

## A Trek Through Isaiah 40 - 33:1-24

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Mar 26, 2017

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Prayer

### Introduction

For today

- The sixth woe: Home at last 33:1 - 35:10 (part 1)

**(9:35)**

### Overview

These chapters form the greatest of Isaiah's interim fulfillments.

He had prophesied one world, one people, one God. Now he answers the the question: Is it real?

The test case was the "Egyptian alliance" situation in the days of Hezekiah. Judah was under Assyria. Merodach-Baladan of Babylon was urging alliance against Assyria. Egypt was promising assistance for a revolt. Isaiah's job was to urge the way of faith, trusting in Yahweh rather than in politics.

Structure:

- 28 - 35 Six woes
- 36 - 37 Epilogue

### The sixth woe: Home at last 33:1 - 35:10

Here is the final outcome in the end times: The nations are destroyed and the LORD reigns in Zion. His people come home in celebration.

Similar to the third woe 29:15-24

- Present situation 29:15-16
- Transformation 29:17-21
- Application to Israel 29:22-24

Continues the themes from the fifth woe: (1) coming King (2) disaster before blessing (3) blessings awaiting the faithful

Structure

- Prologue 33:1-12
  - Zion's salvation 33:1-6
  - World judgment 33:7-12
- First proclamation: promise of the new Zion 33:13-24
- Second proclamation: warning of coming judgment 34:1-17
- Epilogue: Pilgrims to Zion 35:1-10

34 and 35 summarize the six woes in 28-35. Followed by the historical section in 36-37

## Prologue and first proclamation 33:1-24

Zion's salvation 33:1-6

- Assyria's treachery and coming destruction 33:1

1 Ah, you destroyer, who yourself have not been destroyed, you traitor, whom none has betrayed! When you have ceased to destroy, you will be destroyed; and when you have finished betraying, they will betray you.

- Destroyer...traitor
  - Speaking to Assyria
- You destroyer, who yourself have not been destroyed, you traitor whom none has betrayed
  - Assyria boasting
  - All-powerful in its time.
- When you have ceased to destroy, you will be destroyed; and when you have finished betraying, they will betray you.
  - The truth: God is the Lord of history
  - As Dan 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings...
  - Assyria's time of judgment was coming. The judgment will fit the sin.

- **Prayer** and **answer** 33:2-6

- V2 Prayer to the LORD

2 O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble.

- O Lord, be gracious to us;
  - In difficult times God's people live by prayer
- we wait for you.
  - Wait. Expectant hope.
- every morning
  - Day by day
- in the time of trouble
  - As Eph 5:16...the days are evil.
- Be our arm
  - Means of action.
- our salvation.
  - True security

- V3-4 The prayer answered: the nations destroyed

3 At the tumultuous noise peoples flee; when you lift yourself up, nations are scattered, 4 and your spoil is gathered as the caterpillar gathers; as locusts leap, it is leapt upon.

- V3 The nations scattered

- tumultuous noise...when you lift yourself up
  - Parallel
  - God speaking, God acting
  - As Is 30:30-31 And the LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard...The Assyrians will be terror-stricken at the voice of the LORD
- Peoples flee...nations are scattered
  - Destruction of the unbelieving nations
  - Perfect tense: certainty

- V4 The spoil gathered

- Two pictures of God's people reaping the rewards of God's victory
- your spoil is gathered as the caterpillar gathers
  - Caterpillar. Lit locust.
  - May refer to the practice of gathering locusts to destroy them. Then a picture of a great amount of spoil
  - May refer to the locusts consuming all. Then a picture of the spoil completely taken.
- as locusts leap, it is leapt upon
  - Locusts. Lit swarm (of insects)
  - Picture of men swarming over the spoil

- V5-6 The prayer answered: **Zion** established

5 The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, 6 and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

- V5a True exaltation

- The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high
  - The LORD is the one who is truly high, inaccessible, out of reach
  - Contrast the boasting of the king of Assyria in Is 10:10 As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, whose carved images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria, 11 shall I not do to Jerusalem and her idols as I have done to Samaria and her images?

- V5b-6 True exaltation manifested

- Two pictures of God's exaltation manifested
- he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness
  - Filling His city with His attributes
- he will be the stability of your times
  - Stability. Lit constancy, trustworthiness. From the same root as faith.
  - Through the changing times of their history.
- abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge
  - Salvation in all circumstances
  - Coming from wisdom and knowledge.
- the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.
  - Complete devotion to God
  - Progression: Fear of the LORD > (beginning of) wisdom and knowledge > salvation > stability through troubled times.
  - Belongs to God. Given to His people and becomes their treasure

## World judgment 33:7-12

- God's people in **crisis** 33:7-9

7 Behold, their heroes cry in the streets; the envoys of peace weep bitterly. 8 The highways lie waste; the traveler ceases. Covenants are broken; cities are despised; there is no regard for man. 9 The land mourns and languishes; Lebanon is confounded and withers away; Sharon is like a desert, and Bashan and Carmel shake off their leaves.

- Description of the results of the Assyrian invasion
- V7 Collapse of alliances
  - their heroes cry in the streets
    - Military hopeless
  - envoys of peace weep bitterly
    - Diplomacy failed
- V8 Collapse of society
  - highways lie waste;
    - Infrastructure destroyed
  - the traveler ceases.
    - Commerce ended
  - Covenants are broken;
    - No honesty in relationships
  - cities are despised;
    - No concern for the nation
  - there is no regard for man.
    - No concern for others
- V9 Land devastated
  - mourns and languishes
  - Lebanon (the permanent)
    - Withers away
  - Sharon (the beautiful)
    - is like a desert,
  - Bashan (the fertile pasture) and Carmel (the garden land)
    - Become barren

- The LORD **arises** 33:10-12

10 “Now I will arise,” says the LORD, “now I will lift myself up; now I will be exalted. 11 You conceive chaff; you give birth to stubble; your breath is a fire that will consume you. 12 And the peoples will be as if burned to lime, like thorns cut down, that are burned in the fire.”

- God’s response
- V10 The LORD exalted
  - Now.
    - At the proper time
  - I will arise,” says the LORD, “now I will lift myself up
    - To take action
  - I will be exalted
    - Seen as exalted among the nations
- V11-12 Assyria destroyed
  - The prophet speaks to Assyria
  - You conceive...you give birth
    - Much activity
  - Chaff...stubble
    - Product of the activity
    - Worthless
    - Fuel for the burning
  - Your breath
    - Assyria’s boasting.
  - That will consume you
    - Sin is self-destructive
  - Peoples
    - Many nations in Assyria’s army
  - Burned.
    - Passive tense: done to them.
    - Wrath of God
  - To lime
    - Burned up completely
  - As thorns
    - Burn hot
    - Quickly consumed
- Contrasting outcomes
  - Assyria boasts and comes to nothing.
  - God speaks. His word comes to pass. He is exalted.
  - Here is faith: believing His word.

First proclamation: promise of the new Zion 33:13-24

- Structure
  - V13 Summons
  - V14-16 Zion's people 1
  - V17-19 Zion's King 1
  - V20 The city of peace
  - V21-23 Zion's King 2
  - V24 Zion's people 2

- V13 **Summons**

13 Hear, you who are far off, what I have done; and you who are near, acknowledge my might.

- You who are far off...you who are near
  - Everyone
- Hear what I have done
  - Become aware of the works of the LORD
- Acknowledge my might
  - Might. Power of accomplishment
  - Understand the meaning of the works.

- V14-16 Zion's people 1

14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: "Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?" 15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions, who shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking on evil, 16 he will dwell on the heights; his place of defense will be the fortresses of rocks; his bread will be given him; his water will be sure.

- V14 Conviction of sin
  - Sinners. Those who fall short of God's law
  - Godless . Profane. Dismissing God.
  - Afraid...trembling. Heart reaction
  - Who among us? As Ro 3:23 All have sinned and fall short...
  - Consuming fire...everlasting burnings
    - As Is 29:1 Ariel
    - The divine presence
    - To be feared
    - Eternal
- V15 Residence requirements
  - walks righteously
    - Righteously. Lit in righteousnesses: plural of amplitude
    - All aspects of life
  - speaks uprightly. All speech
  - despises the gain of oppressions. Matters of finance
  - shakes his hands, lest they hold a bribe. Justice before personal gain
  - stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking on evil
    - Guarding the mind
    - Bloodshed. Lit bloodguilt. What brings guilt before God either for the person or for others
    - Evil. Wickedness, depravity
    - Hearing of. Listening to, paying heed to
    - Looking on Behold, consider, examine. More than a passing glance
- V16 Residence rewards
  - he will dwell on the heights
    - High, toward the heavens
    - Able to see far
    - Above the morass
  - his place of defense will be the fortresses of rocks. True security
  - his bread will be given him; his water will be sure. Provision



- V17-19 Zion's **King** 1

17 Your eyes will behold the king in his beauty; they will see a land that stretches afar. 18 Your heart will muse on the terror: "Where is he who counted, where is he who weighed the tribute? Where is he who counted the towers?" 19 You will see no more the insolent people, the people of an obscure speech that you cannot comprehend, stammering in a tongue that you cannot understand.

- V17a His beauty
  - Your eyes will behold
    - Who? The same people who were called sinners and godless above
    - How? Not said. But note that they are repentant.
  - The king
    - Heb no definite article. Lit "a king". Indefinite for emphasis.
    - As Is 32:1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness
  - Beauty. Personal excellence
- V17b His realm established
  - a land that stretches afar
- V18-19 His enemies gone
  - Near term, the Assyrians. Far term, the world city.
  - Where is he? Gone.
  - he who counted...he who weighed the tribute...he who counted the towers
    - The bureaucracy of oppression
  - the insolent people,
    - Proud
  - the people of an obscure speech
    - Foreign to God's people

- V20 The city of **peace**

20 Behold Zion, the city of our appointed feasts! Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an untroubled habitation, an immovable tent, whose stakes will never be plucked up, nor will any of its cords be broken.

- Behold. To gaze upon
- Zion...Jerusalem. God's city
- appointed feasts
  - Right worship
  - Commemorating the exodus and redemption: God's delivery of His people.
- Untroubled habitation. Peace
- immovable tent
  - Tent. Reminiscent of Israel in the wilderness when God was among them.
  - Immovable. No longer nomadic. Home at last.

- V21-23 Zion's **King** 2

21 But there the LORD in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, nor majestic ship can pass. 22 For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us. 23 Your cords hang loose; they cannot hold the mast firm in its place or keep the sail spread out. Then prey and spoil in abundance will be divided; even the lame will take the prey.

- V21 Peaceful waters
  - the LORD in majesty
    - The sovereign Ruler
  - broad rivers
    - Highways of commerce
  - Streams
    - Lit Nile canals.
    - Perhaps for irrigation
  - No galley...majestic ship
    - No ships of war
- V22 Salvation in the LORD
  - Three pictures of the coming King
  - Judge
    - As in the time of the judges.
    - In time of trouble providing deliverance and salvation
  - Lawgiver
    - Making laws
  - King
    - The promised Davidic King
  - he will save us
    - Another hint.
    - The LORD is able to save and willing to save.
- V23 Victory provided
  - Picture of a crippled ship which carries off the spoil of victory
  - Your cords hang loose.
    - Insufficiency of man
  - Prey and spoil in abundance
    - From the King's victory

- V24 Zion's **people** 2

24 And no inhabitant will say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.

- V24 Physical well-being
  - no inhabitant will say, "I am sick"
- V24 Spiritual well-being
  - the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.
    - Forgiven. Lit bear, carry.
    - As the scapegoat in Lv 16:21-22 And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. 22 The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself...
      - A picture of the people's sins being carried away.
  - Not said how this would be done.

(10:00)

## Discussion

We will break into three groups to discuss today's passage:

1. **O LORD, be gracious to us 33:2**
  - a. **We wait for You**
  - b. **Every morning**
  - c. **Be our arm**
  - d. **Be our salvation**
2. **Hear and acknowledge 33:13**
  - a. **Hear what I have done**
  - b. **Acknowledge my might**
3. **The sinners in Zion are afraid 33:14-17**
  - a. **Who can dwell with the consuming fire?**
  - b. **Your eyes will behold the King.**

In your group, please discuss

- **See:** Something about God that you see in the passage
- **Know:** The effect that this view of God has upon you.
- **Respond:** A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.

For next week: The sixth woe: Home at last 33:1 - 35:10 (part 2)

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