

Isaiah 33 New King James Version

A Prayer in Deep Distress

- 33** Woe to you who plunder, though you *have* not *been* plundered;
And you who deal treacherously, though they have not dealt treacherously
with you!
When you cease plundering,
You will be plundered;
When you make an end of dealing treacherously,
They will deal treacherously with you.
- 2** O LORD, be gracious to us;
We have waited for You.
Be ^[a]their arm every morning,
Our salvation also in the time of trouble.
- 3** At the noise of the tumult the people shall flee;
When You lift Yourself up, the nations shall be scattered;
- 4** And Your plunder shall be gathered
Like the gathering of the caterpillar;
As the running to and fro of locusts,
He shall run upon them.
- 5** The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high;
He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.
- 6** Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times,
And the strength of salvation;
The fear of the LORD *is* His treasure.
- 7** Surely their valiant ones shall cry outside,
The ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly.
- 8** The highways lie waste,
The traveling man ceases.
He has broken the covenant,

[b]He has despised the [c]cities,
He regards no man.
9 The earth mourns *and* languishes,
Lebanon is shamed *and* shriveled;
Sharon is like a wilderness,
And Bashan and Carmel shake off *their fruits*.

Impending Judgment on Zion

10 "Now I will rise," says the LORD;
"Now I will be exalted,
Now I will lift Myself up.
11 You shall conceive chaff,
You shall bring forth stubble;
Your breath, as fire, shall devour you.
12 And the people shall be *like* the burnings of lime;
Like thorns cut up they shall be burned in the fire.
13 Hear, you *who are* afar off, what I have done;
And you *who are* near, acknowledge My might."
14 The sinners in Zion are afraid;
Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites:
"Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire?
Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"
15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly,
He who despises the gain of oppressions,
Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes,
Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed,
And shuts his eyes from seeing evil:
16 He will dwell on [d]high;
His place of defense *will be* the fortress of rocks;
Bread will be given him,
His water *will be* sure.

The Land of the Majestic King

17 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty;
They will see the land that is very far off.
18 Your heart will meditate on terror:
"Where *is* the scribe?

- Where *is* he who weighs?
 Where *is* he who counts the towers?"
- 19 You will not see a fierce people,
 A people of obscure speech, beyond perception,
 Of a ^[e]stammering tongue *that you* cannot understand.
- 20 Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts;
 Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home,
 A tabernacle *that* will not be taken down;
 Not one of its stakes will ever be removed,
 Nor will any of its cords be broken.
- 21 But there the majestic LORD *will be* for us
 A place of broad rivers *and* streams,
 In which no ^[f]galley with oars will sail,
 Nor majestic ships pass by
- 22 (For the LORD *is* our Judge,
 The LORD *is* our Lawgiver,
 The LORD *is* our King;
 He will save us);
- 23 Your tackle is loosed,
 They could not strengthen their mast,
 They could not spread the sail.
- Then the prey of great plunder is divided;
 The lame take the prey.
- 24 And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick";
 The people who dwell in it *will be* forgiven *their* iniquity.

Footnotes

- a. Isaiah 33:2 LXX omits *their*; Syr., Tg., Vg. *our*
- b. Isaiah 33:8 Tg. *They have been removed from their cities*
- c. Isaiah 33:8 So with MT, Vg.; DSS *witnesses*; LXX omits *cities*
- d. Isaiah 33:16 Lit. *heights*
- e. Isaiah 33:19 Unintelligible speech
- f. Isaiah 33:21 *ship*

New King James Version (NKJV)

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.