

Isaiah Chapters 32-33 Summary - John Karmelich

Title: Why hasn't the Second Coming of Jesus happened yet?

Of course, I believe strongly in His Second Coming. Even though it's been 2,000 years, I realize from Abraham (first Jewish man) to Jesus was about 2,000 years. From Adam to Abraham was about 2,000 years as well. As I studied these two chapters, I kept thinking about the question, "why not yet"? Yes, I realize most of us would not be saved if He returned a generation ago. I also realize only God knows the day or hour and our job is to be a good witness for Him until then! All that leads to the question of why not yet? Is there something we're doing wrong to delay it? Over and above being a good witness for Jesus, as I study this text, I realize God is holding us accountable for how we live our lives until He comes. I know I am "preaching to the choir", since we who read bible studies care about a relationship with God! Isaiah's writing to Jewish people and telling them THE Messiah is coming, and they need to be using their lives for His glory until then! In effect, Isaiah is "cracking the whip" as he's stating those God called to be a witness for Him are not! I realize we're forgiven as believers, but I also realize God "cracks the whip" to Christians to remind us what we should be doing until He returns, as we are called to make a difference for Him.

These chapters focus on the fact our eternal life will be far greater than all suffering that we'll deal with in this lifetime and despite whatever we're dealing with God expects us to use our lives as a witness for Him. The only thing in life we can control is our attitude! Being a good witness for God requires us to pray for the Spirit to help us be the type of person God wants us to be! If we are involved in a ministry God has called us to, great. If you don't know what He desires of you, as I preach pray for wisdom and I know one prayer God can't resist is regarding making a difference for Him! In effect, Isaiah's saying, "Get your act together, THE Messiah is coming!" Even if that doesn't occur for a long time, remember why we're created in the first place, to be a witness for Jesus!

With that tough but necessary message to preach (to myself included), time for details! When I started Isaiah, I mentioned that not every chapter is in chronological order! The last two chapters were written (probably) a few years after these two. The evidence argues for that fact. I bring it up because the first few verses of Chapter 32 are positive and speak of a future of positive blessing while the last two were focused on coming destruction! Chapter 32 has a "coming soon" fulfillment as Hezekiah became king of the Southern Kingdom shortly after Isaiah wrote this chapter. He was arguably the best Jewish king since David, a few hundred years earlier. The long-term fulfillment applies to Jesus Second Coming as it gets into THE Messiah setting up rule over the world from Jerusalem. (Why do you think Satan is so hell-bent on destroying the Jewish nation? To delay that as long as possible!) In essence, the first eight verses of Chapter 32 praise the coming king and those who assist Him. When Jesus returns, the church will be assisting Him! In this same Isaiah passage, it condemns those who turn from God. The point is God wants us to join the "winning team" and live for Him now, not just in the eternal future!

In Verse 9 Isaiah "switches gears" to focus on women living in Israel then. He tells about the Assyrian Invasion that will occur a year after when he wrote this. (That is why scholars back date this section to a time shortly before Hezekiah became king of the Southern Kingdom). For those who don't know, the Assyrian Empire was based out of what's Iraq today. They conquered the Northern Israel kingdom but not the Southern One (where Hezekiah ruled), although the Assyrians did conquer parts of the "South". The "South" existed for about another 100 years until another empire (Babylon) conquered Assyria and the Southern Kingdom then became part of that Babylonian empire!

With all that out of the system, the point of this "women section" is the Southern Kingdom was at ease as the Assyrians weren't in the neighborhood yet. Times were financially good at that moment. Isaiah is saying in effect, "It's no time to be joyful as destruction is coming to this area". In effect it gets back to what God wants us to focus on until Him until He returns! For most of us, that does not mean to quit our lives as we know it, but to use our lives as a witness for Him. Picking on the women is Isaiah's way of saying stop being at ease, living life as God doesn't matter! It's not about one sex or the other. Isaiah is saying the Israelites who should know better, were living as if God didn't matter.

By Verse 15 Isaiah gets positive again. He's saying in effect God will still "set up shop one day" as He made an unconditional promise. He is stating how good life will be then. It's another reminder that He calls us to live for Him until that day occurs!

That leads to Chapter 33. Verse 1 is in effect a quick comment about the destruction of Satan, who can be blamed for all the efforts to foil God's plan. I always state the desire of Satan, and his demons is for them to rule as long as possible. God created them to show He's more powerful and through Him, then we never have to fear demons. At the same time, we can't claim "the devil made me do it" and we must take responsibility for our own sins including ignoring His will for our lives. The last part of the verse's key point is Satan will lose in the end. I always wonder why he bothers if Satan knows he'll lose in the end? Best guess is he knows it is his role to slow down God's plan and Satan desires to rule on earth as long as possible!

Anyway, after condemnation and warnings, Isaiah turns to praise in Verse 2. In effect, Isaiah is saying despite all the bad things that will occur, those of us who trust in you wait for your timing to rule as the best way to live is with God as the center of our lives now and literally when He rules here one day! It is kind of neat to see Isaiah describe His ruling as if it already occurred! God wants us to be confident, so we praise Him as if the Second Coming already occurred! He's describing the land of Israel as well as the land nearby Israel, as if they are suffering waiting for His rule to begin!

The rest of the chapter is a mixture of present suffering mixed with the blessing of His ruling again like it has started to occur! Isaiah describes the fact when Jesus returns, he sees Jerusalem as a place that is "immovable" referring to the fact it will never have to fear being conquered again! For those of us who have seen the Jordan River, it's mostly a "yawn" compared to most mighty rivers! Still Isaiah's saying, one day the Jordan will be a mighty river! At the same time Israel won't have to fear ships sailing that river to conquer Israel. There's a joke in modern Israel that if they lay down their weapons, their nation would be gone tomorrow. If their enemies lay down their weapons, all Israel does is celebrate no more fighting! That's a bit like how I see Jesus ruling from that land in that day! All it's implying in the last few verses of Chapter 33, is not only will Israel exist but fresh water will also be a key figure. We also have other Bible passages describe a new river flowing from the (Jerusalem) temple mount when Jesus returns to rule there!

In summary these chapters are saying in effect, "Jesus hasn't come yet, so what?" The point is God has Him timing on that and our job as Christians is to be a witness for Him until that occurs. When I began this lesson, in effect I stated all that. Obviously, we should be grateful Jesus did not return a generation ago or none of us would be saved! We should be grateful God is giving us opportunities to use our lives as a witness for Him! I realize we have lives to live, but we can ALWAYS be a witness for Him as we are called to use our lives for His glory!

With that said, hope you like this study. I wrote a more detailed one some years back. If you want to read that, click on one of the links below. It is still a joy to study this stuff and again I'm grateful for you reading this. The rest of this email is links to questions you may have. If you're new here, realize you're always welcome to e-mail me. Thanks again for reading this!

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That's it. Hope you enjoy it. Don't forget to fire up a prayer prior to your reading.