

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**A Final
Woe
And A
Promise**

Isaiah 33

Lesson Thirty-Five

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

A Final Woe And A Promise

This chapter begins with a chant. The words in the first verse don't translate into English exactly as they sound in Hebrew. It is probably something that would have been used regularly in Israel's worship to condemn anyone who was opposed to Israel...a curse on Judah's enemies. It may have also been used as a song of hope. The "destroyer" is most likely the Assyrians. They are threatening Judah as this was being written.

This chapter has drama, hope, mystery and even prophecy about the future. It is one of Isaiah's greatest chapters. There are several oracles in the chapter. It can even seem to be disconnected. However, as we shall see, Isaiah has a strong message for Judah.

We have looked at four "woes." This is the last in this part of Isaiah. After the curse in the first verse, there is a prayer. Read Isaiah 33:1-9

The prayer in verses two through four might also have been a common prayer of God's people. It reminds us of some of the Psalms, like fifty-one and fifty-six. These verses are a confession of faith by a people who have been in a lot of trouble.

The thunderous noise, mentioned in verse three, reminds us of the time when the Israelites were gathered at Mizpah by Samuel. The Philistines heard that all Israel was gathered there and thought it a good time to attack. As the Philistines came closer and closer, suddenly God sent a great clap of thunder. It frightened and confused the Philistine army so much that they turned and ran back home. The Israelite army chased them almost all the way back to Philistia.

When the people pray and trust God, He promises to be their protector and provide salvation, wisdom, and a surplus of knowledge. He also promises that they will see the greatness of God and fear, have reverence...stand in awe, of Him.

It is kind of hard to know who the brave men and the envoys of peace are as mentioned in the seventh verse. But, whoever they are, they seem to represent Judah and their tears, the sadness of the people. They weep because the land is ruined, the laws are broken, people are disrespected, and there is no justice. What a sad situation...worthy of tears.

It is so sad that even nature itself weeps. The ground under their feet, the mountains, flowers, and trees bow. The fertile valley becomes a desert....like the picture we saw in Isaiah 24:4-7.

Then God says that He will lift Himself up...sort of like a person stretching to their full height...

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and the enemies of Judah will see His greatness. Then God will totally destroy the enemies. The destruction will be so complete that only lime will be left. Read Isaiah 33:10-12.

The next four verses form a kind of group question and answer session. It was a common thing among the Hebrews. Both Psalm 15 and Psalm 24 are examples of this. A question is asked and the answer is supplied. Here the question is to both those “far off,” the Gentiles, and for those “who are near,” the unbelievers among the Israelites. Read Isaiah 33:13-16.

The question from these people is, “Who can live in this terrible situation, fire and burning?” They are terrified. The answer is quick in coming. If one walks and talks the right way, refuses to take bribes and will not participate in other evil like plots to murder, that person will be welcomed into God’s presence. He or she will live in safety, will have endless food and drink and dwell in beauty... God’s beauty and that of a beautiful land.

When God establishes His reign on earth, it will be a sight to behold. Verses seventeen, nineteen and twenty all begin with seeing. Read Isaiah 33:17-24.

The people will no longer be worried by fear of the enemy, tax gatherers or spies. Arrogant enemy settlers or representatives of conquering foreign powers will no longer be resident. Jerusalem will be fully restored. Earthly transportation will no longer be necessary on the beautiful rivers and streams.

God will be the ruler. The sails of war ships will not be spread. Peace is the centerpiece of God’s reign. People will have all they need to live comfortably. And finally, no one living in this wondrous place will ever say, “I am ill,” and all sin will be forgiven.

What a beautiful picture. What a wonderful promise. What a great day to come. And all of it is because of God’s great love for us. Even when we are sinners, even when we turn our backs on God, even when His people ignore His ways and plans, He is forgiving. He is loving and He will save us.

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

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Scripture Memory: “For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is He who will save us.” Isaiah 33:22

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

A Final Woe And A Promise—Isaiah 33

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

1. What happens when people pray and trust god?
2. Why do the people of Judah weep?
3. What things join the people of Judah in their weeping?
4. What is the answer to question from the people in verse 14?
5. No one living in this wondrous place will ever say, “I am _____,” and all _____ will be forgiven.

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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.