

† Isaiah



Summary

1. The Holy Chastiser (Chapters 1-35)
 - a. Prophecies around Judah & Jerusalem (1-12)
 - b. Prophecies concerning surrounding nations (13-23)
 - c. Prophecies concerning the world (24-35)

Monday (Read Isaiah 31)

The Lord really stresses to His people the dangers of leaning on human hands and not trusting in Him. In this chapter we see again, Isaiah prophesying about how foolish it is to trust in the Egyptians and Pharaoh.

Is God being harsh on His people? Whilst it may seem so, we need to remember that God had saved His people time and time again, but they still strayed lacked trust in Him. God gives them these stern words to awaken them so that they may repent and ask for forgiveness and return back to Him (refer to verse 6).

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

the Maker of
heaven
and
earth,

the sea, and
everything in them—

the LORD,
who remains
faithful forever.

(Psalm 146:5-6)

The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. Isaiah 32:17

“One addicted to much speaking fails entirely to keep on the straight path of righteousness, so the prophet testifies, saying “The service of justice shall be quietness,” that is, he indicates that the righteousness of the mind is lacking where there is not restraint on immoderate speaking”.

St Gregory the Great

And my people shall dwell

In a peaceable habitation,

And in sure dwellings,

And in quiet resting places:

Isaiah 32:18

Tuesday (Read Isaiah 32)

“This chapter is considered a beautiful end to the talk about the conflict between Jerusalem and Assyria. After repeating the warning against relying on pharaoh and human arm, Isaiah presents to us as a spiritual King, who grants peace and justice” Father Tadros Malaty.

A few scholars talk here about the flourishing kingdom during the reign of king Hezekiah, but others believe that the spiritual king is referring to the Lord Christ as the blessings were not realised during the days of Hezekiah. Either way they are to be rewarded by God.

The complacent women mentioned in verse 9 refers to all those who deny faith in Christ and walk outside the spiritual Kingdom and will receive condemnation (refer to verse 11-14).

Finally Isaiah talks about the blessings of those who enjoy the gift of the Holy Spirit through Baptism (verse 20).

Wednesday (Read Isaiah 33)

Isaiah prophesies about the invasion of Israel and though it will be catastrophic for many, there will be an honest and loyal remnant to enjoy the work of God and His blessings.

This devastation that occurs also refers to the souls that denied Christ, ejected His Kingdom and thus also denied the work of the Holy Spirit. The remnant refers to the Church, the joyful Kingdom.

In verse 15, Isaiah defines the characteristics of a righteous person one of them being "who shuts his eye from seeing evil". How many times do we watch wrong things on T.V or the internet? And we become immune to it not realising its effects...

Isaiah 33:15

1. Walk righteously
2. Speak what is right
3. Reject gain from extortion
4. Keep hand from accepting bribes
5. Stop ears against plots of murder
6. Shut eyes against contemplating evil

Friday & Saturday (Read Isaiah 35)

The second part of the prophecy is mentioned in chapter 35 is the positive side of the prophecy. Here Isaiah talks about the restoring of His people and the mercy of God. This chapter is also the last one of the first section of the book of Isaiah.

Some scholars believe that this chapter pertains to the return of Israel from the captivity of Babylon. However, the majority (including the Coptic church) see it as the church of the New Testament and the joy of the coming of the Savior "He will come to save you".

With Christ there is comfort and no pain, sorrow or sighing, but only Joy!

Thursday (Read Isaiah 34)

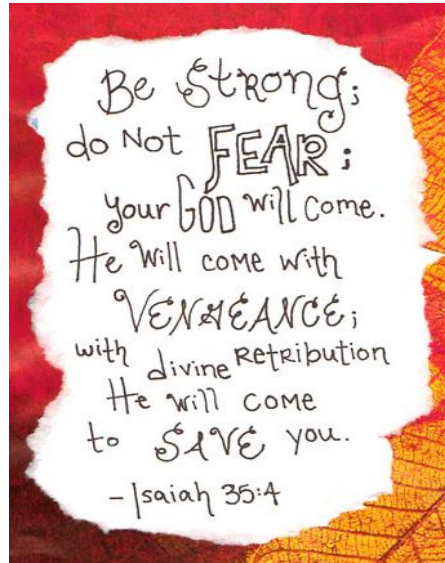
Chapter 34 & 35 represent one prophecy.

Chapter 34 presents the negative side, as God calls for all the nations to gather together to witness a condemnation for all the people who forsake God, particularly Edom.

The Edomites rejoiced when Israel fell into the hands of the Assyrians. Besides carrying out many robberies, they captured whoever escaped to sell to the enemy and also brought their sheep to graze in the fields and cities of Judah that become desolate. Thus the wrath of God fell upon them.

Here we also see the wrath that befalls the enemy of the church.

Father Tadros Malaty wrote regarding verse 16 "this verse does not mean the book of life or that of judgment, but means the prophecies proclaimed concerning the desolation of Edom"



And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away Isaiah 35:10

"What about hope? Will that be there [in heaven]? Hope will not continue when the thing hoped for is there. Certainly hope is very necessary for us in our exile. It is what consoles us on the journey. When the traveler, after all, finds it wearisome walking along, he puts up with the fatigue precisely because he hopes to arrive. Rob him of any hope of arriving, and immediately his strength for walking is broken. So the hope also which we have here is part and parcel of the justice of our exile and our journey. Listen to the apostle himself. "Awaiting the adoption," he says, "we cannot yet say there is the bliss of which Scripture says, 'Toil and groaning have passed away'. St Augustine