

(Publish)

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(Independence - July 4)

STABILIZED GOVERNMENT

Isaiah 33

INTRODUCTION:

Design of Chapter 33 is to assure the Jews that their nation would be safe not withstanding the invasion of the Assyrians.

(Freedom and security) is the desire of all people. This week we again re-collect the Declaration of Independence signed on July 4, 1776.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights".

The Rights are not just a social convenience, something given to us by the state. They are not a favor like a franchise. They are essential to our being.

Belief all men are created by God.

Loose talk today about rights! It is the relationship with God which endows us with "certain inalienable rights". Sovereignty of the soul - this imposes upon man a moral responsibility.

Thomas Goodwin - Warned against govt. by descent rather than consent by majority. The consent of a few.
No man dare live carelessly or indifferently or squander his life. Found in

33:1.

Brief outline:

- I. Spoiler 1-4.
- II. Stabilizer 5-12.
- III. Summons 13 -.

I. Spoiler - Verse 1-4

Verse 1 - Spoiled rights - destroyed. Assyrians branded a treacherous - untruthful, lawless. No treaty binds them. Might makes right.

Spoiled the people of God - the Nation. No respect to sacred things.

Sennacherib will be dealt with.

Jump at idea of rights - welcome rights without responsibility.

Dr. Culbert G. Rutenber speaking on the totalitarian state and the individual consciences said, "our modern world solution for the problem of individual responsibility; it denies its existence.

No one is ever at fault; the blame lies else where. The guilt is society's and therefore nobody's.

Blame can be traced to our economic system, or to bad plumbing, or to a defective school system, or to an inadequate home situation, but never to individuals, committees, - nation blamed.

They are victims of poverty, bad companions, or poor birth. We sum it up - no one is to be blameable.

A man is a tumbling tumbleweed, blown helplessly about by every wind or influence.

Christians know - before God every man is guilty: and before God every man is responsible both for doing those things that he should not have done and for neglecting those things that he should have done."

Charles A. Wells writes "Between the lines" - Aug. 14, 1950. Twelve instances of religious persecution in Colombia called to attention of U. S. Senate by officials of the Presbyterian Church in U. S. A. Furnished documentary evidence of the burning of churches, imprisonment of Protestant Pastors - etc.

We live in critical times. The spoiler will one day be spoiled! Crafty Assyrian is the external man of violence.

Verse (2) What are God's people to do?

Praying people - remnant - not trusting in the chariots of Egypt but waiting for Jehovah.

Praying and waiting, waiting and praying.

Gracious.

Arm - new - every morning - Good prayer for a preacher.

Verse (3) Terrifying commotion - tables turned.

Verse 4 - Thoroughness - spoils of the Assyrian camp seized. Freedom gone.

World hearing good deal about freedom - but it is not clear what we mean by freedom.

Peter wrote - "Live like free men". He knew exactly what he meant.

Paul wrote "Stand fast in liberty" - He knew what he meant.

Modern men talk of freedom and know not what he means.

May mean "unfettered freedom" - don't fence me in variety. We dislike rules and regulations, or limitations.

Prodigal Son wanted this type of freedom - sick of the disciplines imposed by family and community and wanted to live like a free man. World full of people like this. Rebel against discipline - Dodge their responsibilities. We were not made for this kind of freedom.

Home for example - problem of getting everyone to the dinner table at once. Someone turns up late - forgets to wash his hands - all decide to be free - wife or mother decided to get the meals when pleased her - some other member ignores responsibilities to go to bed - no rules of courtesy - consideration - honesty.

Business - everybody in organization decide on his own policies.

Freedom is limited by our obligation to the organization.

Freedom as pretext for misconduct.

Mark Twain lost a fortune, deep in debt could have escaped all responsibility in bankruptcy.

He could have traveled abroad and taken the easy way out. Voluntarily assumed his debts on the edge of old age, tirelessly speaking and writing, until he paid the last penny. "Honor is a harder task master than the law". Freedom as a prisoner of Christ.

Spoiler of freedom has his treasures removed.

II. Stabalizer - 5-12.

Verse 5 - Introduces new form of government.

classical

33 - Stabilized Government - V.6

Assures The Jews That Their Nation Would be safe not
withstanding The invasion of The Assyrians.

A. Lord Don't count on material wealth or prosperity. God and his people to be blessed. Fear of the Lord is true wealth.

Verse 6 - B. Stability - Wisdom and knowledge will be at the root of this.

Ref. to the Kingdom of the Messiah.

Hezekiah sent ambassadors to threatening Assyria who put him under a fine of 300 talents of gold. Raised with difficulty - impoverishing the Lord's house, even cutting gold off the doors and pillars. Sennacherib did not retreat but treacherously assaulted cities of Judah. 2 K. 18:14-16.

Verse 7 - Ambassadors wail - unsuccessful mission to Sennacherib. Takes gold and continues to march. Makes covenant and breaks it.

Verse 8 - Highway desolate of travelers.

Verse 9 - Misery of inhabitants reflected - cedars of Lebanon weep - flowers wither of Sharon - leaves fall of Carmel and Bashan. Mourning.

Verse 10 - Prediction of God's vengeance.

Jehovah's opportunity - He will arise.

Three times NOW - Seemed unconcerned - demonstrate. Be exalted.

Verse 11 - Chaff - Enemy had a great purpose but come to stubble.

Verse 12 - Fire - things that fire consumes quickly - thorns - lime - final end of world - stabilize the world.

III. Summons - V. 13-24

Verse 13 - Call - Summons to nations afar - Gentiles.

" " " near - Jews.

Even distant future - Hear what God wants done! A summons to righteousness.

Verse 14 - Sinners in Zion.

Judgment on Assyria can not but strike terror into the hearts of the irreligious.

in Zion. They cannot fail to note their own danger and tremble.

Hearts are not right in sight of God - Assyrian Army beseiging Jerusalem, they could not escape to Egypt, distrusting the promises of God.

Byron sang of this occasion:

The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea;
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Men of Zion looked and became conscious of a godless way of life. Who among us can dwell with the devouring fire? Everlasting burning?

Are we safe?

God as fire - 6 - God filled the temple.

Fire of purification purged his lips. 66 - Flame of fire.

It appears at times God is being beaten - Assyrians appear to triumph over the church -- not so!

Verse 15 Summons is to a righteous life.

Up-right - clean hands - pure heart - described.

- ✓ A. Conduct is clean - walks a righteous walk.
- ✓ B. Speech is up-right - honest speech - not think one thing and say another - word is good.
- ✓ C. Cured of coveting - not plan - oppression.
- ✓ D. Rejects bribes - hands.
- ✓ E. Ears not listen to cruelty and bloodshed. Sanctified ears.
- ✓ F. Eyes not gaze upon evil - not look with favour upon evil works.

Verse 16 - Promise Up-Right

- A. Safe - comfort - presence of God. Defense.
- B. Supplied - water - bread - support.

Verse 17 - Protect Up-Right. 7

Prophecy on to end of Chapter deals with Messiah as ultimate interpretation of passage.

King take off sackcloth and appear in his royal robe - great joy.

Seige raised.

Land - as far as their eye can see or foot can carry shall be theirs - said to Abraham: "Lift up now thine eyes, for all the land that thou seest, to thee I will give it". Gen. 15:14-15.

Verse 18 - Memory - Add pleasure - heart meditate on the terror - peace.

What happen to the one who took your goods? Where is the one that exacted unjust taxes? Where has he gone - departed never to return.

I Cor. 1:20.

Verse 19 - Gone - All Gone.

Verse 20 - Eye of Faith - See Jerusalem!

~~Stakes~~ - Tent pens not moved - baised on up-right living.

Stability - unmoved - Jerusalem.

Wandering Jew - Cain - Vagabon forever.

Verse 21 - God is defense - Jerusalem has no river Babylon - Euphrates. Egypt - Nile.

Saviour is Protector - Guard.

Verse 22 - Jehovah Judge - Bishop - Ecclesiastical Head.

" Ruler - Commander - Military Head.

" King - Monarch - Political Head.

Verse speaks to Americans celebrating the birth of their great nation.

Independence Day, 1776 - beginning of the greatest Republic ever to exist on the earth.

Carefully planned constitutional government - Judicial branch - Legislative - Executive.

Isaiah a forerunner in this modern idea of Democracy.

✓ A. Judicial Branch - The Lord is our Judge.

Court System as you trace proceeding - from local city and county courts to the District courts, Federal courts, Civil and Criminal courts, Appellate courts, the State Supreme Court and finally the U. S. Supreme Court.

A court system with principles of protection and justice.

Man may circumvent or escape the Judgments of the court system but,

Prophet notes Lord is Judge.

✓ B. Legislative Branch - Lord is law giver ruler - our government idea of

representation - Senate, House of Representatives. Distribution according to population.

Christian knows a higher lawmaker than on the local or national level.

Ten Commandments still basic requirements - law revealed in Prophets, Kings, Priests, Judges - The Church.

✓ C. Executive Branch - Lord as King.

Isaiah said a monarch at the helm of the government -- a President.

Seeing that the laws were carried out.

Some laugh at God's law - Korah - Uzza - Ananias - Sapphira.

Christian obeys the law of God in love, in respect for the law giver. Stability in government.

Verse (23) - Enemy becomes like a disabled ship.

Attack on Jerusalem, really war against the Lord! Presumptuous vessel now - shattered deck, torn sails - masks split - tacklings loosed.

Enemies of God's church is disarmed and unrigged when they think they are gaining a point.

Sad plight - sails flags idle and useless - a wreck.

Verse (24) - Stabilized Divine Government. Holy City - No complaint of sickness -
not one single wail.

Evidence of redemptive power - iniquity forgiven.

No sickness in the New Jerusalem!

Victory - Peace - Health!

I Cor. 15:42-44.

Rev. 21:27.