proverbs. *“Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice. She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors. To you O men, I call and my voice is to the sons of men. O, you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart. Listen, for I will speak of excellent things and from the opening of my lips will come right things.”*

It just goes on and on the exhortations. So the picture there is wisdom personified, like a person standing at the gates crying out, Hey, you want wisdom? Come here. I will give it to you. So many people who are confused and don't know what the will of God is, or I don't know what to do in my life. And I would say, are you spending time in the word of God?

Are you listening to these kinds of exhortations to literally have your life centered around the study of the word of God and hearing from the word of God? And someone might say, it never seems like God speaks to me. And again, I would say, no, he's crying out to you. I think we're just not listening. We're not taking time to listen.

If you jump over to Psalms again, go right to the beginning of Psalms, what is the very first message God is giving us in that book related to his word? Psalm 1:1. *“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly.”* See, where are we getting our counsel?

Are we getting it from the word of God or are we getting it from the world?

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.” See, you don't want to

get your counsel from the ungodly, from the sinners, from the scornful. *“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law, he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatever he does shall prosper.”*

So back to Isaiah 34 – God calling out, saying, *“Come near, you nations, to hear and heed, you people. Let the earth hear and all that is in it, the world and all things that come forth from it.”*

Verse 2 – *“For the indignation of the Lord is against all nations, and his fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them. He has given them over to the slaughter.”*

Verse 3 *“Also their slain shall be thrown out and their stench shall rise from their corpses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll. All their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree.”*

Again, the Lord is saying, I'm going to deal with the Assyrian empire that is coming against my people.

The world at that time, they knew what God had done in the nation of Israel. They knew God had delivered them from Egypt. They knew they were God's people, but there was this rebellion against God and a persecution of God's people. The Lord says, I'm going to deal with that with the Assyrian Empire and I'm going to deal with the world as a whole.

It's like God showing us his power over history that not only was he in control during this time of Isaiah, in control of his people, calling them to trust him, but he says, look I'm going to be in control all the way to the end of history. And now he's speaking of the tribulation.

We see this often in Isaiah where he'll be talking about a particular problem the nation is having and he's either speaking judgment or encouragement. Humbling the proud, encouraging the humble. And he's talking about the particular moment they're in, but he's also speaking about the future in the near term and then in the long term and saying, look, I'm in control of all history.

This is how I'm going to wrap up the world as you know it. He'll talk about the tribulation and he'll talk about the millennial reign. It's to give warning to the godless and it's to give encouragement to God's people that, yes, it is hard living

for the Lord in a fallen world, but keep your eye on the future glory that God has for you, and even the comfort he'll give you in trusting him in this life, in walking in faith.

But we'll see next week in chapter 35 God is speaking of the coming millennial kingdom and the work that he's going to do. So it's very important, as God's people, we keep that in mind that better times are coming. God is moving me toward a place of absolute glory, and I need to keep trusting him with my life.

Even though there are real threats and difficulties in our life, we need to keep trusting God, that he's in control in the near term and in the long term, and he's got a plan and you're wise to seek him and to trust him. And so we see this warning. We see the Lord saying he's going to deal with the nations.

And you notice verse 4 where he says, *“The host of heaven shall be dissolved and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll.”* This is spoken of by Jesus when he's talking about the tribulation; it's spoken of in Revelation when you're talking about the tribulation.

It's a good reminder for us what the scripture teaches about these things. Especially as we look at our world today and we see the wicked, it seems like the wicked prosper and they're in control, and yet we are to trust the Lord and to understand he is ultimately in control. He is going to deal with the sin and rebellion of this world.

Our job is to keep running the race God has set before each of us. Don't get so caught up in the things that are happening in the world, and so discouraged, they're out of your control. Just like the Assyrian empire attacking Judah; they couldn't stop that. They didn't have control over that.

They're this weak small nation. And we're going to see in chapters 36 and 37 how the leadership of the Assyrians came and threatened the leadership of Judah and tried to get them to give up. The real threat that was for the people of God, but God was calling them to trust him. He is in control.

He is going to deal with this world. We look at verse 4 – *“The host of heaven shall be dissolved. The heaven shall be rolled up like a scroll.”* These cosmic disturbances that we'll see happening during the tribulation. The Lord is going to deal with this world.

The hope we have as believers, we believe we'll be taken out by the rapture before the tribulation starts. We believe in the imminent return of Christ. Could

happen anytime. As we look at our world now and see the things going on, it definitely seems like we're in the last days. So we're to continue fighting the good fight of faith and trusting the Lord that he is going to come back. He is going to deliver us from the wrath to come.

Verse 5 – *“For my sword shall be bathed in heaven, indeed it shall come down on Edom and on the people of my curse, for judgment.”* Notice the word Edom there.

That Edom is a reference to Esau. If we go back to Genesis, remember the story of Jacob and Esau and Edom just means red, or Esau means red. That red stew that he got from Jacob and sold his birthright and it really speaks of the kind of person Esau was and what a worldly person he was, that the things of God were not important to him.

Think about it, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Esau being born as twins, and all the time they were growing up hearing these stories from their family of who their grandfather was, who their father was, that God called Abraham and said, you'll inherit the nations and God would bless him.

I can just see them sitting around the fire hearing those stories. And Jacob's heart is glowing with hope and excitement and saying, wow, this is amazing that we're so privileged to be in this family. And yet Esau his brother, it just seemed like it meant nothing to him. He was so focused on the things of this world that he was more interested in fulfilling his immediate needs, whether it be selling his birthright for a bowl of stew.

That's a picture of the world where they do not value spiritual things. They do not value the word of God. And God says I have revealed myself to the world through creation, through my word, through my people, and you've rejected that. And God keeps turning up the heat on the world to get them to repent.

See, that's the way it works with God. Where many of us, we saw the consequences of our sin before we were Christians and we said we want our life to change. We don't want to go down this path anymore, and we turned to the Lord as we heard the gospel. This is how God wants it to work.

Where you would respond to the gospel, you would recognize you're a sinner, and ask for forgiveness and see that, hey, the direction of my life is not good. I need to follow the Lord. But many won't respond to that kind of calling. So the Lord has to turn up the pressure.

It may be a deathbed conversion. That's what it's going to take. The Lord has to bring you to a situation where you're not responding, you're not responding, you're rebelling. God keeps turning up the pressure. He keeps turning up the pressure in your life, trying to get you to respond, you're not responding.

And then, what is it going to take to get a person to repent? See, that's what the tribulation is all about, I believe, where as we approach the tribulation, God is turning up, the heat, he's shaking everything that can be shaken.

We are seeing that in our world right now, aren't we? People who are trusting in the experts, trusting in man, and all that is being knocked away, chipped away, the credibility of the experts. People are losing faith in that and saying who can I trust if I can't trust the expert?

You can trust the Lord. Look to the Lord. The hope is that there will be revival in these last days before the tribulation, that many will respond. I believe that's what the Lord is wanting to set up right now, that he's pulling out those things that people have been trusting in. He wants to bring a worldwide revival.

But then at some point, when those people who are going to respond have responded to the trials and difficulties that come before the tribulation, he'll take the church out and then he's really going to turn the heat up during the tribulation where, you know, as you read in Revelation, a third of the trees are burned up, a third of the ocean is destroyed.

It seems like nuclear holocaust is a point where if you're ever going to give up on this world and respond to Christ, it will be then when you realize, oh well there's no recovery of this world, so maybe I do need to think about eternal things.

If that's what it takes, if that's the extreme ends God has to bring you to, to respond, then I believe there will be many that will believe on the Lord in the tribulation and that there will be a great response. But unfortunately you'll have to lose your life because it will be illegal to become a Christian at that time and you'll be beheaded.

But we see that picture in the book of Revelation where those who were beheaded in the tribulation are worshiping God in heaven and saying, salvation belongs to our God. They're so thankful that they were allowed to come to heaven. So we see the Lord speaking of this great judgment that he's going to bring on the world and on Edom or, as Esau, those who don't value spiritual things. It's going to be pretty brutal.

Verse 6 – *“The sword of the Lord is filled with blood. It is made overflowing with fatness, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. The wild oxen shall come down with them. And the young bulls with the mighty bulls; their land shall be soaked with blood and their dust saturated with fatness.”*

We're seeing here God's judgment and he's speaking of it in terms of a sacrifice saying the blood of lambs and goats for the Lord was a sacrifice in Bozrah.

Sin has to be judged, sin has to be dealt with, and either it's going to be judged through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, where God poured out his judgment on Christ as a sacrifice and those who believe on him are forgiven, or the judgment of God will be poured on the sinner. In a sense, it's like a sacrifice because your sin is being judged and that's not the way you want your sin to be dealt with.

You want to believe on Jesus and let him receive the judgment, not receive it for yourself. When it talks in verse 7 about the wild oxen and the young bulls, the Bible commentators believe this is just speaking of those who are in the military that are strong and think that they're going to be able to defeat the judgment of God, defeat the nation of Israel.

So you see the Lord toggling between the tribulation and the end times and the judgment that he's bringing in the near future on the Assyrian Empire.

Verse 8 – *“For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion. Its streams shall be turned into pitch and its dust into brimstone. Its land shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night or day; the smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste. No one shall pass through it forever and ever.”*

So verse 8, the day of the Lord's vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion. As the scripture says, *“Vengeance is mine. I will repay saith the Lord.”* We don't have to bring vengeance. We trust the Lord for him bringing vengeance and justice. So notice what he says, for the cause of Zion, which is Jerusalem, which is God's people. God is saying I am going to fight for my people, those who've turned to me.

It's amazing how the world, even today, hates the nation of Israel. If you saw this recent attack that happened in Israel, the terrorist attacks, and then the Israelis responded by attacking some of their enemies. Then the way the press spins it they make it sound like it's Israel's fault.

You can see there's this hatred of God's people. And yet it's amazing to me that you look at Israel and it's not like Jerusalem is super religious and they love the Lord. But they are God's people. It's a beautiful picture for us because we think how faithful God is to the nation of Israel and the promises he's made and that we believe that during the tribulation many in Israel will turn to Christ. They will recognize he's the Messiah. So God just keeps working with them. Even though he says you're a stubborn people, you're a stiff neck people, but I am going to keep my promise to you and bless you. And then you see how the world hates them.

The devil hates them because they're God's people. But that should be an encouragement to us as God's people. Because you might look at your own life and say, man, I just mess up all the time. I'm trying to serve the Lord. And I just feel like God must be so irritated with me and he's probably going to give up on me.

He's, wait, no, you're a child of God. Your heart is that you want to serve the Lord. You want to live for the Lord. Don't you think He sees that? As weak as we are, as much as we fail, God sees your heart, and if he's not giving up on Israel, you think he's going to give up on you? No, no way. And so I believe that's why God has given us this example, and even, in the natural, blesses the Jewish people with financial blessings and giftings in their lives.

It is to encourage God's people to keep pressing forward. Don't believe the lies of the enemy. The Lord loves you. He's working with you. He knows you're weak, but he's not going to give up on you. He who began a good work, he is going to continue it. He's working for the cause of Zion.

Then you see this picture in verses 9 and 10 of how the land will just lie waste. Then in most of the rest of the chapter, it's this picture God is painting of the judgment that he's going to bring on the proud. The things that they trusted in and we're so proud of, God's saying I'm just going to take those things away and I'm going to humble you.

It's a little tricky to try to interpret this section, but the way I see it is it's possible that even during the millennial reign these cities that were so proud and prosperous and in rebellion against God, the Lord is going to wipe out those cities. It's going to be a desolate landscape where animals will come in and take over.

If you've ever seen a movie where there's some kind of disease that ravages the whole city and the city is empty and there's trees growing up and animals

walking around through it, like New York City, I think that's what could happen in the tribulation where the people were so wealthy and proud and rebellious against God, and God said, look, I've given you all these giftings and you're not acknowledging that I'm Lord.

I'm going to take these things away and show you that it's not right to live that way and not acknowledge me as Lord. The things you were so proud of are going to be destroyed. This is the picture he's showing through this section of scripture where he says the streams that were so blessed in your land, it's just going to be turned into pitch, into tar, fire and brimstone. It's going to lie waste.

Then verse 11, he says – *“But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it, also the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. And he shall stretch out over it the line of confusion and the stones of emptiness. They shall call its nobles to the kingdom but none shall be there and all its princes shall be nothing.”*

So you see God just saying I'm going to humble the proud. I'm going to take away those things you're trusting in and I'm warning you this is coming. So you should repent. You should turn to me.

Verse 13 *“And the thorns shall come up in its palaces, nettles, and brambles in its fortresses; it shall be a habitation of jackals, a courtyard for ostriches. The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the jackals and the wild goat shall bleat to its companion; also the night creature shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest. There the arrow snake shall make her nest and lay eggs and hatch, and gather them under her shadow. There also shall the hawks be gathered, every one with her mate.”*

So the Lord goes on here for a while. He's basically saying I really want you to see this picture. The houses that you dwelt in, the palaces you dwelt in and you were so proud of, and you thought I wasn't angry at your sin and your rebellion. No, all of that is going to be taken away and animals are going to take over and live in your palaces and in your houses.

Then we see in verse 16 another exhortation to listen to the word of God.

Verse 16 *“Search from the book of the Lord and read: Not one of these shall fail. Not one shall lack her mate. For my mouth has commanded it, and His Spirit has gathered them. He has cast the lot for them, and his hand has divided it among them with a measuring line. They shall possess it forever; from generation to generation.”*

They shall dwell in it. In other words, these animals are going to take over the thing that you are so proud about. But notice what he says in verse 16 – *“Search from the book of the Lord, and read.”* He's saying, look I'm prophesying this. I'm writing it down. Now when it happens, you can look back and see. I was faithful. I did what I said I'm going to do. So that's the encouragement for us as believers that the Lord is going to fulfill his will in your life. Keep seeking him. Keep surrendering, keep searching the word and center your life around that.

The devil is going to lie to you, saying it's not going to make any difference, just do your own thing. But you will be so happy you lived for the Lord. When all is said and done, the Lord is going to bless you. But if we rebel against the Lord, there's such a heavy price to pay. So we want to really examine our own hearts, root out all rebellion, all worldliness, and say, Lord, I want to receive your blessing, your commendation in my life, because I know whatever you've commanded, it's going to happen.

This is a great exhortation to us to continue to live for the Lord. So let's pray.

Lord, we thank you that you have history under control. We might see the wicked prosper and think there doesn't seem to be any consequences for them. But Lord, out of your mercy you are giving time for people to hear your word, to repent. Lord, we should pray for those who are in rebellion against you, that their eyes would be open, that they would respond to the pressure you're bringing in their life, and to know, Lord, you're going to work out all the details for your glory and your purposes.

Lord, we pray that we have a healthy fear of you and a desire to obey you and that we could be encouraged by the call that we have to search your word, to be in your word. And that we could receive blessing from that and know that we're pleasing you.

Lord, I pray you encourage anyone who may be discouraged this morning in thinking they feel far from you. They feel like they've let you down and that there's no hope of really seeing blessing come to their life.

Lord, you always give us a new beginning if we turn to you, begin to seek you and Lord, you can restore the years the locust have eaten. You can change things so quickly. Lord, help us to be aware of what you're doing in the lives of people around us, that you can bring the proper pressures into their lives to bring them to repentance. Lord, that you don't need our help or for us to play Holy Spirit. You just want us to pray for them and minister to them as you open the door. Lord, we pray that we don't overstep our part and let you do your work in

people's lives. So thank you for the many lessons we learned here. We commit this week to you, Lord, in Jesus name. Amen. Amen.