

Topic: “Who Shall See the Righteous One on Judgment Day?”**Bible Teacher: Rev. Alice D. Tamrie****Scripture: Isaiah 33:14-24****I. Historical Background**

Repeatedly, the Prophet Isaiah delivered his prophecies during a time of great moral and political upheaval. They fell to the invading Assyrians. For a while, it looked as if Judah would suffer the same fate. But Isaiah advised the rulers of Judah not to enter alliances with foreign nations against the Assyrian threat. What was the Prophet Isaiah assuring? Instead, he called the people to put their trust in God, who alone could bring real salvation and offer lasting protection for the perilous times. The Book of Isaiah presents more insights into the nature of God than any other book in the Old Testament.

II. Biblical Context:

Who will be not be able to escape the wrath of God? The sinners and hypocrites! And that’s a promise! Here we are crystal clear about the requirements to escape God’s wrath. In the meantime, what are we doing amid the turmoil? As the people of God, we have God’s Word from his conduit, Isaiah the Prophet, Preacher, and Teacher.

We must consider taking action by hearing the proclaimed Word of God through his Servant, the called by hearing, meditation, praying, and fellowship which means to heed what ‘thus say the Lord’: Walk in righteousness (Isa. 33:15-17): speak uprightly, despise gain of oppression, refuse to be bribed, stop ears from hearing about bloodshed, shut eyes from seeing evil. There are more qualifications of a righteous man with those in Ps. 15 (read). Are you going to dwell with Him in peace and boldness? Who and how are we to Do this? We do this by speaking uprightly --means choosing proper words, that is, words that are honest, true, and well-ordered-those that are not false, slanderous, or obscene/indecent. Woes-- to those if you don’t. What marvelous insights and promises God repeatedly gives us when we surrender to the Way of God as encouraged by this Man of God Isaiah!

III. Lesson: “Who Shall See the Righteous One on Judgment Day?”

1. Verse 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?”

There are two classes of people to be punished. The woes are the deep sorrow, grief, or affliction in the Bible, particularly by the OT prophets, as an expression of expressing dismay, or misfortune. Here we have the character of the righteous in contrast to the sinners and hypocrites! Times were so bad, and the Prophet Isaiah was the instrument God used and compelled to inform the people of God to do righteousness; that even the sins of the priests and people were exposed! Such obvious woes were transgressed very much in committing all the abominations of the heathen; polluted the house of the Lord; mocked God’s messengers; despised His words; misused/distorted His prophets. This happened to a once godly nation; and it can happen to others, even to any individual who will persist in sin as Israel did. God dealt with them until there was no remedy. Thus, the sinners are terrified and trembling—God is that consuming fire and melts the consciousness of the rebellious. A sense of integrity must prevail in God’s almighty presence. Look at the ‘who’ (vs. 14)—who can dwell?

2. Verses 15-17: “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—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. Your eyes will see the king in his beauty and view a land that stretches afar.”

Those who walk right and speak uprightly! These verses speak again to the ‘who’ (vs. 14a, b, 15a, b, c) which is plan and clarifies our position as a godly people and continues—He who walks righteously, speaks, rejects, keeps, stops, shuts, and contemplates righteousness. God will permit some who will be alive on earth when the Messiah comes and will see Him (v. 17); as some will see that the land is freed from their enemy. God despises deceit and abhors all ill-gotten gain—that which comes from imposition, false dealing and false weights and measures. He does not oppress the poor, take advantage of

anyone for gain, or cruelly extort payment from anybody (vs. 15). He does not make any deal or measure out justice with a view to getting a reward.

This literally means that he does not hold his hand out or shake it as a sign of expecting a bribe. He will not listen to any proposal to shed blood or to any scheme of violence, robbery, murder, or other hurtful things. He does not desire to look upon any evil or be found in places where sin is committed. He will not witness or hear any brawl and contention or take part in them. There are times you must walk out on injustice!

At this time, Judah is invited to look upon Zion and Jerusalem under the Messiah as a place of worship, a quiet and peaceable city, and the tabernacle of God that will never be destroyed again. We cannot, should not advocate ignoring social evil, but refusing to take part in it. The enemy, Anti-Christ is be gone! Out of sight forever, they are like a fading stain on the carpet!

3. Verses 18-19: 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.

The enemies will not seem anymore! God’s promises are true as he will have the last word on the enemy’s future.

It pains us to see these atrocities which are so obvious and operative, seen and hear right before our eyes. The heart of the Jews in Judea, when the Messiah comes, will meditate on the terror, that is, think over all the terrors of the great tribulation which they have just come through. The enemies of the Jews will be destroyed so suddenly that others will inquire, where are they? There are three classes of enemy officers (vs. 18) **The scribe**-the officer that counted, numbered, wrote and mustered the men for war, and listed the spoils; **the receiver**: the one who weighted the spoils of ward and the wages for the soldiers; **he that counted** the towers-the one who made an estimate of the strength of cities to be besieged. You will see those arrogant people no more! But in the meantime, how are YOU responding to these events!

4. Verses 20-24: “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. 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. For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us. Your rigging hangs loose: The mast is not held secure, the sail is not spread. Then an abundance of spoils will be divided and even the lame will carry off plunder. No one living in Zion will say, "I am ill"; and the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven."

God makes all the decisions! Four things God will be to Judah (vs. 22): their Judge, Lawgiver, King, Savior. He will be their glorious Lord! Jerusalem is here pictured as a city with posts and stakes holding up the tent wall, which plainly illustrates the eternity of that future city.

Jehovah will make broad rivers and streams where no warship will ever come...describing the Millennial sanctuary. No more warships will come into those waters. The enemy is depicted as a helpless warship floundering in the water and becoming an easy prey to others. God's will be done as we focus on Him! Feast our eyes on; worshipping him, as God Himself will defend us. This means war with the enemy but a contrasting victory on the other side. **There is a promise in Verses 21-22: "For the Lord will be our Mighty One, for the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our King, it is he who will save us"**. There is a mighty and magnificent God who is ever present and has been in the past, present and future! The sails are no more, the plunder is lame, no longer saying "I am sick" relying only on God. Sold out with Jesus at the helm!

III. CONCLUSION.

The Word of God declares commitment from us as His people and promises His blessing. His word is the primary means by which He is present and working in the world. He culminated this Word in the sending of His Son (John 1:1, 14). He so wants reconciliation which is His purpose for humanity. The 'woe' pages we see in the Bible from time-to-time pronounce/speaks to us a curse upon his **rebellious children** who turn from trusting in Him to take counsel of themselves, carry out plans and flee to "the shadow of Egypt", rather than resting under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91).

We must learn to seek God's face and not just His hand. Seeking God for Who He is, not just for what He can do for us, assures us and is vital to our victory as believers! He is Jesus-Jehovah God is our banner, a Mighty God, a Deliverer. In other words, we are not to trust in others, in ourselves, or in the world, but only in the Lord!

Spiritual Hymns: "This Means War!"; "Victory Is Mine!"