

Isaiah 32-34

Good evening and thank you for joining us! Tonight we're in Isaiah 32 if you would plz turn in your bibles there.

Jerusalem plays a critical role in end times prophecy. **Psalm 48:2**

Beautiful in elevation,

The joy of the whole earth,

Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north,

The city of the great King.

Jerusalem is a delightful city - it's God's holy city! Yet it has a bloody and brutal history. One historian counts as many as 27 different occasions when Jerusalem was conquered by foreign armies.

Ironically, the name "Jerusalem" means "city of peace." But over its 4000 year history the city's peaceful periods have been few and far between. Tonight we pick up the book of Isaiah in the midst of six woes or warnings to King Hezekiah's Jerusalem. The invading threat at the time was the Assyrians. But Isaiah's prophecy goes far beyond the immediate threat. It speaks to the Jerusalem of the last days - the city surrounded by the nations of the world.

We're gonna study chapters 32-34, and the title of tonight's message is The Final Woes
Let's pray

1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness,

And princes will rule with justice. Last week as Josh taught we saw that God assured that the Assyrians would be judged, and Judah would be delivered. But God didn't want only to remove the threat; He also wanted to bless Judah with a righteous king, so the promise was made. And Hezekiah was a good godly king.

But this is pointing not only to Hezekiah, but to our perfect King Jesus.

2-4

**2 A man will be as a hiding place from the wind,
And a cover from the tempest,
As rivers of water in a dry place,
As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.**

**3 The eyes of those who see will not be dim,
And the ears of those who hear will listen.**

**4 Also the heart of the rash will understand knowledge,
And the tongue of the stammerers will be ready to speak plainly.**

There's hope for the dim, and deaf, and impulsive, and the tongue-tied. This means there's hope for us!

5-8

**5 The foolish person will no longer be called generous,
Nor the miser said to be bountiful;**

**6 For the foolish person will speak foolishness,
And his heart will work iniquity:**

To practice ungodliness,

To utter error against the LORD,

To keep the hungry unsatisfied,

And he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail.

7 Also the schemes of the schemer are evil;

He devises wicked plans

To destroy the poor with lying words,

Even when the needy speaks justice.

8 But a generous man devises generous things,

And by generosity he shall stand. One day every heart will be exposed. Evil people will be revealed as evil. Generous people will be known for their generosity.

9-11 he has a specific message for the women

9 Rise up, you women who are at ease,

Hear my voice;

You complacent daughters,

Give ear to my speech.

10 In a year and some days

You will be troubled, you complacent women;

For the vintage will fail,

The gathering will not come.

11 Tremble, you women who are at ease;

Be troubled, you complacent ones;

Strip yourselves, make yourselves bare,

And gird sackcloth on your waists. Sackcloth was a sign of remorse. And the women of Jerusalem needed to repent of apathy.

It's like the young girl who said, "The number one problem in this country is apathy, but who cares!"

12-14

12 People shall mourn upon their breasts

For the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine.

13 On the land of my people will come up thorns and briers,

Yes, on all the happy homes in the joyous city;

14 Because the palaces will be forsaken,

The bustling city will be deserted.

The forts and towers will become lairs forever,

A joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks—This is a scary scene.

A once thriving, bustling metropolis - metro Jerusalem - will be abandoned. But as we've seen over and over again, it won't be forever...

15 Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,

And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,

And the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Jerusalem will be ground zero for the AC and his persecution of the Jews. But it won't be forever.

Romans 11 26 And so all Israel will be saved,[fn] as it is written:

"The Deliverer will come out of Zion,

And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

27 For this is My covenant with them,

When I take away their sins." [fn]

16-17

16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,

And righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

17 The work of righteousness will be peace,

And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.

There's no peace apart from righteousness. Yet have you noticed when that which is right gets ignored, there's no quiet or peace.

18-20

18 My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation,
In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,
19 Though hail comes down on the forest,
And the city is brought low in humiliation.

20 Blessed are you who sow beside all waters,
Who send out freely the feet of the ox and the donkey.

Isaiah 33 describes God's judgment on the invaders of Jerusalem. In Hezekiah's day it was Assyria. In the Last Days it's the nations led by the Antichrist.

1 Woe to you who plunder, though you have not been plundered;
And you who deal treacherously, though they have not dealt treacherously with you!
When you cease plundering,
You will be plundered;
When you make an end of dealing treacherously,
They will deal treacherously with you. Isaiah is speaking to the Assyrian general, Sennacherib. Hezekiah, king of Judah, had tried to buy his protection. Yet Sennacherib took his money, and still attacked. It was "treachery."

And this is what the Antichrist will do. He'll deal "treacherously" with Israel in the last days. He'll sign a covenant, then violate its terms and attack the Jews.

2-4

2 O LORD, be gracious to us;
We have waited for You.
Be their^[fn] arm every morning,
Our salvation also in the time of trouble.
3 At the noise of the tumult the people shall flee;
When You lift Yourself up, the nations shall be scattered;
4 And Your plunder shall be gathered
Like the gathering of the caterpillar;
As the running to and fro of locusts,
He shall run upon them. God will avenge His people. This applies
to end time Jews, and Christians today. In **Romans 12:19**
Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to
wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,"^[fn] says
the Lord.

God promises to dish out the vengeance. Our job is to extend His
grace.

5-6

5 The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high;
He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.
6 Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times,
And the strength of salvation;
The fear of the LORD is His treasure. Wisdom provides stability.
And the fear of God is a great treasure... in any era.

7-9

7 Surely their valiant ones shall cry outside,
The ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly.
8 The highways lie waste,

The traveling man ceases.
He has broken the covenant,
He has despised the cities,[fn]
He regards no man.

9 The earth mourns and languishes,
Lebanon is shamed and shriveled;
Sharon is like a wilderness,
And Bashan and Carmel shake off their fruits. These cities mentioned-Lebanon, Sharon, Bashan, Carmel were all the lush, fertile regions of coastal and northern Israel. These are the areas plundered by the Invaders.

10 “Now I will rise,” says the LORD;
“Now I will be exalted,
Now I will lift Myself up. 3 times God says now. The plundering won’t last forever. God will arise and stop the invasion, but only in His perfect timing.

11-13

11 You shall conceive chaff,
You shall bring forth stubble;
Your breath, as fire, shall devour you.

12 And the people shall be like the burnings of lime;
Like thorns cut up they shall be burned in the fire.

13 Hear, you who are afar off, what I have done;
And you who are near, acknowledge My might.” There will be no denying who it is that brings forth victory!

14-15

14 The sinners in Zion are afraid;

Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites:

“Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire?

Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?”

15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly,

He who despises the gain of oppressions,

Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes,

Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed,

And shuts his eyes from seeing evil: Notice the difference in conduct of those who are judged and those who walk in righteousness.

16 He will dwell on high;

His place of defense will be the fortress of rocks;

Bread will be given him,

His water will be sure. Where will Israel hide from the invaders?

Isaiah 14 seems to identify this future refuge. Here the "fortress of rocks" is a probably a reference to the city of "Petra."

17 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty;

They will see the land that is very far off. What a promise!

Imagine, seeing King Jesus “in His beauty.” During His first advent we saw Him in His humility, not in His glory.

But when Jesus returns and we see Him in His splendor and beauty - every beautiful sight we’ve ever seen will pale in comparison to the glories and beauties of Jesus.

18-19

18 Your heart will meditate on terror:

“Where is the scribe?

Where is he who weighs?

Where is he who counts the towers?"

19 You will not see a fierce people,

A people of obscure speech, beyond perception,

Of a stammering tongue that you cannot understand. Isaiah speaks of the Assyrian Invaders. Their language sounded strange to Jewish ears, like "a stammering tongue." But their invasion won't happen. Remember an angel strikes down 185k Assyrians in one night

20 Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts;

Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home,

A tabernacle that will not be taken down;

Not one of its stakes will ever be removed,

Nor will any of its cords be broken. Jerusalem will survive the Assyrian scourge. And in the last days, Jesus will come to the rescue of Jerusalem. One day, it'll live up to its name, "The City of Peace."

21-22

21 But there the majestic LORD will be for us

A place of broad rivers and streams,

In which no galley with oars will sail,

Nor majestic ships pass by

22 (For the LORD is our Judge,

The LORD is our Lawgiver,

The LORD is our King;

He will save us); Notice the three names given to the one true God in verse 22. He is Israel's Judge, Lawgiver, and King.

This is interesting. Think about America. Our government also has three branches - judicial, legislative, and executive. Where do you think our forefathers found their design? They knew that one day all three branches would be consolidated under our Lord Jesus. He'd be our Chief Justice, our Lawmaker, our Commander and Chief.

In the meantime, these 3 powers should be separated. Only Jesus can be trusted with all three branches of power. But it's interesting that their design for government came from Scripture.

Whether or not America today is a Christian nation can be debated, but without the Bible and Christianity there would be no United States.

23 Your tackle is loosed,
They could not strengthen their mast,
They could not spread the sail.
Then the prey of great plunder is divided;
The lame take the prey. The Invaders will be unable to steer their ship. God will defeat them, and heal the citizens of Jerusalem.

24 And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick";
The people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity.

Chapter 34

In the immediate context, Isaiah continues the thought of the coming judgment against the Assyrians. But in the larger context, we can see this passage as an announcement of the judgment to come upon the nations during the Great Tribulation.

1-2

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.

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. Notice the Lord is angry at “all nations,” not just Assyria. Again, this points us to the last days. The nations will rise up against Israel.

3 Also their slain shall be thrown out;

Their stench shall rise from their corpses,

And the mountains shall be melted with their blood. The Great Tribulation will be a terrible time - plagues so intense and widespread, men will hide in caves and holes.

4 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. Isaiah sees the day when nature goes nuts. Comets and meteors and planets will fall from the sky like leaves falling from the trees on an autumn day.

John also saw this upheaval. In Revelation 6, God is opening the title deed of the Earth - to take possession of what belongs to Him. When He pops the 6th seal it unleashes cosmic

disturbances on planet Earth. Revelation 6 12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold,[fn] there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon[fn] became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

5-8

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.

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.

7 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.”

8 For it is the day of the LORD’s vengeance,
The year of recompense for the cause of Zion. Remember, as we mentioned earlier, The Scripture tells us vengeance belongs to the Lord. Isaiah speaks of the day God will execute that vengeance. Praise God because of the forgiveness that Jesus provides we won’t have to face His vengeance!

9-10

9 Its streams shall be turned into pitch,
And its dust into brimstone;
Its land shall become burning pitch.

10 It shall not be quenched night or day;
Its smoke shall ascend forever.

From generation to generation it shall lie waste;

No one shall pass through it forever and ever. This describes utter desolation. It sounds a lot like the aftermath of a nuclear explosion.

11-15

11 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.

12 They shall call its nobles to the kingdom,
But none shall be there, and all its princes shall be nothing.

13 And thorns shall come up in its palaces,
Nettles and brambles in its fortresses;
It shall be a habitation of jackals,
A courtyard for ostriches.

14 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.

15 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. No humans survive-the land is inhabited only by animals of the wilderness.

16-17

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.

17 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." These have been some tough chapters-the 6 woes from chapters 29-35. But there's good news! Next week we come to the beauty of chapter 35. Following the utter destruction of Armageddon, we see the ushering in of the kingdom.