

## Isaiah Lesson 12 Articles

What can one man do? If it is true that righteousness filters down, it is also true that righteousness floats up. One man who practices righteousness can have a great effect on those around him. The noble person would think noble thoughts and devise noble deeds. With this example others would follow, good would result.<sup>1</sup>

Isaiah 33:2 is the prayer of the godly remnant when Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrian army. Isaiah had promised that God would be gracious to them if they would only trust Him (30:18–19), so a few devout people turned His promise into prayer. God spared Jerusalem for David's sake (37:35) and because a believing remnant trusted God and prayed. Never underestimate the power of a praying minority.

Assyria was proud of her power and the spoils she had gathered in battle. The Assyrian army swept through the land like devouring locusts, but that would change. The day would come when Judah would strip the dead Assyrian army and Sennacherib would be assassinated in the temple of the god he claimed was stronger than Jehovah (vv. 36–38). The Lord was exalted in the defeat of Assyria (33:5), for no human wisdom or power could have done what He did. We must remember that nations and individuals can have stability in uncertain times only when they trust God and seek His wisdom and glory. King Hezekiah did a foolish thing when he took the temple treasures and tried to bribe Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:13–16), but God forgave him and reminded him that “the fear of the Lord is [your] treasure” (Isa. 33:6). Unbelief looks to human resources for help, but faith looks to God.<sup>2</sup>

Isaiah 35:8 expresses one of Isaiah's favorite themes: the highway (11:16; 19:23; 40:3; 62:10). During the Assyrian invasion, the highways were not safe (33:8), but during the Kingdom Age it will be safe to travel. There will be one special highway: “The Way of Holiness.” In ancient cities, there were often special roads that only kings and priests could use; but when Messiah reigns, *all of His people* will be invited to use this highway. Isaiah pictures God's redeemed, ransomed, and rejoicing Jewish families going up to the yearly feasts in Jerusalem, to praise their Lord.

When Isaiah spoke and wrote these words, it is likely that the Assyrians had ravaged the land, destroyed the crops, and made the highways unsafe for travel. The people were cooped up in Jerusalem, wondering what would happen next. The remnant was trusting God's promises and praying for God's help, and God answered their prayers. If God kept His promises to His people centuries ago and delivered them, will He not keep His promises in the future and establish His glorious kingdom for His chosen people? Of course He will!

The future is your friend when Jesus Christ is your Savior and Lord.<sup>3</sup>

The concept of the judgment of God has fallen into disrepute among many people. But God's judgment and salvation are related truths.

Never is the judgment of God presented as capricious and unprovoked. God always acts in ways consistent with his mercy and his grace. There are always repeated opportunities for repentance and return.

Rebellion and sin cannot go on unanswered. God is moral. And God is just. Something has to be done about the continued drift in sin. God would be less than himself if there were no judgment, no punishment for sin. Salvation is always present; it is God's desire. But some people will not accept it<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Carter, J. E., & McLeod, P. (1972). Isaiah. In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The teacher's Bible commentary* (p. 408). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

<sup>2 3</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Comforted* (pp. 84–85; pp. 89–90). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>4</sup> Carter, J. E., & McLeod, P. (1972). Isaiah. In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The teacher's Bible commentary* (p. 409). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.