

Complete Healing Comes Only When the Holy Spirit Comes

Isaiah 32:1-20 (vv. 15-20)

Facilitator: Louise P. McQueen

I. Historical & Biblical Context

A. Historical Background

When God comes back for His people, the wicked will be seen for whom they are as will those who destroy the poor with lying words. Although for a season they may appear to be doing well, they will perish because they are in the world. How many times do we find ourselves jealousy of somebody else, questioning why it is that he can lie, cheat and steal, and God blesses him with material goods when we who are walking in the “way” have nothing? The answer is simple. He actually has nothing while we have everything. We must be careful not to judge somebody by their outward appearance. The presence of material goods does not signify God’s blessings. Instead, peace, quietness and joy proclaim God’s blessings on the followers of Christ.

B. Biblical Context

Isaiah 32 is a prophetic chapter, focusing on the future reign of a righteous king who will govern with justice and integrity, providing protection and stability for His people; essentially depicting a utopian society where leaders prioritize the needs of the people and act with wisdom and compassion, contrasting the current corrupt and self-serving leadership; the chapter also criticizes the wealthy and complacent who will face consequences for their lack of concern for the poor and vulnerable. Our world is so flawed that our own virtue and wisdom or strength cannot save us. God will restore all of His people through His grace alone, in Christ alone.

II. The Lesson: Complete Healing Comes Only When the Holy Spirit Comes!

1. vv. 1-2.

In Isaiah 32, the prophet wrote, “Behold, a king will reign righteously, and princes will rule justly.” This King is in the line of David and holds the government on His shoulders. There is no end to His rule, and He rules with justice and righteousness. This is the Son of the Most High, and there will be no end to His kingdom. God brings His promises to pass, and He is faithful to His word. Just as God fulfilled His promises to bring Jesus into the world, we know therefore that He will come back again to reign. Jeremiah 23:5 announced, “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”

The whole administration of this King will act according to righteousness. Even the princes or helpers in His administration will rule justly. They will apply the principles of righteousness to each individual case. They will be the kind of rulers God wants them to be. In the truest sense of the word, there will be a divinely appointed King. The emphasis here is not on the personality of the ruler but the character of His government. It is of such character that it can belong to no one but the Messiah. It characterizes His perfect righteous rule over His people. His government will be opposite of what Isaiah described in Judah. Verse 2 is full of vivid details: “refuge from the wind, shelter from the storm, in the desert, shade of a huge rock in a parched land”, etc. This is not a selfish King looking out for His own skin. He cares about His people and watches over them He provides protection for His people and is not obsessed about a legacy.

2. vv. 3-8.

Isaiah wrote about the righteous King’s reign on His people, how the function of eyes and ears will be restored. They will know God and have a relationship with Him again. They will therefore be marked by repentance and worship God as He intended for them to do. God’s righteous King will bring about a renewal and restoration, a spiritual healing and renewal that understands and embraces

God for whom He is. The fool and the scoundrel will be seen for whom they are. The people just wanted to hear what they wanted to hear, even if they were sinning and living in rebellion before God. The fool's lie and deception are directly linked to his actions of injustice and oppression of the needy. Biblically, a fool is not someone who acts stupidly, but a fool is someone who leaves God out of his life (Ps. 14:1). The fool only thinks of himself and about his own affairs and fails to notice other people's problems. Sin will be seen for its deception and illusion.

Not only would the foolishness of the fool be exposed, but so would the generosity of the generous. Righteousness and wickedness would each be seen for what they were and rewarded accordingly.

3. vv. 9-14.

To be at ease is to be careless or to not care about the condition of one's soul or the state of others. God warns that such a one needs to rise up and listen because trouble is coming. Isaiah declares a specific warning at a specific time to complacent women, careless women and women at ease. These women are ones accustomed to a life of luxury, spoiled by their bountiful harvest. In other words, they have all that money can purchase and were comfortable in their homes or palaces (Is. 32:13-14). Being careless, they were rejoicing despite their sin. It was dangerous for the women to be complacent when trouble was coming. Good and evil are always at war with one another, and we must walk in the Spirit so that we will not gratify the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). **The Spirit helps us live in righteousness, and the effect of righteousness is peace.** Therefore God, through deportation, will take away all the princes and the members of high society until the land is left barren. However, at the same time, obviously, the women forgot God, and they were not living in accordance with the righteousness of the law (Deut. 8:6-20). The LORD prophesied to them of days and years of trouble until the Holy Spirit would be poured upon Israel from on high (Is. 32:15). Instead of an indulgent, self-focused life, they would be required to tremble, be troubled, and put on the clothing of mourning. This would show repentance and readiness for the righteous King. Because of the Assyrian invasion to come,

God would use the tough economic times to wake Judah up (Is. 32:10) causing the tough times to touch everyone (Is. 13-14).

4. **vv. 15-20.**

Not by human means, but by the power of God that judgment will come (Is. 32: 9-14). Salvation does not come until the Spirit is poured out from on high...(Is. 32:15). It will achieve great things in the latter days. “When the wilderness becomes a fertile field”, then there will be abundance. With the Spirit guiding and leading, Christians can not remain the same and be under the control of the Holy Spirit. He brings about radical changes from the inside out and blessings to God’s people. The work of the Holy Spirit is so revolutionary that He alone can restore what sin destroys. Justice and righteousness are gifts from God.

What will be the result of this righteousness? Peace, perfect peace! The only way we can ever have peace in our world is through God’s righteousness. Only when He returns as Prince of Peace will our world experience everlasting peace. The Holy Spirit produces righteousness, and the result is peace. When the heart is filled with righteousness, there will be peace. Righteousness brings eternal life and is given to those who believe in God. The Good Shepherd provides for His sheep, and His people will dwell in a restful pasture in secure dwellings and undisturbed resting places (Ps. 23; Is. 32:18). Having been accepted as righteous before God, we will be protected from judgment. Even if God is raining down judgment on those around us, we will be secure and safe. God blesses us when we do not hold back our hands to anyone but is willing to sow everywhere there is water. We are blessed when we allow those in our care to rest and be refreshed. In other words, God rewards those who exhibit mercy and grace on others.

III. Conclusion

It is only when we come to the end of ourselves and acknowledge God’s right to rule our lives that we can experience the divine empowerment for righteousness. There is only one source of security in an insecure world. It is found in the Prince of Peace who reigns in righteousness. When Jesus Christ, the righteous King reigns, there is perfect peace.