



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

“THAT’S What I’ve been saying to you all along!!”

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): *Isaiah 33:1-6; 30:15, 18-19; 2 Kings 18:13-19:20; John 10:10*

Have you ever had one of those moments where, all of a sudden, everything becomes clear—and all you can say is, “*Oh... that’s what you meant*”? Like the moment in *Field of Dreams* when the brother finally sees. He’s been standing in the middle of a miracle the whole time, but he doesn’t have eyes to see it. It looks like foolishness, wasted effort, even irresponsibility—until the moment of rescue. Then the baseball players appear, and suddenly he sees what’s been there all along. And he blurts out the line that says it all: “*Where’d all these baseball players come from?*”

Isaiah 33 opens with that same tone. God isn’t revealing something new; He’s confirming what He’s been saying the entire time. Judah has tried Egypt. They’ve tried political strategy. They’ve tried buying peace with gold stripped from the Temple itself. They’ve tried everything—*except* trusting the Lord. And now, as the Assyrian destroyer stands at the gates, God says, in effect, “*This is exactly what I told you would happen. And this is exactly why I told you to trust Me.*”

1. THE WAY OF THE DESTROYER ALWAYS TURNS BACK ON ITSELF (Isa. 33:1)

Isaiah begins with a sharp declaration: “*Woe to you, destroyer, who have not been destroyed! Woe to you, betrayer, though none betrayed you! When you finish destroying, you will be destroyed; when you stop betraying, you will be betrayed*”(Isa. 33:1). The Assyrians lived by the rule of “might is right.” They crushed nations, broke treaties, and never imagined the pain would return on them. They could betray agreements with impunity—but no one was allowed to betray them. That kind of power breeds arrogance, and arrogance always believes it’s exempt from consequence.

But God declares a principle that runs deeper than empires: destruction carries its own judgment. Betrayal boomerangs. Evil eventually eats itself. This isn’t God lowering His standards—it’s God perfectly administering justice. The punishment fits the crime. What Assyria dished out without restraint would come back upon them in full measure. God is reminding His people that no matter how dominant injustice looks, it is never permanent, and it is never sovereign.

2. ADONAI WAS WAITING LONG BEFORE THEY EVER PRAYED (Isa. 33:2)

After the woe comes the prayer: “*Adonai, be gracious to us! We wait for You. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in time of trouble*” (Isa. 33:2). Finally—finally—Judah prays. Egypt has failed. Tribute has failed. Compromise has failed. The enemy has taken the payment and kept advancing, because that’s what destroyers do. And only now does God become the first call instead of the last resort.

But here’s the stunning part: God had already been waiting. “*Therefore Adonai is waiting to be gracious to you... blessed are all who wait for Him*” (Isa. 30:18). When Hezekiah finally prays, God doesn’t respond with frustration or delay. He responds immediately: “*Because*

you prayed to Me... I have heard you" (2 Kgs. 19:20). God wasn't withholding mercy; He was waiting for trust. The moment His people turned to Him—not as a talisman, not as a formula, but as King—deliverance was already on the way.

3. WHEN THE LORD RISES, EVERYTHING CHANGES (Isa. 33:3-6)

Isaiah paints a dramatic reversal. *"From the sound of tumult peoples flee... when You rise up, nations scatter"* (Isa. 33:3). God's people had been running in fear, hiding from a threat too big to face. But the moment the Lord rises, the threat itself dissolves. What once sent terror through the land is suddenly scattered like dust. The battle ends almost before it begins, and the spoil is gathered like locusts sweeping a field (Isa. 33:4).

And then Isaiah tells us why: *"Adonai is exalted, for He dwells on high. He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness"* (Isa. 33:5). God didn't suddenly become strong—He has always been a high tower. He didn't suddenly move—He has always dwelled on high. The change wasn't in God; it was in where His people finally placed their trust. And the result is breathtaking: *"He will be the stability of your times, a wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge. The fear of Adonai is His treasure"* (Isa. 33:6). What once were times of distress become times of dependability. What once felt empty becomes a treasury overflowing with deliverance.

CONCLUSION

This is why ADONAI says, *"That's what I've been saying all along."* He wasn't silent. He wasn't distant. He wasn't reluctant. He was waiting to be gracious. Waiting for His people to stop leaning on splintered reeds and start resting in the One who never moves. The tragedy wasn't that Judah lacked options—it was that they trusted everything else first.

And the same question confronts us: Why is prayer so often our last resort? Why do we exhaust every human strategy before saying, *"Lord, I need You"*? God hasn't changed. He is still exalted. He is still dependable. He is still a storehouse of wisdom, salvation, and strength. The moment we turn to Him, we discover He's been there the whole time—saying the same thing all along.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do we so often treat prayer as a last resort instead of a first response?
2. What "splintered reeds" do people commonly lean on today instead of trusting the Lord?
3. How does Isaiah 33 challenge the idea that "might makes right"?
4. What does it mean, practically, for the Lord to be "the stability of your times"?
5. How does the fear of Adonai function as a *treasure* rather than a burden?

CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI, forgive us for trusting in what cannot save. Forgive us for leaning on strength that splinters and strategies that fail. Today we turn our hearts back to You. Be our strength every morning. Be our salvation in times of distress. Teach us to fear You rightly, to trust You fully, and to wait for You confidently. You are exalted. You are faithful. You are our Deliverer. In Your mercy and grace, we rest.

B'Shem Yeshua, In Yeshua's Name, Amen.