

Lesson 13

Isaiah 33–35

Chapters 28–33: Six Woes

1. **Woe** to the proud, intoxicated, scornful people of both kingdoms—Israel and Judah (ch. 28).
2. **Woe** to Ariel (Jerusalem), who served God outwardly, but whose heart was far from God (29:1–14).
3. **Woe** to those who reject God's plan, and who think their own plans are hidden from Him (29:15–24).

Chapters 28–33: Six Woes

4. **Woe** to the rebellious children who turn to Egypt for help (ch. 30).
5. **Woe** to those who rely on horses, chariots, and horsemen instead of God (chs. 31–32).
6. **Woe** to “you who plunder...who deal treacherously” (speaking evidently of Assyria) (ch. 33).

Five Main Points

- Judah was plundered by Assyria (33:7–9).
- Assyria will be plundered by the Lord (33:1–4, 10–12).
- In this judgment against Assyria, the Lord will be exalted, and people will fear Him (33:5–6, 13–16).
- Edom, like all nations who resist God, will be brought down (ch. 34).
- Those who trust in the Lord will have protection and peace, joy and gladness, especially in the time of Christ (33:17–24; ch. 35).

Background

And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah (701 B.C.), Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, “I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay.” And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house. At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria (2 Kings 18:13–16).

Background—The Rest of the Story

- Despite this tribute, Assyria did not withdraw.
- The Assyrians chided the men of Jerusalem, telling them not to listen to Hezekiah and not to turn to the Lord (2 Kings 18:17–37).
- Isaiah assured Hezekiah he should not be afraid; Hezekiah did show faith in God and turned to Him in prayer. In one night the angel of the Lord passed over the armies of Sennacherib, and by dawn 185,000 Assyrian corpses were counted (2 Kgs. 19).
 - “Then Assyria shall fall by a sword not of man” (Isa. 32:8).

Judah's Plundering by Assyria

- 33:7–9.
 - What did Lebanon, Sharon, Bashan, and Carmel have in common?
 - T F Sennacherib showed mercy as he marched through Judah.

Assyria's Plundering by the Lord

- **33:1–4.**

- “When you cease plundering, you will be plundered; when you make an end of dealing treacherously, they will deal treacherously with you” (1).
- “When You lift yourself up, the nations shall be scattered; and Your plunder shall be gathered...” (3–4).

- **33:10–12.**

- Assyria will be consumed with the fire of God's wrath.

The Exaltation of the Lord

- What the Lord does to Assyria will get folks' attention—near and far.
 - 33:10, 13–16.
 - 33:5–6.

The Desolation of Edom by the Lord

- Notice that all nations are addressed in 34:1–4.
- He then specifies the destruction to come upon Edom (34:5–17).
 - Described as a sacrifice (5–7).
 - Edom will burn like pitch, day and night (8–10).
 - Its sole occupants birds and wild animals; its palaces and fortresses overgrown with thorns and brambles (11–15).
 - People will see that not one prophecy failed (16–17).

But for those who trust in the Lord...

- Protection, peace, well being (33:17–24)
 - When you “see the King in His beauty,” you will hardly remember the time of terror (17–19).
 - The Lord, who is your Lawgiver, Judge, and King, will protect your city; “not one of its stakes will ever be removed, nor will any of its cords be broken” (20–22).
 - Your city may be “sick” now, but it will be well, because “the people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity” (23–24).

But for those who trust in the Lord...

- Protection, peace, joy and gladness (35:1–10)
 - Once desolate places will “blossom as the rose...with joy and singing”; they shall see the “glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God” (1–2).
 - The weak, despondent, and fearful will find strength, encouragement, and confidence (3–4).
 - The blind will see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and the dumb sing (Matthew 11:2–6; Luke 4:18–19).
 - Path to Zion will be the “highway of holiness,” reserved for “the redeemed,” “the ransomed of the Lord” (8–10).