

Zion Lutheran Church
Sunday Morning Bible Study
Lesson 24 Part I

Isaiah Chapter 33

Chapters 33-35 are the turning point in the book of Isaiah. The first 32 chapters focused on Zion/Judah and its sin, judgment, ultimate salvation and dealings with other countries, primarily Egypt and Assyria. These three chapters transition us to more distant prophecies concerning Babylon and Persia while personifying Jerusalem as a woman. But first, the three chapters of transition.

1. This is Isaiah's sixth woe or judgment. Who is it addressed to? How are they described? Why are they described this way? (Vs. 1a)

2. What was going to happen to this country?

3. Who is speaking in verse two? What is the purpose of this dialog?

4. Verse three is a continuation of verse two. What shift do you see in the dialog? Why would the people make this shift? (Psalm 46:1)

5. Verse four is the natural outcome of the dialog/prayer of verses two and three. What will happen? Why is it written in this way?

6. The first half of verse five continues the progression of the prayer of the people and God's answer of that prayer. What is the next step in that progression? (Vs. 5a)

7. Not only would God answer their prayer, but He would also do more! What more would He do? Why are these significant things?

8. All of these things are very good. Yet, what is treasured? Why? (Proverbs 9:10)

9. Verses seven through nine serve as a single message. Verses seven and eight describe the Assyrian collapse. Yet, it also serves as a backdrop for a view of how man's efforts to rule will always collapse. What are the hallmarks of such a collapse? Why do they lead to collapse? (Jeremiah 17:9)

10. Verse nine is tricky to understand. First, we need some knowledge about what is being said.

- A. Lebanon was known for its extensive cedar forests. It was seen as a permanent fixture of life. Invading countries would not destroy these forests because the wood was highly treasured.
- B. Sharon was known as "the beautiful."
- C. Carmel was the "garden land."
- D. Bashan was the fertile.

Knowing these things and the context from the previous two verses, what is the message of verse nine?

11. Verses ten through twelve also come as a whole unit or message. Who is speaking? What is the significance of the word(s) "now?"

12. What is the significance of the "fire" mentioned in these verses?

13. Finally, verses thirteen through twenty-four deal with the proclamation of the new Zion. Who are the “far off?” Who are the “near?” What are they to do?

14. Why would both of these groups be afraid, or trembling?

15. While there is great fear, there is also hope. Where does this hope come from? What is the result of this?

16. What is meant by “the heights?” How is it described? Why?

17. Verses seventeen through twenty-one describe heaven or God’s eternal kingdom. What are the characteristics of heaven?

18. In verse twenty-two, the prophet again uses the triple repetition to emphasize the greatness of the LORD and His kingdom. Who is God? How could this effect our view or expectation of government?

19. How are God's people portrayed in their humanity? (vs. 23)

20. What would become of God's people? (vs. 24)
