

Isaiah 33:1-24  
“God and Human Strength Contrasted”  
Pastor Rick Miller  
December 4, 2022

Lord, as we open your word that you would speak to our hearts and encourage us in this walk of faith. And we just trust you to do that again cuz your Holy Spirit has, you've promised that your Holy Spirit would come and lead us into all truth, and we're counting on that once again and we just pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen. All right, Isaiah 33, we're gonna pick up in verse one. It 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. And when you cease plundering, you will be plundered. And when you make an end of dealing treacherously, they will deal treacherously with you.

Oh Lord, be gracious to us. We have waited for you be their arm every morning. Our salvation also in the time of trouble,

Just to give a historical background here, as we've been going through the section of Isaiah, we know that Judah, the nation of Judah is under a lot of stress because there's this threat hanging over them of the ins Syrian empire that wants to come in and take over their country. And the Assyrians have been doing this all over the world, and which Has always been the way of the world, like by winning land by conquest, right?

And.

Judeans are of course stressed out about this. They're worried about this. And as we've seen in previous chapters, the leadership of Judah is not always responding properly to this threat. They're instead of looking to the Lord, they're looking to other nations that can they can align with Get military protection, say from Egypt.

And the Lord is very displeased with this. He is, he's expecting God's people to call upon him to wait upon him. And so we're seeing in this particular verse, Or in this particular chapter, we're seeing the Lord speaking really to three groups of people. You have the Lord speaking directly to the Assyrian Assyrians and warning them of their conquest and their sin and their attacking his people.

He's also speaking to the people in Judah. Who are supposed to be God's people, but they're not responding correctly to this threat. So that's the second group of people he's talking to. And then the third group, he's talking and encouraging the people of God, the people in Judah who are waiting for God, the, and trusting in the Lord and praying to the Lord for protection from asy.

And which we often call the scripture, often calls the remnant like you'll have, it seems like most of the nation rebelling against God, but God always has this small number of people that are trusting him, that are waiting upon him for deliverance. And then the So the Lord will bring encouragement to those of us who are trying to live a godly life, who are trying to live by faith, who are trying to pray and call upon him and wait upon him.

But he also gives rebuke to his people who should know better, that aren't trusting him, and then he'll also bring warnings to the unrighteous to repent of their sin and turn to him. So that's

what we're gonna see through this chapter. God speaking to one of these three groups of people And in this first verse, you see this whoa given to which is directed really at the Assyrians, and could also be directed at the judeans who aren't trusting in the Lord.

But you never want an interaction to with God. For him to start out the sentence with, whoa, to you, that's not a good sign. It's a warning. It's got God saying, Hey, whoa, partner. There's judgment coming. You need to pay attention. You need to listen to what I'm saying. There's danger ahead and God.

Often we'll do that in scripture. I guess that's part of our calling as believers, right to, that's part of the gospel message, is warning that, hey, there's judgment coming. And if your sins aren't forgiven, you're in grave danger. You're gonna have to stand before. The great white throne judgment and give an account for all of your sins.

And then the scripture says you'll be thrown into the lake of fire. This is serious stuff. So that is part of the gospel warning of people. And so we see that here, God saying, whoa to you who plunder. So this this is what the nation of as Syria was doing. They'd go into a nation take over the nation, plunder the goods basically, you're stealing all of their goods and taking them for yourselves.

And then also, not only is there, there's plunder, but there's treachery in other words, like betrayal. Now, this certainly was directed at the Nation of Syria, where They were making false peace treaties with nations and then breaking them and anything they could do to get into the country without, minimizing the loss of life on their side.

So whatever they had to do to lie and cheat and steal to take over a country they would do that. But also, I think the Lord is speaking to the nation of Israel, who instead of going to the Lord, they're going to other nations for help, asking for help. And God is saying, Hey that's betraying me.

You should know better. And so basically, God's saying to these groups of of sinners, those who aren't trusting him, that you know you're gonna reap what you sow. And this is very powerful. S principle and scripture is that God is not mocked whatsoever a man. So he will also reap.

And you're sowing to the flesh, you're sowing sin and you're thinking you're gonna get away with it. And often in sin, there are built in consequences, aren't there? It's it. We might think, God, is God gonna strike me? It's he doesn't always have to do that because. There's built in consequences, right?

You, rob, take an extreme example. You rob a bank you're gonna get arrested and go to jail. That's a built in consequence. You cheat on your wife you're gonna have problems in your marriage. It so it, God doesn't necessarily need to bring direct judgment. So it's a very Powerful principle in scripture is sewing and reaping.

Now, there were times, there are times obviously, where God will intervene directly and bring judgment if necessary. And so he's bringing this warning now. It's interesting as we kinda look at the spiritual applications in this chapter and in previous chapters we've read, we can look at our lives as Christians and say am I trusting God with my problems with my trials, or am I getting bitter over them?

Am I. Not responding like I should. I'm looking to the flesh for help. Maybe I'm looking to other people, or I'm looking for my own resources, my own strength instead of praying and trusting

the Lord with a particular situation. So we can learn a lot about. Those kinds of principles as we're going through this chapter as believers.

So then in, in verse two, he says, oh, Lord, be gracious to us. We have waited for you be their arm every morning. Our salvation also in the time of trouble. So now you have this contrast. You have verse one, the Assyrians who certainly aren't trusting the Lord. They're just going in and taking what they want.

They're certainly, Praying and waiting on God for their needs. They're just like, Hey, this is the way of the world the strong rule. And we want what that country has. We're just going to roll in there, take what we want, plunder and pillage and as long as we get what we want. Now, that's a picture of the world, isn't it?

You just, Hey, I'm number one. Number one comes first. I'm gonna get what I want no matter who I hurt. And obviously there's different degrees of that, right? Some are more sophisticated in their selfishness and or actually should say, we are sophisticated in our selfishness. Often can it and yet God sees our heart.

But the, that's really a picture of the flesh, whether it's a worldly person just going about their business, not seeking the Lord, or whether it's a Christian, a carnal Christian or a struggling Christian who's trying to learn not to live by the flesh, but by the spirit. So there we always have that contrast of doing it God's way or doing it our way.

And you see here, The prayer of a righteous person. Who is living under tremendous stress, and you gotta realize to have this threat hanging over them of the Syrian empire coming in anytime created tremendous stress. And it wasn't imagined. They looked at the Northern Kingdom who years earlier had been taken.

Into captivity. Why the Assyrian Empire? So the northern Kingdom of Israel was no longer, they were taken into captivity. God said, that's it. I warned you for years, you didn't respond to me. And now I'm gonna use the Assyrian Empire to bring judgment upon you. Northern Kingdom. But the Southern Kingdom God was preserving because of course the Messiah was gonna come through the Southern Kingdom.

Not that they were any better necessarily. Now, it is interesting though, if you study the history of the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom where after the time of David and Solomon, where you had one kingdom when Solomon died his son took over and that's where you had a split from between now the northern kingdom and the Southern Kingdom.

And The Northern Kingdom really went toward idolatry. They started building their own places of sacrifice, which God forbade. And they had idols they would make. And even though the Southern Kingdom had their struggles the Northern Kingdom never had one good king for the years that.

They existed and so there was a point where many of the priests and the righteous people left the northern kingdom and came to the southern kingdom. So by definition, you had a more godly group of people in Judah than you did in the Northern Kingdom, cuz you think of it after.

Solomon dies and you have David take over his king and he's setting up all these idols. The godly people in the northern kingdom said, Hey, we're outta here. We're going to the Southern kingdom. And so you had this kind of purging and a movement of people. So you, in a sense, you do have a stronger remnant in Judah.

But you also have a lot of wicked people too, still in Judah that God is dealing with. But you see this heart of this godly person who's living under stress and I love this prayer. He says, oh Lord, be gracious to us. We have waited for you be their arm every morning. Our salvation in the time of trouble.

So I love that prayer cuz it. It speaks some truths to us of the way we approach the Lord in prayer. We always come with attitude. Lord, anything you're gonna do with me, it's out of your grace cuz I don't deserve it. Grace is just God giving you what? Something you don't deserve, a gift you don't deserve.

So our prayer should always begin with that. Lord, I'm coming to. Be gracious to me. And now Lord, I'm waiting for you. Now, this is the interesting thing about prayer is we don't always see instantaneous answers, do we? This week, this last week in Chapel with the kids were memorizing verse outta John.

I think it's 14. I guess I should have it memorized, but it's Kelly could probably help me. Whatsoever. You ask of me. I will do it. Is Jesus saying whatsoever you ask of me. I will do it. And And to hear all the kids go, I will do it. It's screaming together. And I said, kids, this is not like Jesus is a genie, that we rub the bottle and he comes out and I will do whatever you asked instantaneously, three wishes.

The idea in the whole context of his teaching is the Lord saying, I want to be involved in your life in every area of your life. And so ask me anything and now whether the answer comes immediately or in a month or after you die, that's up to God. But we, our part is to be asking the Lord and then waiting on him.

This is so important because there are times where it may. Years before the Lord answers your prayer. For whatever reason he has now, this last week I went to see the movie the Chosen, it's their third season and now it's, the first two episodes are in theaters and I don't know, some without getting off into Rabbit Trail, some people.

Are critical of that series. It's not a perfectly biblical and I just think we need to have a little more grace and understanding that God uses different ministries even though they're not perfect. There's no perfect ministries, and and that, I dunno, I was, I saw something online, this guy.

Heresy Hunter walking down how the chosen had all these problems and it's I can't listen to this guy. The Lord used them to minister to me. That's all I know. And, but it's if you haven't watched the chosen series I would definitely recommend it. It's not like word for word from the Bible.

There's some, creative elements there where they look at biblical situations. And as Jesus, as John said at the book of, at the end of the Gospel, John, if everything Jesus did was written down, not even the whole world could contain the book. So there is definitely room for speculation.

Maybe Jesus did this or he could have done this, or the disciples could have done this. But anyway, there was one of the scenes in the the chosen that I just saw. Where there was this conversation between the Apostle James and Jesus, and if you've watched the series, I haven't followed it real closely, but.

I did pick up that one of the issues with the Apostle James is he had this some kind of physical malady, like he, he limped, and I'm not sure exactly what his issue was, but this question would

come up periodically throughout the season two, where somebody would be talking to James and be like, James, why doesn't Jesus heal you?

He's healing all these people. I wonder why he doesn't heal you. And James would be like I don't know. I haven't, really asked the Lord. And so this question would come up periodically. In this scene James is alone with Jesus, and he just outright asks him like, Lord, why don't you heal me?

And I thought it was done so well, and it just tell you, administered to me personally. But basically what Jesus said, and again, this is not out of the gospels, but it was theologically sound, what he said. And he said, James, me and the father are trusting you with this affliction because we know. Like job that you're gonna respond correctly to this affliction that you have.

And he just went on of explain to him that, God, the idea was, God doesn't always heal. That he may have a higher purpose. And then the line that really hit me, Jesus says, James, you are going to be healed. It's just a matter of time. And his point, and he had already talked to him about the eternal, no, you need to look at eternal things, not just this short life and the difficulties and the message Jesus was basically telling him, you're gonna be healed when you die and go to heaven.

And but I thought. In our prayer lives, it's so important that as we lift things to the Lord, we're just now waiting on him in faith to say, okay, Lord, thy kingdom come, thy will be done that. I don't know what you're gonna do with this issue. But I'm trusting you with it and I'm waiting. And if that means you're gonna answer it when I go to Glory and for some reason it's going to glorify you that I put up with this thing in this life, but it's also gonna bring great reward to me for responding correctly.

Of course one of the big things the Lord is doing is. He's working in our hearts. That's what he's really concerned with. Like, how am I responding to the trials and afflictions in my life? Am I bitter? Am I dunno. Some Christians walk around, I just don't understand. It's what? We all have trials, right?

We all have deep trials, deep pain, different things. You might look at someone and say, oh, that person, they just got it so easy. You don't know what's going on in their life. You don't know what's going on in their marriage. You don't know what's going on in their heart. We all are struggling with things, and it's all about.

How we lift these things to the Lord, these the pain, the trial and say, Lord, you're gracious. I call upon you. I would like to be delivered and I'm going to ask to be delivered, but and I'm gonna wait upon you, but I'm not gonna force anything here, Lord. Cause I believe you're sovereign.

You know what you're doing with my life and I trust you with it, Lord. And. And I just believe that's so important. If you go over to Romans chapter five,

Romans chapter five says, therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through whom also, we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Now, if the, if that ended right there, we could just say, wow, my Christian life is just gonna be so awesome.

Now it's gonna be, free from pain. And I'm just, I'm justified. I have access to God. I can claim whatever I want whenever I want. And but notice how it goes on. It says, and not only that, not only are we rejoicing in our relationship with God, which is to me that's amazing. We used to run from God, run from Christians.

At least I did. And then I got saved and entered into the kingdom, and now I'm actually rejoicing my relationship with him, rejoicing to be around Christians. So we're rejoicing all that and it says not only that, but we also glory in tribulations. Have you done that lately? Oh, thank you Lord for this tribulation.

Thank you, Lord. I glory in it or I rejoice in it. But see, that's what a mature believer does. They say, wow, this is hard when I'm going through right now, but Lord, I know you have a purpose in it and I trust you, and I can even rejoice. In the midst of this tribulation. Cause I know that tribulation produces perseverance and perseverance.

Character and character hope. Now hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to us. So you're seeing this progression of a Christian. Who's trusting the Lord with his tribulations and then responding correctly to that tribulation and saying, okay, Lord, I'm gonna persevere through this.

I'm gonna trust you with it, and then you become a person of character. Is that how we look at a person who's a person of character, like they can stand up under difficulties like you think of a baby. They're not really a person of character, right? The, I'm hungry. They freak out if they don't get what they want, when they want.

Of course, we never do that. We never freak out when we don't get what we want, when we want, do we? Yeah, we do and we're being babies. And the Lord says no. Come on. You need to be a person of character. You need to persevere. Under pressure. And we all respect a person like that.

You say, yeah, that's a strong person. Look what they're going through. And they're still trusting the Lord. They're still, they have joy and peace. And then what's interesting, it says, then character develops hope and hope does not disappoint. Now, I always read that. I don't understand that, but I think this is what this means, is that, When you begin to walk in that kind of endurance in trials and you see your character growing you start to have hope in your life that, Hey, I can live this Christian life.

Wow. I can see God's will. Performed in my life does have meaning. My life does have purpose. So you're not a person walking around oh, I, I just don't know. You know what my life's all about. I'm just defeated all the time. The devil's just attacking me all the time, and you're just down all the time.

But I think a person of character who's learned to deal with trials, You have this joy about you, you have this sense of purpose. And then notice how he says at the end, the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. See, this is supernatural. This is not just be tough, be strong.

It's be filled, have so much power within you that as the external forces come, you're able. To stand up against him and to have perseverance. Back to Isaiah 33 verse two. Again I think it's that this person who's praying here under tremendous pressure and they're just waiting for God. And then notice it says, be their arm every morning.

Our salvation also in the time of trouble. So we can say I'm waiting for God, so that means I'm just passive. I do nothing. If God wants to do it, he does it. And I think that's a wrong way to look at waiting on God now, waiting on God. It's an inner attitude of trusting God with your issues.

But there's also action that we need to take and that, I think that's what this verse is saying, Lord, you be their arm of strength every morning. So my arm, yeah, I still gotta go to work. I gotta perform things. I gotta be out in the world, but it. Who's the power behind my arm and my and you the arm, of course, representing the strength and doing things in this world who gives me the mental strength to do my job.

Who gives me the physical strength? It's God who does it, but I'm still out there doing, and I'm out there going, like we read. Earlier in communion where Jesus breathed on them and he said, Hey, I send you out. As I went, the father sent me. So I send you like, wow, that's quite a responsibility.

Like we're not to be passive, we're not to be Well. If God wants to, minister to other people, I guess he'll do it. It's no, Lord, here I am, be my strength. I wanna minister to others. But so you're my arm every morning. Our salvation in the time of trouble, right? So Jesus said, in this world, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer.

I have overcome the world. We act shocked when we have trouble, and the Lord says, no. Be ready for it. Be ready to deal with it in the proper way. Now.

I love I, I like the new living translation as a, I can bounce back and forth between my new King James version, which is more of a word for word translation from the Greek or from the Hebrew. Older New Testament whereas the new living translation's more of a paraphrased. But it can be, I think it can be helpful.

So I wanna read some of the verses we're reading today also in the new living and in verse two it says, but Lord be merciful to us for we have waited for you be are strong arm each day. And our salvation in times of trouble.

So we need the Lord's strong arm. Verse three, at the noise of the two malt, the people shall flee. When you lift yourself up, the nations shall be scattered. And your plunder shall be gathered like the gathering of the caterpillar as the running to and fro of locust. He shall run upon them. Again, these are one of these verses when you're reading your devotional time, you're like, I have no idea what he's saying.

And you just go on and, but I have to study and say I'll tell you this chapter. I was like, Lord, come on. I'm. Getting it. And I just, the last few days really felt that breakthrough where I'm getting the overall sense of what the, I think the Lord wants the safest chapter. But anyway, this, I think what this verse is saying and again, let me read it.

In the new living verse three, the enemy runs at the sound of your voice. And when you stand up, the nation's flee just as caterpillars and locust stripped the fields and vines. So the fallen army of as Syria will be stripped. The I believe at this is part of this prayer that started in verse two.

So it's still this godly person praying and I think what we're seeing here is the, is this godly person who's praying in faith saying, God, I know you're gonna lift yourself up and the nations are gonna be scattered. I know God, you're gonna come through for me and. Now, this was again, in the time before the Assyrians had tried to attack Judah.

Now they were surrounding them. So again, they're living under this pressure. But we're gonna see in a few chapters the story of Heza Chi's encounter with the leaders of Syria and and the great work that God did, but, Right now, this person, this godly remnant is praying with this threat, hanging over them and now visualizing by faith, maybe that's not the great word, is that

kind of new age visualizing but there's something to that saying, okay, I'm praying for this and I believe the Holy Spirit is showing me how he's gonna answer this.

Now, I believe that's totally possible, right? And then you're just waiting on the Lord for what he's gonna do. But notice verse three, where it says, when you lift yourself up, it's almost God, okay, I'm waiting on you. God, you don't seem to be doing anything. But man, when you stand up and go into action, Heads are gonna roll as it were, right?

Things are gonna happen. It's gonna be like how Locus come in and just clean the crops, just overwhelming force. And and Lord, that's what I see you doing now. Isn't that good to just have that kind of faith to just say, Lord, I know. You can heal my body, you can heal this person. Now, it's not guaranteed, but you can do it.

And if you rise up, you wanna do it, you can do it. Lord, it's all in your timing or this financial situation. Lord, I'm trusting you with this. I'm not gonna worry. You told me to seek first the kingdom and God, you can rise up and answer this thing right away or. Loved one I'm praying for. They're not walking with you, Lord.

You can send laborers into their path, Lord. You can rise up and the enemy will be scattered. You know what I'm saying? So you're praying in faith that God is mighty. He can. He can answer. And I just love that when you lift yourself up, the nations will be scattered. Verse five, the Lord is exalted for, he dwells on high.

He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times and the strength of salvation. The fear of the Lord is his treasure. Just some real gems there. In the new living. It says, though the Lord is very great and lives in heaven, he will make Jerusalem his home of justice and righteousness.

In that day, he will be your sure foundation. Providing a rich store of salvation, wisdom and knowledge, the fear of the Lord will be your treasure. So again, picture this, you got this purse, this Godly remnant under tremendous stress and threat, and yet they're trusting the Lord. And the Lord, I believe bringing them encouragement, saying, look, it's not always gonna be like this.

You're not always gonna be dominated by these foreign nations. There's gonna come a time when Zion will be filled with justice and righteousness. Think about it, the remnant, the godly people in Judah, they're looking at the leadership and they're just shaking their heads saying, you guys are, you're looking to Egypt.

You should be looking to the Lord. You. And like we do with our leadership, right? You'll read the news. You're like, oh, I can't believe they made that decision. And it can be very distressing, but we have to step back and say, Hey, the Lord's exalted. He's on high. He's overall and God has got a plan that he's working.

And whether you look at this verse as saying, ultimately, in the millennial reign and in heaven Zion will be filled with justice and righteousness, but also believe, as we've talked about in previous chapters, it's not just talking about heaven, it's also talking about the church age where there will be this significant change.

In the nation of Judah and then in worldwide, in the church where there'll be this inner relationship with the Lord that, that was not seen in the past. And we read that in, in the last chapter, 32. We spent three weeks on it. And there were several examples in that chapter of prophecy. I believe God's saying this is what I'm going to do and I'm gonna.



And inner work in the people. Where there's gonna be such a radical change in individuals because of the work of my spirit and the work of the cross that get ready for what I'm about to do. And I think that's what we're seeing here as well. The Lord's saying he's gonna fill Zion with justice and righteousness.

Now, isn't that what the cross did? Justice like I, I deem you not guilty, just as if you never sinned God. And then bringing righteousness to our lives. We talked about that last week or the whole sermon was on righteousness. If you wanna go back and listen to that. But the ability for us to live righteously comes to the power of the spirit, this inner work, and then notice wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times and the strength of salvation.

See, this is why it's important. We're in the word of God. Faith comes through hearing and hearing through the word of God. What gives stability in our lives, what gives strength to a person to turn things over to the Lord because they're in the word of God. Now, I'm not saying you have to spend hours a day.

In the Bible, you, I was just thinking about this, that I could spend five, 10 minutes in the Bible yielded to the Holy Spirit to teach me. I will get more out of that time than someone who's just in the flesh intellectually studying the Bible for hours. This is so important that we come humbly, we open the Bible and we say, Lord, I don't have a clue what you wanna say, but here I am.

Speak to me through your word and God will speak, he will speak over and over, and then we can meditate on scripture. We can take just one verse and meditate on it. The memory verse for, again, for the kids out of John 14, ask me anything and I will do it. You could just meditate on that all week.

That's not a long scripture. Ask me anything I will do, oh Lord, holy Spirit, what does that mean? What does that mean for my life? Show me Holy Spirit. And then the Lord begins to feed you with wisdom and knowledge, and your life becomes more stable. See, this is what I see in the lives of Christians that are, they're just unstable.

You. They can't consistently make it to church. They can't they're always defeated. They're always in a crisis mode, it seems and I say, are, I always go back to the basics are you spending time with the Lord in his word? Are you letting him teach you? Are you letting him speak to you?

Cuz that's what's gonna bring stability in your life. The wisdom and knowledge of the Lord. And and it'll bring strength in your life. It'll be, it'll. Bring ability to overcome those things that are defeating you. And then notice that last stanza of verse six. The fear of the Lord is his treasure.

And of course, the classic verse the. The beginning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom tells us in Proverbs, if you don't have the fear of the Lord, you don't even start out in the journey of wisdom. And what does that mean? Oh, I'm afraid of God. I'm running from God. No it's a respect for his authority.

It's a, it's a. Strong concern for his opinion in every situation. That's where we start. I recognize your authority, Lord. I recognize I'm gonna have to stand and give an account someday soon. I'm gonna, I'm gonna stand, even though I won't stand as a Christian, I will not stand before the great white throne, but I will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account for the way I live my life.

Not for, whether I'm gonna get into heaven or not, but. The rewards we will get. And the fear of the Lord is very important part of our, the mix of our Christian life. And it's a notice, it's a treasure to have the fear of the Lord. And then I was thinking back in Isaiah 11.

Where it's prophesying about the coming Messiah and Isaiah 11. Once as there shall come forth a rod from the stem of Jesse. And a branch shall grow out of his roots. Of course, Jesse was David's father, and so out of the line of King David would come, the Messiah, and it's saying the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

The spirit of wisdom and understanding, which we just read, the importance of that, the spirit of counsel and might the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. There it is. So even Jesus had the fear of the Lord. That might seem odd to us, but it was it isn't odd because if you study his life, he says, I only do those things that the father shows me to do.

I only speak the words. He was the ultimate person concerned with. The will of God and the authority of the Father in his life and always perfectly listen to the father, but we. Have the advantage of now having access to the person of Christ through faith, through his cross. And these characteristics that are, the spirit that is upon him can be upon us.

And so this is the beauty of the life of faith and grace, as we say, Lord, I can't manufacture the fear of the Lord in my own heart. Can you, Jesus, give me your fear of the Lord? Can you give me your wisdom and understanding? And then verse seven of back to Isaiah 33. Surely their valiant ones shall cry outside.

The ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly. The highways lie, waste, the traveling man ceases. He has broken the covenant. He has despised the cities. He regards, no man. The earth, mourns and languishes. Lebanon is shamed and shriveled. Sheron is like a wilderness. And Beon and Carmel shake off their fruits.

So let's look at the new living says now your brave warriors weep in public. So he is speaking to again, the evil nation of the leaders in as Syria and also to the leaders of Judah. Trusting the Lord. But now your brave warriors weep in public. Your ambassadors of peace crying, bitter disappointment.

Your roads are deserted. No one travels them anymore. The Assyrians have broken their peace treaty and care nothing for the promises they made before witnesses. They have no respect for anyone. The land of Israel, wilts and mourning Lebanon withers with shame. The plane of Sherron is now a wilderness.

Baan and Carmel have now been plundered. So he's speaking to the northern about what happened in the Northern Kingdom that had already been defeated by a Syria. And and also I believe speaking prophetically to what is gonna happen to. Syria, but again, going back to the beginning of the chapter where he's warning of the consequences that are coming to, to the wicked, and they have been so proud of their own strength, their brave warriors.

Their valiant ones are gonna cry. And isn't that what God does with the pride in our lives where we think we're so strong, we're so proud, and we may look down on others for their weakness. There's all kinds of signs of pride in our lives. And Lord says, I'm gonna humble you that he's always working to humble the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

And so the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly and again, reaching out to these nations instead of looking to the Lord and and just how the Lord has dealt with the nation of Israel, how he's going to deal, have mercy on the nation of Judah. Okay. I think we're gonna have to end there and let's pray.

Lord, we do pray for the lessons we've learned today that you would just bring them to our remembrance, Lord, that those of us who are patiently waiting upon you for help in our lives, that we don't grow weary and well doing. We deal properly with the trials that are in our lives, Lord, and receive from you that inner strength to overcome, to be people of character, of endurance, those who are so filled with your spirit that we can endure great affliction and react to it with.

The right attitude, even to the point as we read in Romans five of rejoicing in tribulation, knowing you're working Lord, and we pray that our faith is fed through your word. And Lord, that the fear of the Lord is very prominent in our lives, are concerned with standing before you that we're just doing your will and.

My dream is we, I stand before you and just say, Hey, well done. Good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord. And yet, Lord, I can look back in seasons of my Christian life where I wasn't where I wanted to be spiritually and yet, Lord, you are merciful to us. If we'll turn our hearts to you today, you'll.

You'll wipe away the years the locus have eaten and you'll give us new beginnings. And Lord, we thank you that you are above all, you are exalted. And Lord, when you raise yourself up to answer a prayer, there's no, nobody can stop it. That's our hope. That's our prayer for every area of our life. Show us things that we're caring that we shouldn't, that we're not trusting you for, and also show us, Lord.

We're supposed to be taking action with the strength that you've given and maybe we've been fearful and you want to give us courage. To step out in faith with your strength into whatever you're calling us to, or your callings aren't usually easy or comfortable, but they're certainly very fulfilling and rewarding.

Lord, we thank you for there's many truths he reminded us this morning as we go. Just. Remind us of these in Jesus name. Amen.