

## EXPOSITION OF ISAIAH

Message #46

Isaiah 32:9-20

I know of a minister who went into a church that had been run into the ground by a power crazed, wealthy, dominant woman. She had a big head and a big mouth. The church was dead and when this minister saw what was actually happening in the church, he took a stand against her and ultimately removed her from power. She had controlled every aspect of the church and she was anything but a meek, quiet, gentle, godly woman. She had actually led the church away from the Word of God and this minister put an instant stop to her. She had actually done so much damage in the church that I am not sure if it will ever be completely rebuilt.

In any nation, in any state, in any city or society, in any culture, or in any context, a vital part of its existence lies with its women. This is especially true when it comes to Israel and it is especially true when it comes to the church. Women play a vital role in all aspects of life and if the women are godly, they can greatly influence society for the good; but if they are not they can bring a society to ruins. It has often been said that behind every good, godly man is a good, godly woman. But it is also often true that behind every bad, godless man is a bad, godless woman. That is true in our day and that was true in Isaiah's day.

Judah should have been turning to God for help but instead they turned to Egypt. One of the key individuals who could have promoted the idea of the need to turn to God, would have been the women of God. But apparently most of the women were really not right with God or interested in being right with God. They did not want to know the Word of God and they did not want to do the will of God. They were not interested in Biblical prophecy or of pending judgment. What they wanted was their nice comfortable life. These women were literally on the verge of a national disaster and instead of them saying to the men, we need to turn to God and get back to his Word, they were more interested in clothes and shopping and houses and luxury. Isaiah specifically wanted to address these women of Jerusalem because their present attitude and condition was not one that was right with God and they too were heading to serious judgment. **You cannot help but see from this text that God holds these women accountable.**

These women had become very self-reliant, very worldly and very prosperous and Isaiah says you are about to pay a price. What he says in these verses is this:

**GOD GIVES A SERIOUS WARNING TO HIS WOMEN WHO DEPART FROM A SERIOUS FOCUS ON HIM AND HIS WORD AND BECOME SELF-CENTERED AND COMPLACENT.**

It is quite clear from this text that God does not want His women to be gullible in the sense that they are led away from trusting Him and His Word. **If any man, whether a leader in government or the church or the home, tries to get a woman to turn away from trusting in God and His Word, that woman should not submit.** She should not go along with it. She should dig her heels of faith into the Word of God and stand on it. This text makes it clear that God will hold a woman accountable for this very thing.

Just because the men had become a bunch of spiritual fools, the women should not follow the same pattern. There are three parts to this text:

**PART #1** – The warnings God gives to His own women. **32:9-14**

There are three warnings God gives to His women:

**Warning #1** - Women need to hear and listen to the Word of God . **32:9**

**Here is what every woman needs to know - God wants you hearing His Word and obeying His Word.** Women need this admonition just as much as the men do. These women had become careless and arrogant in their attitudes. When women in a country are no longer concerned about hearing the precious Word of God, that country is in a tragic and dangerous state. What God challenges these women to do is just the opposite of what they had been doing. He challenges them to rise up and focus on His Word. There are times when women need to take the lead. If you have a husband who says, “I don’t want to go back to church tonight to hear God’s Word,” you need to say, “Well I do and I am going.”

Now you will notice that there are a couple of Hebrew nouns used in this verse which are repeated, which describe the state of the women. They were in a state of “ease” (vv. **9, 11**) and they were “complacent” (vv. **9, 10, 11**).

The word “ease” (shaanan) is used in a bad sense and it means to be living at ease in a very proud and careless way (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 799). Life for these women was good. They were living the good life and were proud and careless in their walk with God.

The word “complacent” (batach) means that these women were very confident in their minds and felt very secure (*Ibid.*, p. 112). God was about to bring the hammer of His judgment down against His own people, and these women were strutting around in their beautiful clothes with their luxurious lifestyle thinking they had nothing to fear. **It is possible for a person to feel very self-confident just before God hits him with judgment.**

What God says to these women is that you need to rise up right now and go to the place where my Word is taught and you need to carefully listen to it and obey it.

I have often been asked this question by both men and women: “If my spouse refuses to go to a church where the Word of God is carefully taught, should I just appease my mate?” God’s answer is no. There is a place for a man or woman of God to say, I am going to the place where I will hear God’s Word with or without you. This passivity idea for the sake of ease is not Biblical. Men need the Word of God and so do the women. God was holding these women accountable because they were not focused in on God’s Word.

**Warning #2** - God can take all their blessings away in a very short time. **32:10**

Now one reason why God challenged these women to rise up and get focused on His Word was because His prophecies about bringing disaster on His own people for not trusting Him and not obeying Him were very real and also they were very near.

These women had been living life in a lap of luxury in Jerusalem and God warns that it is all about to change in a very short time.

**The specific prediction here was the invasion of the Assyrian army by Sennacherib in 701 B.C. Literally, in just a little over a year this event actually happened.**

I believe we are very near the Rapture of the Church and if you, as a woman, have ever sensed the need to get serious about knowing and applying God's Word, the time is right now because the time is very short.

There are women all over this area who get in their cars with their beautiful clothes and drive to their churches and could care less if they ever hear a true exposition of God's Word. What these ladies don't realize is that judgment is not far away.

**Warning #3 - Women need to fear God and humble themselves before Him. 32:11-12**

These women needed to humble themselves and repent and they needed to do it immediately. This was not something they needed to pray about. They needed to make a change in their focus and they needed to make it now.

God says to His own women - You need to "tremble," you need to be "troubled" and you need to be "redressed." The word "tremble" is a word that means you need to be so afraid of what God is going to do that you literally are terrified (*Ibid.*, p. 303). The word "troubled" means that these women need to be so disturbed about what God says will happen that they need to literally shake like an earthquake out of fear (*Ibid.*, p. 756). They need to immediately strip themselves from their luxurious clothing and put on sackcloth in a humility that shows they are repenting of their arrogance. Can you imagine telling some proud, arrogant society woman that this is what she needed to do immediately?

This is anything but a "God loves you just the way you are" message. This is anything but a message that says, "God wants all you women to feel good about yourselves and have a good self-esteem." This is a warning that God gives to His own women that they better focus on Him and His Word and they had better do it right now.

It is possible for women to become so proud and so at ease that they do not even want to submit to the authority of God's Word. When that happens, the women are in a dangerous condition.

**PART #2 – God gives the reasons for His warnings to His women. 32:13-14**

Now the predictions made here go beyond the invasion of the Assyrians and the Babylonians to the ultimate invasion of the Antichrist during the Tribulation. Jesus Christ specifically spoke of this time and had a specific warning aimed at women (Matthew 24:19; Luke 23:28-29).

Now in **verses 13-14**, God gives three reasons why these Jewish women need to get focused on His Word right now:

**(Reason #1)** - Because God will bring a ferocious judgment against her land . **32:13a**

**(Reason #2)** - Because God will remove all joy from their houses . **32:13b**

It is predicted that there is coming a moment when Jewish women will need literally to get out of their houses as fast as they can (Matthew 24:17-20).

**(Reason #3)** - Because God will remove all His blessings from their city . **32:13c-14**

H. A. Ironside said that Jerusalem as a city “has suffered more from war and strife than perhaps any other single city in the history of the world, and still greater horrors are in store for it in the future ...” (*Isaiah*, p. 202).

Obviously these women in Isaiah’s day had enjoyed the many blessings of God on their fields and houses and in their city and yet they refused to worship Him and honor Him and His Word. So God says I’ll put an end to all of that.

Not only would these women have to sacrifice their luxuries, they would also have to sacrifice their necessities.

**PART #3** – God will not bless His women again until He pours out His Spirit. **32:15-20**

There is tremendous doctrine and eschatology here. Starting with the invasion of Assyria, God says you will not have My blessings again until I pour out My Spirit on Israel as a nation. Take a look at present day Jerusalem and you will see that God’s great fruitful blessings on their land and their homes and their city is not there. In part this is because His own women would not focus on Him or His Word.

It is clearly predicted in many passages of Scripture that one day God will pour out His Spirit on Israel in a very unique and very national way (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-32; Zechariah 12:10). When God actually does this there will be many changes in Israel and in the world:

Isaiah saw this and he predicted a time of future blessing on the land and on the people. This will be a wonderful time of millennial bliss in Israel’s land in which God’s Spirit will do some remarkable things for Israel.

**(Blessing #1)** - When God pours out His Spirit, the Promised Land will become fertile .  
**32:15b**

Israel’s land will be so productive that the wilderness and desert areas will become like a fertile field and the fertile field will be like a forest.

**(Blessing #2)** - When God pours out His Spirit, justice and righteousness will reign everywhere .  
**32:16**

Anywhere one goes during the Millennium, righteousness and justice will reign. From the inner city to the wilderness to the field, God's righteousness will reign.

**(Blessing #3)** - When God pours out His Spirit there will be peace forever. **32:17**

Righteousness will so dominate the world that there will be a peace and a quietness and a confidence forever.

**(Blessing #4)** - When God pours out His Spirit there will be security forever. **32:18**

Israel has never known what it would be like to live in security forever. She has never known what life would be like to live life totally undisturbed and at peace. But one day she will know.

**(Blessing #5)** - When God pours out His Spirit there will have been ferocious judgment .  
**32:19-20**

The point of these verses is that just prior to the pending blessings, there will be destructive judgment.

Now here is the thing you don't want to miss - had the women of God turned to the Word of God and turned to doing the will of God, they could have experienced the blessings of God rather than the judgment of God.

Now the phrase concerning the "pouring out of God's Spirit" is a phrase that was quoted by Peter on the Day of Pentecost when he referred to a prediction made by Joel the prophet (Acts 2:16-21 / Joel 2:28-29) in which Joel predicts that God will pour out His Spirit on those who are male and those who are female (Joel 2:29).

The point of Peter's quotation is that the thing that will bring the blessings of God to Israel as a nation will be when she turns to Jesus Christ. Acts 2 starts the process of people believing on Jesus Christ and receiving God's Spirit, and when Israel finally turns to Jesus Christ, she will nationally receive God's Spirit and receive all of the blessings of God.

It becomes obvious that in order for people to have the blessings of God, they must have "the work righteousness" which leaves one at peace with God (**v. 17**). That work of righteousness is found at the cross of Jesus Christ. If you are a boy or girl, man or woman who will humble yourself to go to that cross by faith, you shall be saved.

Ladies, we need you to stay serious and focused on God's Word. You can be a great testimony for God. Do no ever allow yourself to get sidetracked from this objective - the Church needs to carefully understand God Word and obey it.