

Study 69: Isaiah, Part 25 Isaiah 33, 36-37**Isaiah 33**

Woe to you, destroyer,
you who have not been destroyed!

Woe to you, betrayer,
you who have not been betrayed!

When you stop destroying,
you will be destroyed;
when you stop betraying,
you will be betrayed.

2 Lord, be gracious to us;
we long for you.

Be our strength every morning,
our salvation in time of distress.

3 At the uproar of your army, the peoples flee;
when you rise up, the nations scatter.

4 Your plunder, O nations, is harvested as by young **locusts**;
like a swarm of locusts people pounce on it. [cp. Joel 1]

5 The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high;
he will fill Zion with his justice and righteousness.

6 He will be the sure foundation for your times,
a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge;
the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure [or: *is a treasure from him*].

7 Look, their brave men cry aloud in the streets;
the envoys of peace weep bitterly. [Hezekiah sent a delegation to the Assyrians with a large ransom, but it didn't prevent Sennacherib from conquering 46 cities of Judah. See: 2 Kings 18:14 – 11 tons of silver, 1 ton of gold]

8 The highways are deserted,
no travelers are on the roads.

The treaty is broken,
its witnesses [LXX: *the cities*] are despised,
no one is respected.

9 The land dries up and wastes away,
Lebanon is ashamed and withers;

Sharon is like the Arabah,
and Bashan and Carmel drop their leaves.

10 “Now will I arise,” says the Lord.
“Now will I be exalted;
now will I be lifted up.

11 You conceive chaff,
you give birth to straw;
your breath is a fire that consumes you.

12 The peoples will be burned to ashes;
like cut thornbushes they will be set ablaze.”

13 You who are far away, hear what I have done;
you who are near, acknowledge my power!

14 The sinners in Zion are terrified;
trembling grips the godless:
“Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire?
Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?”

15 Those who walk righteously
and speak what is right,

who reject gain from extortion
 and keep their hands from accepting bribes,
 who stop their ears against plots of murder
 and shut their eyes against contemplating evil—
 16 they are the ones who will dwell on the heights,
 whose refuge will be the mountain fortress.
 Their bread will be supplied,
 and water will not fail them.
 17 Your eyes will see the king in his beauty
 and view a land that stretches afar.
 18 In your thoughts you will ponder the former terror:
 “Where is that chief officer?
 Where is the one who took the revenue?
 Where is the officer in charge of the towers?”
 19 You will see those arrogant people no more,
 people whose speech is obscure,
 whose language is strange and incomprehensible.

 20 Look on Zion, the city of our festivals;
 your eyes will see Jerusalem,
 a peaceful abode, a tent that will not be moved;
 its stakes will never be pulled up,
 nor any of its ropes broken.
 21 There the Lord will be our Mighty One.
 It will be like a place of broad rivers and streams.
 No galley with oars will ride them,
 no mighty ship will sail them.
 22 For the Lord is our judge,
 the Lord is our lawgiver,
 the Lord is our king;
 it is he who will save us.

 23 Your rigging hangs loose:
 The mast is not held secure,
 the sail is not spread.
 Then an abundance of spoils will be divided [See 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Chron. 32:20]
 and even the lame will carry off plunder. [“spoils” = shalal; “plunder” = baz. Remember that Isaiah named one of
 his sons Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, which means, “quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil”]
 24 No one living in Zion will say, “I am ill”;
 and the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven.

Note: After Sennacherib’s army was decimated by the angel of the Lord, he went back to Nineveh and had this inscription created:

As to Hezekiah, the Jew, he did not submit to my yoke, I laid siege to his strong cities, walled forts, and
 countless small villages, and conquered them by means of well-stamped earth-ramps and battering-rams
 brought near the walls with an attack by foot soldiers, using mines, breeches as well as trenches. I drove out
 200,150 people, young and old, male and female, horses, mules, donkeys, camels, big and small cattle beyond
 counting, and considered them slaves. Himself, **I made a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a
 bird in a cage.** I surrounded him with earthwork in order to molest those who were his city's gate. Thus I
 reduced his country, but I still increased the tribute and the presents to me as overlord which I imposed upon
 him beyond the former tribute, to be delivered annually. Hezekiah himself, did send me, later, to Nineveh, my
 lordly city, together with 30 talents of gold, 800 talents of silver, precious stones, antimony, large cuts of red
 stone, couches inlaid with ivory, nime-du-chairs inlaid with ivory, elephant-hides, ebony-wood, boxwood and
 all kinds of valuable treasures, his own daughters and concubines.