

When God's Righteousness Reign

Isaiah 32: 1-8

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I. Biblical Context.

In spite of the variety of styles and images, this chapter has a remarkable unity of content and structure. It contains familiar Isaiah themes – the righteous king, the eyes that see not and the ears that hear not (Isaiah 6:9), the humiliation of the proud women (Isaiah 3:16 – 4:1), the ruin of a city (Isaiah 24:10 – 25:2), quietness and trust, etc. But there is also some traditional wisdom teachings that could have come straight out the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes – the fool in high place (Ecclesiastes 10:6-7), danger of lying words (Proverbs 18:4-8), the value of a good king (Proverbs 21:1), the formula “Happy are you” (Proverbs 3:13, 8:32-34, and Ecclesiastes 10:17, and other similar texts. However, diverse the origins the separate strand in this chapter, together they constitute a single right texture picture of a new society, where the poor will be protected, fools and swindlers restrained, and the vulnerable complacency of the affluent replaced by the quietness and security for ever. All of which is attainable When God's Righteousness Reigns.

We see three fruits (benefits) of God's righteousness in Government. 1) A righteous Government is a blessing to the people. 2) Open understanding will follow the band of hardening (heart). 3) The fair and equal treatment of people according to their true character.

II. The Lesson: When God's Righteousness Reigns

1. vv. 1-2.

From the beginning of the Book of Isaiah, we read, study, and observe the consequences of poor governance, foolish leaders, injustice in the courts, misguided decisions, and a lack of faith. We

witness the challenges the people of God face in times of war and famine, as well as the impact that bad leaders and government have on them. These factors lead to a lack of justice, fairness, compassion, and faith. In other words, there is no righteousness where God is absent.

People in every generation, especially when government policies are marked by injustice and blatant foolishness, still hope for a better world and adopt the visions presented in Isaiah 32. "Righteousness" encompasses justice! To find evidence of "Righteousness," we can refer to David's description of God, who He calls a shelter in times of storm and a stream of water in a dry land.

When God's righteousness is at the forefront, injustice is correct, fairness is established, and the protection of the underserved will be like a shelter to the unhoused and water to those who are thirsty.

2. **v. 3.**

In the new age, people will embrace the word of God and gain wisdom; hardened hearts will soften. This idea is beautifully captured in Ezekiel 11:19-21, which states: "I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove their heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God."

3. **v. 4.**

In ancient traditional wisdom, "rashness and hastiness" are among the six things God hates, as stated in Proverbs 6:16-19. Ecclesiastes connects this with advice on careful speaking: "Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God; therefore, let your words be few" (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

The concept of stammering appears in the Hebrew Bible, highlighting the significance of well-disciplined speech, which is frequently emphasized throughout the wisdom literature. As

Proverbs 18:21 states, "Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."

Various forms of harmful speech are criticized, including gossip (Proverbs 16:28), lying in court (false witness) (Proverbs 19:5), and even revolutionary talk in secret (Ecclesiastes 10:20). In contrast, restraint (Proverbs 13:3), and gentle words are repeatedly recommended.

In the new age, wisdom will prevail.

4. **vv. 5 -8.**

The following verses illustrate the chaos in society that stems from a lack of wisdom.

In wisdom literature, the term "fools" does not refer to people with low intelligence; rather, it mainly denotes those who are untrained. This is why individuals are repeatedly invited to come and learn. Fools are considered unsuitable for governance (Proverbs 8:5).

The damage caused by "fools in high places" is evident. Much of Isaiah's prophecy addresses Judah's rulers' crimes and poor policies. These range from the ruthless exploitation of people experiencing poverty in chapters 1-5 to the misguided decisions of those seeking help from Egypt in chapters 28-31. The concept of "ungodliness" (v. 6) is also associated with wisdom. For example, a godless person may harm their neighbor with their words. In contrast, knowledge enables the righteous to be delivered (Proverbs 11:9). The noble person devises noble ideas and plans, and the most critical aspect is that they adhere to those plans.

III. Conclusion

When God's righteousness reigns, there is peace, unity, fairness, and justice.