

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #45

Isaiah 32:1-8

We who live in the United States have enjoyed some great blessings and freedoms, but the truth is, even at that, this country is still lousy. Politicians often say, and I have even said it, this is the greatest country in the world. Truth is, that isn't saying much because this world is out of whack and this world will not run right until Jesus Christ runs the world.

In the last part of Isaiah 31, God promises that Jerusalem will be protected (31:5) and that one day God will reign from Jerusalem (31:9). Now Isaiah says one day God will rule the world . Now, of course, a logical question to ask is who is the king who will one day rule the world?

We may notice that in **32:1**, this one is called “a king,” in **33:17** He is called “the King” and in **33:22** He is called “our King.” We know from many texts such as John 1:49 that the King of Israel is none other than Jesus Christ. So this is a prophetic prediction of Jesus Christ reigning as King and what the world will be like when He reigns. **There will be no righteous government on this earth until Jesus Christ reigns.**

There is certainly something we see here, and that is righteousness in the world and in a society comes through right government . What is described here is a time when right government rules the entire world and the entire world is filled with the blessings of God.

**THERE IS COMING A DAY WHEN JESUS CHRIST WILL REIGN IN TOTAL RIGHTEOUSNESS , AND AT THAT TIME ALL THINGS WILL BE MADE RIGHT AND ALL RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FRAUDS WILL BE DESTROYED .**

What a wonderful world it will be when Jesus Christ reigns as King. In these eight verses we get a small glimpse as to what the world will actually be like. There will be a major contrast between what life is like when the evil rulers of this world are reigning and what life will be like when Jesus Christ is reigning.

**GLIMPSE #1 – Jesus Christ will reign righteously . 32:1a**

The word “righteous” is a word that primarily means that when Jesus Christ reigns, He will reign in a right and just way so that things are always what they ought to be in every situation (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 702-701).

Now the word righteously in Hebrew is prefaced by a preposition “lamed.” So it may be translated that the king will reign for righteousness, according to righteousness or in righteousness.

Two ideas may be understood by this: 1) When Jesus Christ reigns He is going to reign for the purpose of having righteousness rule the world; 2) When Jesus Christ reigns He will rule the world in and by righteousness. Both are true.

The point Isaiah stresses is that Jesus Christ will one day establish worldwide righteousness and that will be the way He will reign in righteousness. Think of what a world would be like if in every situation everything was done in the way it ought to be done according to what God wanted done. I promise you this, when Jesus Christ reigns on this earth there will be no city debates about nondiscrimination for those who practice abominable sin. There will be no forum groups to study whether or not the death penalty is inhumane. In every case, in every situation when Jesus Christ reigns right, according to the standards of God, will always be done.

**GLIMPSE #2** – Princes helping Jesus Christ will rule justly . **32:1b**

Godly government does something about wicked people and wicked things. A king who reigns in righteousness must have a team of leaders who make righteous and just judgments. The word “justly” is a forensic term and it means that those who are ruling will make judgments and hand out sentences based on what is right, legal and lawful by God’s assessment (*Ibid.*, p. 519).

Isaiah wanted God’s people to know a couple of things here: 1) that the King will share His government with His princes. 2) Those He shares His government with will be those who will make proper judgments and hand out proper sentences.

Both the King and all of His governmental leaders will rule in every way that is right before God. What Isaiah is contextually saying is that there will come a time in the aftermath of judgment when there will be a perfectly righteous government ruling the world.

We are getting a look at some of the responsibilities God’s leaders will have. They will have the responsibility to rule, to govern and to judge.

**GLIMPSE #3** – Every person will know he is protected , sheltered and cared for. **32:2**

You and I do not know what a world would be like if all people in the world did right and abstained from violence and injustice because our government demanded it. We have never lived in a world in which people lived in peace and restraint because righteous leadership would not tolerate anything but this. You and I do not know what a world would be like if the pure goal of every politician was the true welfare of every citizen. Most politicians are driven by their own special interests and passions. They are very partial and often associate with those who can do something for them. So to actually have a society that featured the honest welfare of every citizen would truly be amazing.

Think for a moment of a society that every man or woman, boy or girl is completely safe and completely protected. Every leader and every person will mutually care about each other. All will sense they are protected and sheltered and all will sense their needs are being met. Now the key protector will obviously be Jesus Christ but also all on His governmental team. Every person living in this kingdom will have security. They will have protection and shelter and they will flourish. Proper judgments will be made. Evil will be punished. Righteousness will reign, and in that context, every person will be protected, sheltered, refreshed.

**GLIMPSE #4** – Every person will see and hear God’s Word at a new level. **32:3**

We may recall that Isaiah said that God had pronounced a blindness on Israel so that she could not see the Word or will of God (Isaiah 29:10-11). What is described here is a time when He will lift that blindness and God’s people will see and hear His Word. **Do not miss this - when people go to church and do not have a passion to know the written Word of God and an ability to see and understand the written Word of God, they are under the judgment of God.**

There is presently blindness on Israel and there is much confusion about a variety of things. But when Jesus Christ reigns, God’s Word will be seen and known and heard. People will understand God’s judgments and God’s grace. People will realize God’s program for Israel and for the Church. They will see things in new wonderful fresh ways.

**GLIMPSE #5** – Every person’s mind will understand truth and the mouth will communicate truth. **32:4**

Think of a world in which everyone desires to understand God’s Word and communicate God’s Word. You and I live in a world of fools. Not many care to know God’s Word and not many are interested in clearly communicating it either. Many people are in a mental stupor when it comes to God and truth.

**GLIMPSE #6** – Fools and rogue pretenders will no longer be esteemed and respected .  
**32:5-7**

In **verse 5** we are introduced to two different nouns that describe two different types of people. One is a fool and the other is a rogue .

The word “fool” (nabal) describes one who from God’s classification is stupid and impious and wicked and one who pretends to be strong, but actually has no strength (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 529). In Isaiah’s day, these were the kinds of people who seemed to get promoted to the high religious and political offices.

The word “rogue” (kili) comes from a root Hebrew word that means to be a fraud in the sense that this one pretends he is complete and whole in his relationship with God (*Ibid.*, pp. 400, 550). This person is very crafty and deceitful in what he pretends to be. He pretends to be so concerned with the people, when in fact he is a fraudulent liar.

Now these are the types of people who, in Isaiah’s day and in our day, seemed to get promoted or elected to the high political and religious positions. In our society people tend to honor fools and rogues, not those who truly love God and His Word. Society tends to call fools noble and they call rogues generous.

Isaiah says when Jesus Christ comes back, this will all change. Both verbs of **verse 5**, “called” and “spoken of,” are in the Niphal stem. What this means is that God will cause the world to stop esteeming and respecting spiritual losers. There are **two descriptions** we see that give us the traits of fools and rogues.

**(Description #1)** - Description of a fool. **32:6**

In this verse Isaiah presents five traits of a fool.

**Fool Trait #1** - A fool speaks nonsense. **32:6a**

The word “nonsense” means that a fool speaks in shameful and disgraceful ways (*Ibid.*, p. 529).

**Fool Trait #2** - A fool inclines his heart to wickedness. **32:6b**

The word “wickedness” means that a fool has a heart that leans toward that which is false, of no substance, vain and wicked (*Ibid.*, p. 21). A fool is a fraud in his heart even though he is a good politician with his lips.

**Fool Trait #3** - A fool practices ungodliness. **32:6c**

This word means that a fool actually has a lifestyle that is profane, polluted and defiled from God’s assessment (*Ibid.*, p. 293). This kind of person appears to be so honorable, but behind the scenes is impious and defiled by God’s classification.

**Fool Trait #4** - A fool speaks religious error against God. **32:6d**

The word “error” refers to impious error that is an abomination to God (*Ibid.*, p. 859). What is revealed here is that most politicians make a habit of saying exactly the opposite of God’s truth and verbally promoting things that God says are abominable.

**Fool Trait #5** - A fool intentionally does not meet people’s needs. **32:6e**

Keep in mind that these politicians appear to be so concerned with their society and yet the truth is they really are not interested in meeting their needs. They could care less if the people in their charge know the true God. In fact, they will keep their constituency hungry and thirsty for truth.

They are cruel and they will take away people’s ability to have enough food or drink. How? Through taxes. When you see a politician in a state like Michigan raise taxes, you may be certain that behind the scenes are things you and I know nothing about, but God knows.

Isaiah’s point is when Jesus Christ returns to reign the fool will be gone.

**(Description #2)** - Description of a rogue. **32:7**

In this verse Isaiah presents four traits of a rogue.

**Rogue Trait #1** - His weapons are evil. **32:7a**

Now the weapons that Isaiah describes here are not your typical weapons such as sword or spear. The weapons that he describes here are far more subtle, but they are all evil. Dr. Warren Wiersbe said this person “uses his or her position for personal profit and not for the good of the people” (*Be Comforted*, p. 82).

**Rogue Trait #2** - He devises wicked schemes . **32:7b**

The word “schemes” indicates that the counsels and purposes of the rogue are evil and wicked. He is not really interested in what is righteous by God’s standards.

**Rogue Trait #3** - He destroys the afflicted with slander . **32:7e**

The word “slander” means that this type of person is verbally deceptive and one who tells lies (*Ibid.*, pp. 848-849). John Calvin said this kind of person is “always bent on cheating and deceiving” (*Commentary on Isaiah*, Vol. 7, p. 412).

Again remember this person is in a high position in this world. He knows how to talk a good deceptive game and he learns how to weasel his way into power.

**Rogue Trait #4** - He will not listen to right counsel from a needy one. **32:7f**

The common tendency for all worldly politicians is to admire and listen to the “rich and famous” even though they do not know God or care anything about God. If a person has money, fame or influence, this world tends to elevate them.

The point here is that even when a needy person speaks what is right, he will not listen. What this means is that the only people he will listen to are those who are able to do something for him.

**GLIMPSE #7** – The noble person will live and stand . **32:8**

Isaiah says in the end it will be the noble person who will live and stand. The word “noble” speaks of one who is related to the prince in the family line of nobility (*Ibid.*, p. 535). This, of course, refers to one who truly is part of the family of God.

It is not the fool or rogue who will end up ruling the world; it will be those who were in the family of God who will end up ruling the world.

You and I must endure a lousy world for awhile governed by lousy people who are arrogant, crooks and cheats. But one day that will all change. God wants His people to know that there will come a day when the “King will reign” and when He does, righteousness and justice will dominate the world.