

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**Good
Things Are
On The
Way**

Isaiah 32

Lesson Thirty-Four

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Good Things Are On The Way

It may seem that we will never get past the “Book of Woes.” Today, however, we take a break from the words of doom. We see pictures of the possibility of beauty, condemnation of the women of Jerusalem, and finally, a promise of God’s Spirit. God never leaves His people without hope. Even when He must let them know that punishment and trouble are on the way, His promise of good things is also on the way.

The first few verses speak of the reign of a righteous king. Some would want us to believe that this speaks of the reign of Jesus at the end of time. Probably not. There is no indication anywhere else that Jesus will have co-rulers. Other rulers are mentioned here and that doesn’t fit with all else we know about the thousand years that Jesus will reign on earth. More likely, this refers to the possibility that a series of good kings will reign over Judah. Read Isaiah 32:1-8.

When these kings reign, the people will see how good government can be. It is good when wise and good people are in charge. Isaiah paints such beautiful pictures here. He sees great people as protecting others from the winds of the storm, just as he had seen large rocks in the desert hold back the blowing sand to protect the tender plants behind it.

When good people rule, people who couldn’t see suddenly become aware of their opportunities. People who couldn’t seem to hear the cry of the needy will now hear and respond. (V.3) The rash (hasty or impulsive) will take their time in making decisions, and those who just couldn’t get it out (stammering tongue) will find it very easy to speak and understand. (V.4)

Then, Isaiah attacks those he calls fools. They have their priorities in the wrong place. They speak foolishly, they neglect those for whom they should have pity and to whom they should provide help. He also attacks those he calls scoundrels (rogues, knaves). They don’t allow justice for those who need it most, and they trick people out of the very basics of life, food, etc.

In another oracle, beginning in verse 9, Isaiah warns the women of Jerusalem. We are reminded of Isaiah 3:16-4:1. Here he said that they were just having fun, unconcerned about terrible things that were only a year away. He must be talking about the invasion of the Assyrians just before 701 BC. Isaiah speaks strongly, “Rise up you women and listen to me.” They were told to be humble and live humble lives because terrible things were going to happen like they had never seen before. Read Isaiah 32:9-14

The second oracle begins at verse fifteen. Isaiah said that this destruction, this invasion that would change everything, would continue until the Spirit is poured out on God’s people. In this

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oracle, we see judgments reversed. Read Isaiah 32:15-20.

Looking back at verses 10-14, we saw the harvest failing, the soil growing only thorns and briars, cities deserted and watchtowers on the walls becoming the place where wild animals find shelter. But then, God's Spirit comes. Good things are on the way. He is like a strong rain on a dry crop.

As a result, that briar patch becomes a field of fruit. The fruit trees, or grape vines, become like a forest, thick and tall. The cities will now have many people and they will live in justice. Righteousness will prevail. In other words, when people are treated right, they will live right and be fair.

And, when people are treated right, and they live right, peace will come. People will trust one another and live quietly together. They will not be afraid; they will live in their homes peacefully. In that situation, they will find rest. Everything will be calm.

Troubles will come. Things can get pretty bad. But good things are on the way. Even if fear and failure seem to be all around, God's people can live in peace. Here Isaiah describes it as going down to the fertile land by the streams of water and planting a crop. He describes it as being like great meadows of grass on which the animals of the farm can wander and graze freely. Wow, what a great picture!

Today we look back and see these terrible things that happened to Judah and realize that bad things happen all the time. Next week we will again visit the time when Assyria threatened and blockaded Jerusalem. Yet we are convinced that, in the middle of all the terrible things that happened, God was at work and preparing good things that were on the way. The same is true today. We may have to live through tough times, things that don't go our way, maybe even people not taking our commitment to God seriously. But, we can be sure that good things are on the way, even while we are in the middle of the not-so-good..

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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Scripture Memory: "The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever." Isaiah 32:17

Lesson Goal: To remind students that even when things don't seem to be going well, God is on the way with good things.

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Student Worksheet

Good Things Are On The Way—Isaiah 32

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. God never leaves His people without _____. Even when He must let them know that punishment and trouble are on the way, His _____ of good things is also on the way.
2. What is the picture Isaiah paints about the protection of great people?
3. What does Isaiah say about fools and scoundrels?
4. What is the bad picture we see in verses 10-14?
5. Then what happens in verses 15-20?

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How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.