

EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #48

Isaiah 33:13-24

We may recall last time, God revealed to us that the destroyer would eventually be destroyed. In this section, God reveals to us that the righteous certainly will not be destroyed but will live.

Now this text in Isaiah is very similar to a Psalm of David, Psalm 15. In that Psalm the question is raised, who is it that actually gets to live in the place where God resides. It appears to me that the emphasis here is on who actually gets to live in Jerusalem when the King, Jesus Christ, reigns in Jerusalem. The primary point seems to be this:

AFTER THE TRIBULATION THERE WILL BE CERTAIN BELIEVERS WHO WILL HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF PHYSICALLY LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING IN JERUSALEM AND ISAIAH DESCRIBES THAT HERE.

Now you will notice that the city that is named here is Jerusalem (**33:20**) and the issue being discussed is residency in the city (**33:24**). So it seems to me that what we learn here is who it actually is who gets the privilege of living in Jerusalem when Jesus Christ reigns on this earth.

Now there are two wonderful revelatory truths that Isaiah presents in this section:

REVELATORY TRUTH #1 – Isaiah describes the kinds of people who will be saved from the Tribulation and will enter the Kingdom. **33:13-16**

There are four key facts that we see here:

Fact #1 - God will have saved people everywhere . **33:13**

This is a critical piece of information because this tells us that there will be people in the Kingdom who live in various parts of the world. J. Vernon McGee said the “far away” people refer to the Gentiles and the “near” people refer to Israel (Vol. 3, p. 270). Some will live in Jerusalem and in the land of Israel and some won’t. There will be a privileged remnant who will actually get to live in the presence of the King and there will be others who will not have that privilege. This will include people who live far away from Jerusalem and those who live near it.

After the Tribulation, at the judgment of the nations, the criteria for entering the Kingdom is how one treated the Jews during the Tribulation. Jesus taught that all nations will be gathered before Him and He will determine who gets to live on this earth and who is thrown into eternal hell by the treatment of His brothers, the Jews (Matthew 25:31-46).

Now this does not mean that all these nations loved Jesus Christ and the Word of God, but apparently they will believe that Israel is special to God and will try and help her. That group will be allowed to enter the Kingdom, but not necessarily live in Jerusalem. All the people who are left on earth will honor God. The people who are far away from Israel will have all heard what God has done; all people who live near Jerusalem will acknowledge His might.

Fact #2 - God will have saved people who finally face their sinfulness and God's righteousness . **33:14**

What I find very intriguing about this verse is that God wants to be seen and known as a God of judgment, whose holiness threatens people as a consuming fire and continual burning. There is coming a day when God is going to judge and the threat will be eternal fire.

This verse has specific reference to Israel and to Jerusalem. All people in Israel will be terrified and will tremble, realizing what they have just seen God do. They will finally humble themselves, realizing the righteousness of God that they do not have, and they will all ask who can even live with the consuming fire and continual burning of God? Now some take the reference to the sinners as referring to those who did not believe. These were apostate Jews who apparently survived the Tribulation.

However, if we understand this to be a question that is being asked by those who will actually be privileged to live in Jerusalem when Jesus Christ reigns as King of Kings, then there is another possible interpretation. This could refer to those who finally come to terms with their sin in view of the righteousness of God. The Tribulation is a time of wrath - ferocious, terrible wrath and when God is done pouring out His wrath, all people left will face a judgment to determine who gets to live in the Kingdom and who gets to actually live in Jerusalem near Mt. Zion.

What we learn here is that ultimately those who are close to God have an overwhelming sense that they are sinners who do not deserve to be able to even stand in the presence of a Holy God. Most Jews today don't see themselves as depraved sinners who are heading to God's wrath, but they will come to terms with this during the Tribulation.

Fact #3 - God gives qualities of those who will end up living in Jerusalem. **33:15**

Most of the verbals used in this verse are Qal stem participles, which are in their active (Poel) form. What this means is that Isaiah is describing the continual action of an individual who consistently lived his life demonstrating these qualities:

(Quality #1) - The one who will live in Zion will have walked righteously. **33:15a**

The one who will actually get to live next to Jesus Christ when He reigns on earth will have been one who lived his life in conformity to the righteous standards of God.

Let us put this into the Church Age - who can go to heaven? Who can actually go to live where the Holy, Righteous God lives? The answer is one who has lived his life continually in conformity to the righteousness of God. Who has actually done that? No one. That is why one must believe on Jesus Christ for He is the righteousness of God.

(Quality #2) - The one who will live in Zion will speak with sincerity. **33:15b**

The word “sincerity” is one that means to speak in a straight and upright way, specifically in ways that are right in regard to God (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 470). People who will live in Zion will have continually used their speech in a sincere and truthful way.

(Quality #3) - The one who will live in Zion will reject unjust gain. **33:15c**

The word “reject” means to reject in the sense of despising and holding something in contempt (*Ibid.*, p. 445). One who will end up living in Zion will have been one who hated any type of fraudulent gain. There were judges in Isaiah’s day who took bribes and demanded payments that were not legal and took things from the poor (Isaiah 1:23; 3:14, 15).

(Quality #4) - The one who will live in Zion will not be involved in bloodshed issues. **33:15d**

This person will have nothing to do with the plans that shed innocent blood. From the moment he even hears about such a thing, he will not listen and will not have anything whatsoever to do with a plot or plan to shed blood.

(Quality #5) - The one who will live in Zion will not use his eyes to look at evil things. **33:15e**

Those who want to look at the righteous King in Jerusalem will have been those who did not look at unrighteous things. King David, a man after God’s own heart, said he would not allow his eyes to look on anything evil or unclean or worthless (Psalm 101:3).

A righteous person does not use his eyes to look and delight in evil nor will he become a participant with evil. You would never find David surfing the internet looking for porn sights so he could watch unclean things.

What is described here is that the one who will have close intimate fellowship with the King will have used his senses to pursue what is righteous with his steps, mouth, hands, ear and his eyes.

Fact #4 - God says the one who has these qualities will live in blessing. **33:16**

Three amazing blessings are promised to one who lives life like this:

(Blessing #1) - He will dwell on the heights. **33:16a** - he will be lifted up high

(Blessing #2) - His personal refuge will be the strong rock. **33:16b** - he will have strong security

(Blessing #3) - He will be given His bread and water. **33:16c** - he will be given abundant provisions

Never again will one living in Jerusalem have to worry about anything.

REVELATORY TRUTH #2 – Isaiah describes the kind of life people will have who live in Jerusalem after the Tribulation. **33:17-24**

There are ten facts we are given here about life after the Tribulation for those living in Jerusalem:

(Fact #1) - They will physically see the King in all of His beauty. **33:17a**

Peter and James and John got a small glimpse of the glory of the King when they were up on the mount and Jesus was transfigured right before their very eyes. People will literally and physically see Jesus Christ reigning as King of Kings.

(Fact #2) - They will see a far distant land. **33:17b**

People in Jerusalem will see the whole Kingdom plan which is operative all over the world. Also Israel's kingdom will be spread over great distances. It will not be some narrow land like it is now.

(Fact #3) - Their heart will meditate on the terror of the Tribulation. **33:18**

Those living in the Kingdom will think about the terror of God in which God wiped out all of her enemies. Israel will finally realize God was her refuge and all terror is gone.

(Fact #4) - They will not see a fierce people. **33:19**

Never again will a foreign power, who speaks a foreign language, dominate Israel

(Fact #5) - They will see a secure Jerusalem . **33:20**

Jerusalem will have total peace. Isaiah calls Israel to look into the future when enemies are gone. Isaiah says there will come a day when Jerusalem will be an undisturbed habitation and wherever a person lives, he will never be uprooted.

(Fact #6) - They will see a secure harbor . **33:21**

Jesus Christ, The LORD, shall reign in Jerusalem and protect the land and the harbor. No foreign military ship will dare to enter its harbors. God will meet with His people and will be the defense of His people. No vessel of war will ever get near this land again when Jesus Christ reigns.

Babylon could boast about their dominance of the Euphrates river and Assyria could boast about her dominance of the Tigris river and Egypt could boast about their dominance of the Nile river, but one day all the rivers will be known as belonging to Jesus Christ and Israel. One day the river of life will flow right through Jerusalem right from the throne of God (**Revelation 22:1-2**).

(Fact #7) - They will have a proper view of Jesus Christ. **33:22**

Israel will realize that the LORD is our judge, the lawgiver, the king and the Savior. Jesus Christ will be seen as the majestic God He truly is and He will be the lawgiver, the judge and jury of all things and He will reign as King of Kings.

(Fact #8) - They will have the spoils of all the enemies. **33:23a**

Jerusalem may be metaphorically pictured as a lame and limp ship. It has been a ship tossed to-and-fro and certainly is not one in good shape. That will all change. Jerusalem will become the richest place in the world.

The aftermath of the Tribulation will feature many spoils. Spoils in abundance, and these spoils are going to be divided among God's people. We read in Revelation that all the nations of the world will bring gifts to Jerusalem (Revelation 21:24-26). Those spoils will be divided even among those who at one time couldn't walk.

(Fact #9) - There will be total removal of physical infirmities. **33:23b-24a**

The blind will see, the deaf will hear and the lame will walk. There will be no sickness in the Kingdom. No doctors and no drugs.

(Fact #10) - There will be a total forgiveness of all iniquity. **33:24**

This will be the time when all sin will be forgiven.

The Prince of Peace is truly the one who can bring peace on earth and peace to one's heart.

If you will believe on Jesus Christ:

1. You will see the beauty of all Christ is and did (**33:17a**).
2. You will see new and wonderful things (**33:17b**).
3. You will have a peace you have never experienced (**33:20**).
4. You will have the protection of God (**33:21**).
5. You will have a spiritual health like you have never had before (**33:24**).
6. You will have all of your sins forgiven (**33:24**).