

# Isaiah Chapter 33 — Woe to the Destroyer, But the Lord Saves Zion

## A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

### Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 33 moves between:

Judgment.

Prayer.

Fear.

Righteousness.

Deliverance.

The beauty of the King.

The security of Zion.

The chapter opens with a warning against:

The destroyer.

The treacherous.

The one who plunders others without having first been plundered.

This violent power may seem successful for a time.

But Isaiah announces:

**“When you finish destroying, you will be destroyed.”**

The principle is:

God sees treachery.

God records injustice.

God repays according to righteousness.

The chapter then turns quickly from:

Woe.

To:

Prayer.

God's people cry:

**“O Lord, be gracious to us; we wait for You.”**

This is one of the strongest devotional statements in the chapter.

The people recognize that they need:

Grace.

Strength.

Salvation.

Not once.

But:

Every morning.

Isaiah then declares that when God rises:

Nations scatter.

Human armies flee.

The Lord is exalted because:

He dwells on high.

Yet His exaltation is not distant from human need.

He fills Zion with:

Justice.

Righteousness.

And then comes one of the chapter's great promises:

**“He will be the sure foundation of your times, a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.”**

In unstable times:

God is stability.

When human wisdom fails:

God possesses wisdom.

When danger rises:

God is salvation.

When knowledge becomes confused:

God remains truth.

The chapter then describes the collapse of:

Peace negotiations.

Roads.

Covenants.

Public order.

The land itself mourns.

But then God says:

**“Now I will arise.”**

Everything changes when:

God rises.

The destroyer has acted.

The treacherous have acted.

The nations have acted.

But now:

The Lord acts.

Then comes a deeply serious question:

**“Who of us can live with the consuming fire?”**

The answer is not:

The proud.

The hypocrite.

The unjust.

The bribe-taker.

Isaiah describes the person who walks:

Righteously.

Speaks:

Uprightly.

Rejects:

Unjust gain.

Bribes.

Bloodshed.

Evil.

That person finds:

Refuge.

Provision.

Security.

Then the chapter rises from:

The fear of judgment.

To:

The beauty of the King.

**“Your eyes will see the King in His beauty.”**

The people who once remembered:

Terror.

Enemies.

Tax collectors.

Military officials.

Will instead behold:

The King.

Finally Zion is pictured as:

Peaceful.

Stable.

Unmovable.

Protected by the Lord.

And one of the greatest declarations in the chapter appears:

**“The Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us.”**

The chapter ends with:

Healing.

Forgiveness.

No resident saying:

“I am sick.”

The people’s iniquity:

Forgiven.

The central truth of Isaiah 33 is:

**The treacherous destroyer will eventually face destruction, but those who wait upon the Lord find daily strength and salvation; God rises to defend Zion, fills it with justice and righteousness, secures the upright, reveals the beauty of the King, and brings His people into a future marked by peace, healing, and forgiveness.**

# **I. WOE TO THE DESTROYER**

## **Isaiah 33:1 — Treachery Will Be Repaid**

**“Woe to you who plunder, though you were not plundered, and you who deal treacherously, though others did not deal treacherously with you! When you finish destroying, you will be destroyed; when you stop betraying, you will be betrayed.”**

The chapter opens with:

Divine justice.

The destroyer believes:

He is untouchable.

The betrayer believes:

He can keep betraying.

But God says:

The pattern will turn.

### **Cross References**

#### **Habakkuk 2:8**

Because violent powers plundered many nations, the surviving peoples are told that the plunderer himself will eventually be plundered.

#### **Obadiah 1:15**

The day of the Lord brings repayment according to deeds; what a person or nation has done returns upon them.

#### **Isaiah 10:12**

After God finishes using Assyria for His disciplinary purpose, He will punish the proud arrogance of the Assyrian ruler.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Unchecked success in wrongdoing does not mean:

God has approved it.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Treachery may have a season.

It does not have the final word.

## **II. A PRAYER FOR GRACE EVERY MORNING**

### **Isaiah 33:2 — Daily Strength**

**“O Lord, be gracious to us; we wait for You. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in times of trouble.”**

This verse is:

Personal.

Practical.

Daily.

The people ask for:

Grace.

Strength.

Salvation.

And they ask for strength:

Every morning.

### **Cross References**

#### **Psalms 25:5**

The psalmist asks God to lead him in truth and teaches him to wait upon the Lord throughout the day.

#### **Isaiah 40:31**

Those who wait for the Lord renew their strength and receive endurance beyond their own ability.

### **Lamentations 3:22**

The Lord's faithful mercies do not cease, and His compassion continues from day to day.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Yesterday's strength is not always enough for:

Today's trouble.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Seek fresh strength from God every morning because every day carries its own burden.

## **III. NATIONS FLEE AT THE SOUND OF GOD'S VOICE**

### **Isaiah 33:3 — The Roar That Scatters Armies**

**“At the sound of Your roar, the nations flee; when You rise up, the peoples scatter.”**

Nations that appear:

Confident.

Organized.

Powerful.

Scatter when:

God rises.

### **Cross References**

#### **Psalms 46:6**

Nations rage and kingdoms shake, but when God raises His voice, the earth itself melts before His authority.

#### **2 Chronicles 32:21**

The Lord intervened against the Assyrian army and brought down its warriors and leaders without Judah's own military strength achieving the victory.

#### **Isaiah 17:13**

The nations may roar like mighty waters, but when God rebukes them they flee like chaff before the wind.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Human power sounds loud until:

God speaks.

# **IV. THE PLUNDERERS BECOME PLUNDER**

## **Isaiah 33:4 — Wealth Gathered Like Locusts**

**“The nations’ wealth will be gathered like locusts, like swarming insects rushing in.”**

The conqueror’s wealth becomes:

Spoil.

The one who gathered wealth through:

Violence.

Loses it.

## **Cross References**

### **Judges 6:5**

Enemy forces swarmed into Israel like locusts, consuming resources and overwhelming the land.

### **Joel 1:4**

Successive waves of locusts are pictured consuming what previous waves left behind.

### **Exodus 10:15**

Locusts covered Egypt so thoroughly that they consumed what remained after earlier judgments.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Accumulated wealth does not guarantee:

Ownership forever.

# **V. THE LORD IS EXALTED IN ZION**

## **Isaiah 33:5 — Justice and Righteousness**

**“The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness.”**

God’s greatness is revealed through:

Justice.

Righteousness.

His exaltation produces:

Moral order.

## **Cross References**

### **Psalms 46:10**

God calls people to recognize His sovereignty and know that He will be exalted among the nations.

### **Isaiah 57:15**

The high and exalted One lives in holiness yet also comes near to revive the humble and contrite.

### **Psalms 99:2**

The Lord is great in Zion and exalted over all peoples.

## **Spiritual Principle**

God's glory and God's righteousness belong together.

# **VI. GOD IS THE STABILITY OF HIS PEOPLE'S TIMES**

## **Isaiah 33:6 — Salvation, Wisdom, Knowledge**

**“He will be the sure foundation of your times, a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.”**

This verse speaks directly to:

Unstable times.

God becomes:

The sure foundation.

He provides:

Salvation.

Wisdom.

Knowledge.

And the doorway into these treasures is:

The fear of the Lord.

## **Cross References**

### **Proverbs 9:10**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One produces true understanding.

### **Colossians 2:3**

In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

### **Deuteronomy 33:25**

God promises strength proportionate to the days His people must face.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Stable times do not create stable faith.

God creates stability:

In unstable times.

## **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

When the times are uncertain, make sure the foundation is not.

# **VII. THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS TREASURE**

The chapter does not describe reverence for God as:

Burden.

Loss.

Restriction.

It calls it:

Treasure.

## **Spiritual Principle**

The fear of the Lord produces:

Wisdom.

Humility.

Stability.

Obedience.

Discernment.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

What the world may call limitation, Scripture calls treasure when it teaches us to reverence God.

## **VIII. THE BRAVE MEN WEEP**

### **Isaiah 33:7 — Failed Peace**

**“Look, their brave men cry out in the streets; the envoys of peace weep bitterly.”**

Those expected to show:

Strength.

Weep.

Diplomatic efforts have:

Failed.

Peace envoys return:

Broken.

### **Cross References**

#### **2 Kings 18:37**

Officials returned to Hezekiah with their clothes torn after hearing humiliating Assyrian threats against Jerusalem.

#### **Isaiah 22:4**

Isaiah himself wept bitterly because of the devastation coming upon his people.

#### **Lamentations 1:2**

Jerusalem is pictured weeping bitterly because those she trusted have failed her.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Human diplomacy has limits.

## **IX. THE HIGHWAYS ARE EMPTY**

### **Isaiah 33:8 — Society Breaks Down**

**“The highways are deserted, travelers have stopped. Covenants are broken, witnesses despised, and respect for people is no more.”**

This verse describes:

Social collapse.

Travel stops.

Agreements fail.

Human dignity is ignored.

## **Cross References**

### **Judges 5:6**

During oppression, normal travel stopped and people avoided the main roads.

### **Isaiah 24:5**

The earth is defiled because people break laws, violate decrees, and shatter covenant responsibilities.

### **Lamentations 1:4**

Roads to Zion mourn because travelers and worshipers no longer fill them.

## **Spiritual Principle**

When truth and covenant faithfulness disappear, public life eventually suffers.

# **X. THE LAND MOURNS**

## **Isaiah 33:9 — Lebanon, Sharon, Bashan, and Carmel**

**“The land mourns and wastes away; Lebanon withers with shame, Sharon is like a desert, and Bashan and Carmel shed their leaves.”**

Places known for:

Beauty.

Fertility.

Strength.

Become:

Withered.

Dry.

Stripped.

## **Cross References**

### **Isaiah 24:4**

The earth mourns, withers, and wastes away under judgment.

**Nahum 1:4**

God's power causes fertile regions to wither and productive lands to dry up.

**Amos 1:2**

Under the voice of the Lord, pastures mourn and the fertile top of Carmel dries up.

**Spiritual Principle**

Creation itself reflects the consequences of human rebellion and divine judgment.

## **XI. “NOW I WILL ARISE”**

### **Isaiah 33:10 — God Steps Into the Crisis**

“‘Now I will arise,’ says the Lord. ‘Now I will be exalted; now I will be lifted up.’”

This is the turning point.

Three times:

“Now.”

God has allowed:

Treachery.

Threats.

Negotiations.

Fear.

But now:

He acts.

### **Cross References**

**Psalms 12:5**

God declares that He will arise because of the oppression of the poor and the groaning of the needy.

**Psalms 68:1**

When God arises, His enemies scatter and those who hate Him flee.

**Numbers 10:35**

Israel called upon the Lord to arise so that His enemies would be scattered.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Divine delay is not divine absence.

## **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The situation changes completely when God says:

“Now.”

# **XII. THE ENEMY CONCEIVES CHAFF**

## **Isaiah 33:11 — Empty Plans Produce Destruction**

**“You conceive chaff, you give birth to stubble; your own breath will be a fire that consumes you.”**

Their plans appear:

Powerful.

But produce:

Chaff.

Stubble.

Nothing substantial.

Then their own actions become:

Destructive.

## **Cross References**

### **Job 15:35**

Wickedness is pictured as conceiving trouble and giving birth to emptiness and deceit.

### **Isaiah 5:24**

Dry grass and stubble disappear before fire, just as rebellion collapses under God’s judgment.

### **Psalms 1:4**

The wicked are like chaff driven away by the wind because they lack lasting substance.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Evil often contains the seeds of:

Its own destruction.

# **XIII. THE NATIONS ARE LIKE BURNED THORNS**

## **Isaiah 33:12 — Judgment Consumes Pride**

**“The peoples will be burned to ashes, like cut thornbushes set ablaze.”**

Dry thorns:

Burn quickly.

So do proud powers under:

Divine judgment.

### **Cross References**

#### **Malachi 4:1**

The coming day burns like an oven, and persistent arrogance and wickedness are compared to stubble consumed by fire.

#### **Amos 2:1**

God judges violent nations for cruel and desecrating actions.

#### **Isaiah 9:18**

Wickedness burns like fire consuming briars and thorns.

### **Spiritual Principle**

What appears difficult for humans to remove may be quickly consumed by God.

# **XIV. GOD CALLS EVERYONE TO RECOGNIZE HIS POWER**

## **Isaiah 33:13 — Near and Far Must Hear**

**“Hear, you who are far away, what I have done; acknowledge My might, you who are near.”**

God’s works become:

Testimony.

For:

Near.

Far.

## **Cross References**

### **Isaiah 5:26**

God summons nations from far away according to His sovereign purpose.

### **Psalms 46:8**

People are invited to come and observe the works of the Lord and recognize what He has done.

### **Micah 6:1**

God summons people to hear His case and listen to His righteous controversy.

## **Spiritual Principle**

God's acts are intended to reveal:

God's character.

# **XV. SINNERS IN ZION TREMBLE**

## **Isaiah 33:14 — The Consuming Fire**

**“The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the hypocrites. ‘Who of us can live with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting flames?’”**

The problem is not:

God being unsafe.

The problem is:

Sin before holiness.

God is described as:

Consuming fire.

## **Cross References**

### **Hebrews 12:29**

God is described as a consuming fire, emphasizing His absolute holiness.

### **Deuteronomy 4:24**

The Lord is called a consuming fire and a jealous God who tolerates no rival worship.

### **Psalms 15:1**

The psalm asks who may dwell in God's sacred presence and remain upon His holy hill.

## **Spiritual Principle**

The right question is not:

How close can sin get to holiness?

But:

How can sinful people be made fit for God's presence?

# **XVI. WHO CAN DWELL WITH THE HOLY GOD?**

## **Isaiah 33:15 — The Character of the Upright**

**“The one who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who refuses unjust gain, who shakes his hands free of bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes from looking at evil—”**

Isaiah describes a life shaped by:

Righteousness.

Truth.

Integrity.

Justice.

Purity.

The person refuses:

Corrupt money.

Bribery.

Violence.

Evil.

## **Cross References**

### **Psalms 15:2**

The person dwelling with God walks blamelessly, practices righteousness, and speaks truth from the heart.

### **Ezekiel 18:5**

The righteous person practices justice and righteousness in daily conduct.

### **Micah 6:8**

God requires His people to practice justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Holiness is visible in:

Money.

Speech.

Justice.

What we hear.

What we watch.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Righteousness is not merely what happens in worship.

It follows us into:

Business.

Conversation.

Courtrooms.

Private choices.

## **XVII. THE RIGHTEOUS HAVE A SECURE REFUGE**

### **Isaiah 33:16 — Bread and Water Supplied**

**“He will dwell on the heights, his refuge will be the mountain fortress. His bread will be supplied, and his water will not fail him.”**

God promises:

Refuge.

Provision.

Security.

Bread.

Water.

### **Cross References**

**Psalms 91:1**

The person who dwells under the protection of the Most High rests beneath the shadow of the Almighty.

**Psalm 34:10**

Those who seek the Lord are not abandoned when it comes to what is truly good and necessary.

**Isaiah 41:17**

God promises to answer the poor and needy when they seek water and to provide for them in their distress.

**Spiritual Principle**

God is concerned with:

Spiritual security.

And:

Daily provision.

## **XVIII. THE PEOPLE WILL SEE THE KING IN HIS BEAUTY**

### **Isaiah 33:17 — A Glorious Vision**

**“Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; they will behold a land stretching far and wide.”**

This is one of Isaiah’s most beautiful promises.

The focus changes from:

Enemy.

Siege.

Terror.

To:

The King.

The ultimate hope is not merely:

The enemy disappears.

It is:

The King is seen.

## **Cross References**

### **Psalms 27:4**

David desires above everything else to dwell in the Lord's presence and gaze upon His beauty.

### **Isaiah 6:5**

Isaiah himself had seen the glory of the King, the Lord Almighty, and was overwhelmed by God's holiness.

### **Revelation 22:4**

God's servants will see His face and bear His name.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Deliverance is wonderful.

The Deliverer is better.

## **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The greatest promise is not merely:

“You will escape the enemy.”

It is:

“You will see the King.”

# **XIX. FORMER TERROR BECOMES A MEMORY**

## **Isaiah 33:18 — “Where Are They Now?”**

**“In your thoughts you will ponder the past terror: ‘Where is the scribe? Where is the tax collector? Where is the one who counted the towers?’”**

Those who once controlled:

Taxes.

Military calculations.

Siege preparations.

Are:

Gone.

The people look back and ask:

Where are they?

## **Cross References**

### **1 Corinthians 1:20**

Paul asks where the wise, scholar, and debater of the age are, showing how God overturns human boasting.

### **2 Kings 18:14**

Judah had faced heavy tribute demands from Assyria under intense political pressure.

### **Isaiah 10:8**

Assyria boasted in its commanders and military greatness as though its strength were unstoppable.

## **Spiritual Principle**

The thing terrifying you today may one day become:

A memory.

# **XX. THE FOREIGN OPPRESSOR DISAPPEARS**

## **Isaiah 33:19 — Strange Speech Heard No More**

**“You will see them no more—a fierce people with obscure speech, with strange, incomprehensible tongues.”**

Foreign language had become:

A sign of invasion.

Now:

The invader disappears.

## **Cross References**

### **Deuteronomy 28:49**

Israel had been warned that rebellion could bring a distant nation speaking an unfamiliar language.

### **Jeremiah 5:15**

God warned Judah that a powerful foreign nation with an unknown language would come against them.

### **Isaiah 28:11**

Isaiah previously warned that God would speak to the unbelieving people through foreign lips and strange tongues.

## **Spiritual Principle**

God can remove what once seemed permanently threatening.

# **XXI. ZION BECOMES A PEACEFUL DWELLING**

## **Isaiah 33:20 — An Unmovable Tent**

**“Look upon Zion, the city of our festivals. Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a peaceful dwelling place, a tent that will never be moved; its stakes will never be pulled up, nor any of its ropes broken.”**

Jerusalem had experienced:

Threat.

Siege.

Fear.

Now:

Peace.

Stability.

Security.

The tent image seems:

Fragile.

Yet God makes it:

Unmovable.

## **Cross References**

### **Psalms 46:5**

God is within His city, so she will not be ultimately moved; He helps her at the proper time.

### **Hebrews 12:28**

Believers receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken and therefore should worship God with reverence and gratitude.

### **Psalms 48:8**

God establishes His city and demonstrates that His presence gives security beyond human defenses.

## **Spiritual Principle**

Something can appear fragile and still be secure when:

God holds it.

# **XXII. THE LORD IS ZION'S MIGHTY ONE**

## **Isaiah 33:21 — Broad Rivers Without Enemy Ships**

**“There the Lord will be our Mighty One. It will be a place of broad rivers and streams, but no enemy galley with oars will approach it, no mighty ship will sail through it.”**

Jerusalem did not possess great rivers like:

Some imperial capitals.

Yet Isaiah says the Lord Himself becomes:

The city's greatness.

Broad rivers symbolize:

Abundance.

Protection.

Life.

But hostile ships:

Cannot enter.

## **Cross References**

### **Psalms 46:4**

A river is pictured making glad the city of God and the holy dwelling of the Most High.

### **Ezekiel 47:1**

Ezekiel sees life-giving water flowing from the restored temple.

### **Revelation 22:1**

John sees the river of the water of life flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb.

## **Spiritual Principle**

God can provide what geography cannot.

## **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

When the Lord is present, lack of natural advantage does not mean lack of divine provision.

# XXIII. THE LORD IS JUDGE, LAWGIVER, AND KING

## Isaiah 33:22 — “He Will Save Us”

“For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us.”

Three offices appear:

Judge.

Lawgiver.

King.

Then:

Savior.

God possesses:

Judicial authority.

Moral authority.

Royal authority.

Saving authority.

## Cross References

### James 4:12

There is one ultimate Lawgiver and Judge who possesses authority to save and judge.

### Isaiah 9:6

The promised royal Son carries divine authority and exercises everlasting government and peace.

### Psalms 99:4

The King loves justice and establishes what is equitable and righteous among His people.

## Spiritual Principle

God does not merely advise His people.

He:

Rules.

Judges.

Commands.

Saves.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The safest kingdom is the one where the Judge, Lawgiver, King, and Savior are perfectly righteous—and are one Lord.

## **XXIV. EVEN THE LAME SHARE IN THE SPOIL**

### **Isaiah 33:23 — Weakness Does Not Exclude Participation**

**“Your riggings hang loose; the mast is not secured, the sail is not spread. Then abundant spoil will be divided, and even the lame will carry off plunder.”**

The enemy is pictured like:

A disabled ship.

Its rigging:

Loose.

Its mast:

Unstable.

Its sail:

Useless.

Then:

Spoil.

Victory.

Even those usually considered:

Weak.

Participate.

### **Cross References**

#### **Isaiah 35:6**

Under God’s restoration, the lame are pictured leaping with new strength.

#### **Luke 14:21**

Jesus describes the invitation of the poor, crippled, blind, and lame into the kingdom banquet.

## **2 Samuel 5:6**

The early capture of Jerusalem involved taunting language about the blind and lame, making Isaiah's later inclusion of the lame in victory especially striking.

## **Spiritual Principle**

God's victory does not belong only to:

The visibly strong.

# **XXV. ZION'S PEOPLE ARE HEALED AND FORGIVEN**

## **Isaiah 33:24 — Sickness and Sin Removed**

**“No one living in Zion will say, ‘I am sick.’ The people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.”**

The chapter ends with:

Healing.

Forgiveness.

This is deeper than:

Military victory.

The enemy can leave while:

Sin remains.

God's final restoration addresses:

Both.

## **Cross References**

### **Jeremiah 33:8**

God promises to cleanse His people from guilt and forgive their sins and rebellion.

### **Psalms 103:3**

The Lord is praised as the One who forgives sin and heals diseases.

### **Revelation 21:4**

God's final dwelling with His people includes the removal of death, grief, crying, and pain.

## **Spiritual Principle**

God's salvation reaches:

Body.

Soul.

Guilt.

Community.

## **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The deepest problem is not merely the enemy outside the walls.

It is sin inside the heart.

# **XXVI. TEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 33**

## **1. Treachery Will Be Judged**

**Principle:**

Wrongdoing can succeed temporarily without escaping final accountability.

## **2. God Is Daily Strength**

**Principle:**

We need fresh dependence every morning.

## **3. The Fear of the Lord Is Treasure**

**Principle:**

Reverence for God creates wisdom and stability.

## **4. Human Peace Efforts Can Fail**

**Principle:**

Diplomacy cannot substitute for righteousness or divine help.

## **5. God Knows When to Arise**

### **Principle:**

His timing may seem delayed, but His intervention is never late.

## **6. Holiness Requires Integrity**

### **Principle:**

Those who dwell near God must reject corruption, bribery, violence, and evil.

## **7. The King Is the Greatest Hope**

### **Principle:**

Deliverance is good, but seeing the King is greater.

## **8. Zion Is Secure Because God Is There**

### **Principle:**

The Lord's presence creates security beyond human structures.

## **9. God Alone Is Judge, Lawgiver, King, and Savior**

### **Principle:**

All final authority belongs to Him.

## **10. Salvation Ends in Forgiveness**

### **Principle:**

God does more than defeat enemies; He removes iniquity.

# **XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT JUSTICE**

The chapter begins with:

Treachery.

And ends with:

Forgiveness.

Between them:

God establishes justice.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

God's salvation never requires Him to stop being just.

## **XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT WAITING**

The prayer says:

**“We wait for You.”**

Waiting is connected to:

Grace.

Strength.

Salvation.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Waiting on God is not:

Doing nothing.

It is:

Refusing to replace Him with panic.

## **XXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT DAILY DEPENDENCE**

The prayer asks:

**“Be our strength every morning.”**

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Faith is not merely stored for emergencies.

It is renewed:

Daily.

## **XXX. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT STABILITY**

God is:

The sure foundation.

Not:

Circumstances.

### **Spiritual Principle**

The stability of the believer is not measured by how stable the age is.

## **XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

The fear of the Lord is:

Treasure.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Reverence for God protects us from fearing everything else excessively.

## **XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT HOLINESS**

God is:

Consuming fire.

The hypocrite trembles.

The upright person:

Dwells securely.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God's holiness is terrifying to rebellion and beautiful to those reconciled to Him.

## XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT CHARACTER

Isaiah highlights:

Speech.

Money.

Bribes.

Violence.

What we hear.

What we watch.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Holiness is practical before it is impressive.

## XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT THE KING

The King is seen in:

Beauty.

The chapter's focus ultimately moves from:

What God gives.

To:

God Himself.

### **Spiritual Principle**

The greatest reward of salvation is:

The presence of the King.

## XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT ZION

Zion is:

Peaceful.

Stable.

Protected.

Not because:

Enemies cease existing by human power.

But because:

God is present.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Security follows presence.

God's presence is greater than stronger walls.

## **XXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 33 TEACHES ABOUT FORGIVENESS**

The last word is:

Iniquity forgiven.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Any salvation that leaves sin untouched is incomplete.

## **XXXVII. "BE OUR STRENGTH EVERY MORNING"**

Every morning brings:

New decisions.

New temptations.

New burdens.

New responsibilities.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Before asking for strength for the year, ask God for strength:

Today.

## XXXVIII. THE TREASURE HOUSE OF GOD

Verse 6 describes:

Salvation.

Wisdom.

Knowledge.

As treasures.

### **Spiritual Principle**

The richest person is not always the one with the most money.

It may be the one possessing:

Wisdom.

Salvation.

Knowledge of God.

## XXXIX. WHEN PEACE ENVOYS WEEP

Even the best negotiations can:

Fail.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Do everything righteous wisdom requires for peace, but never make human diplomacy your ultimate hope.

## XL. EMPTY HIGHWAYS

When trust breaks down:

Travel.

Business.

Community.

Life.

Can deteriorate.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Moral collapse eventually becomes social collapse.

## **XLI. “NOW I WILL ARISE”**

These words interrupt:

Despair.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Never write the ending while God is still saying:

“Now I will arise.”

## **XLII. EVIL GIVES BIRTH TO STUBBLE**

The wicked plan:

Great things.

God calls the result:

Stubble.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Plans against God may look impressive before they reach maturity.

## **XLIII. THE CONSUMING FIRE**

The question:

Who can dwell there?

Not:

Who can hide?

Who can manipulate?

But:

Who walks uprightly?

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The right preparation for God’s presence is not pretense.

It is righteousness flowing from a heart made right with Him.

## **XLIV. NO BRIBES**

Isaiah specifically includes:

Money.

This matters.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Integrity is tested when money offers us a reason to compromise.

## **XLV. CLOSE THE EARS TO BLOODSHED**

Godly people refuse to become comfortable with:

Violence.

Plans of violence.

Celebration of evil.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

What you repeatedly listen to can eventually shape what you tolerate.

## **XLVI. SHUT THE EYES FROM EVIL**

This is not ignorance.

It is refusal to:

Enjoy.

Approve.

Feed upon.

Evil.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Guarding the eyes is part of guarding the heart.

## **XLVII. BREAD AND WATER**

God promises:

Ordinary provision.

## **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The God of cosmic deliverance still cares about:

Daily bread.

## **XLVIII. “THE KING IN HIS BEAUTY”**

This verse lifts the chapter above:

Temporary political deliverance.

Within Isaiah’s larger messianic hope, the language naturally points toward the ultimate righteous King.

### **Spiritual Principle**

The believer’s final hope is not merely a better situation.

It is:

The beautiful King.

## **XLIX. THE LAND FAR AND WIDE**

The people once felt:

Trapped.

Besieged.

Restricted.

Now:

They see space.

Freedom.

A broad land.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

God can move His people from:

Siege mentality.

To:

Open horizon.

## **L. “WHERE IS THE TERROR NOW?”**

Things that once dominated the mind:

Disappear.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Do not let today's fear convince you it deserves a permanent place in tomorrow.

## **LI. THE UNMOVABLE TENT**

A tent looks:

Temporary.

But God says:

Its stakes will not be pulled.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

What God secures does not need to look impressive in order to be stable.

## **LII. THE BROAD RIVERS**

Jerusalem did not possess the great river systems of some major ancient cities.

But the Lord Himself becomes:

Its sufficiency.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God can compensate for every natural disadvantage.

## **LIII. NO ENEMY SHIP**

The river gives:

Life.

But enemy vessels cannot exploit it.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

God knows how to make blessing accessible to His people while restricting what would destroy them.

## LIV. JUDGE, LAWGIVER, KING

God is not:

One authority among many.

He is:

Ultimate authority.

### **Spiritual Principle**

His rule is complete because His character is completely righteous.

## LV. “HE WILL SAVE US”

This is the conclusion of all three offices.

Judge.

Lawgiver.

King.

And:

Savior.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

The One with the right to judge is also the One who provides salvation.

## LVI. THE LAME TAKE SPOIL

God reverses expectations.

Those thought:

Weak.

Participate in:

Victory.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Divine victory is not limited to human strength.

## **LVII. “I AM SICK” NO MORE**

The future vision removes:

Sickness.

Suffering.

Brokenness.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God’s final restoration reaches farther than temporary relief.

## **LVIII. INIQUITY FORGIVEN**

The chapter’s greatest problem is resolved at:

The deepest level.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Forgiveness is greater than military victory because it reconciles us to God.

# **LIX. NINE GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 33**

- 1. Destroyer → Destroyed**
- 2. Treachery → Divine Justice**
- 3. Human Weakness → Morning Strength**
- 4. Unstable Times → Sure Foundation**
- 5. Broken Covenants → God's Faithful Rule**
- 6. Terror → The King's Beauty**
- 7. Siege → Peaceful Zion**
- 8. Enemy Power → The Lord as King**
- 9. Sickness and Sin → Healing and Forgiveness**

## **Key Truth**

The chapter moves from treachery and instability toward righteousness, divine intervention, the beauty of the King, the security of Zion, and the final blessings of healing and forgiveness.

# **LX. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY**

## **Question 1**

What warning opens Isaiah 33?

The destroyer and treacherous person will eventually face destruction and betrayal.

## **Question 2**

What does God's people ask for in verse 2?

Grace, daily strength, and salvation in trouble.

## **Question 3**

When do they ask God to be their strength?

Every morning.

## **Question 4**

What happens when God rises?

Nations flee and peoples scatter.

## **Question 5**

What fills Zion?

Justice and righteousness.

## **Question 6**

What is God called in unstable times?

The sure foundation.

## **Question 7**

What treasures does God provide?

Salvation, wisdom, and knowledge.

## **Question 8**

What is called the key to this treasure?

The fear of the Lord.

## **Question 9**

What happens to the envoys of peace?

They weep because human peace efforts have failed.

## **Question 10**

What happens to the highways?

They become deserted.

## **Question 11**

What does God say in verse 10?

**“Now I will arise.”**

## **Question 12**

Who trembles before God’s holiness?

Sinners and hypocrites in Zion.

### **Question 13**

What kind of person can dwell securely before God?

One who walks righteously, speaks uprightly, rejects dishonest gain, refuses bribes, rejects bloodshed, and turns from evil.

### **Question 14**

What provision is promised to the upright?

Bread, water, refuge, and security.

### **Question 15**

What will the redeemed see?

The King in His beauty.

### **Question 16**

What happens to the fierce foreign oppressor?

He disappears from sight.

### **Question 17**

How is Jerusalem described?

As a peaceful dwelling and secure tent.

### **Question 18**

Who is Zion's Mighty One?

The Lord.

### **Question 19**

What three titles are given to God in verse 22?

Judge.

Lawgiver.

King.

### **Question 20**

What promise follows those titles?

**“He will save us.”**

## **Question 21**

Who participates in the victory?

Even the lame.

## **Question 22**

What will no resident of Zion say?

**“I am sick.”**

## **Question 23**

What happens to the people’s iniquity?

It is forgiven.

# **LXI. PERSONAL APPLICATION**

Isaiah 33 asks several searching questions.

## **Am I Trusting God for Strength Every Morning?**

Or do I try to live:

Today.

On:

Yesterday’s grace?

## **Is the Lord the Stability of My Times?**

What happens to my peace when:

Politics change?

Economies shift?

Plans fail?

People disappoint?

## **Do I Treasure the Fear of the Lord?**

Or do I treat reverence as:

Optional?

## **Am I Upright in My Finances?**

Would I accept:

Dishonest gain?

A bribe?

A deceptive advantage?

## **What Do I Allow My Ears to Enjoy?**

Violence?

Gossip?

Plots against others?

## **What Do I Allow My Eyes to Feed Upon?**

## **Do I Want Only God's Deliverance?**

Or do I also desire:

To see the King in His beauty?

## **Am I letting past terror dominate present faith?**

## **Do I believe God can make what feels fragile:**

Stable?

## **Can I say:**

“The Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us”?

## **Have I received His forgiveness?**

# **LXII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE**

## **“When the Times Are Unstable, God Himself Must Become the Stability of Your Times”**

Governments change.

Enemies rise.

Agreements fail.

Highways empty.

Land withers.

But:

God remains.

**Principle:**

**Faith does not require stable circumstances when it possesses a stable God.**

## **LXIII. THE DESTROYER'S END**

The destroyer thinks:

Destruction belongs to others.

Isaiah says:

Your turn comes.

**Spiritual Principle**

God's justice may be delayed.

It is not cancelled.

## **LXIV. MORNING-BY-MORNING STRENGTH**

God's people do not pray merely for:

One great act.

They pray for:

Daily strength.

**Crawford Bible Study Principle**

A lifetime of faithfulness is built from many mornings of dependence.

## **LXV. THE LORD DWELLS ON HIGH**

God is:

Exalted.

Yet still:

Near enough to save.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Transcendence does not make God distant from the cries of His people.

## **LXVI. STABILITY IN DIFFICULT TIMES**

God does not promise:

Unchanging circumstances.

He promises:

Himself.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Do not demand that the times become stable before allowing your faith to become stable.

## **LXVII. WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE**

Knowledge without:

Fear of God.

Can become:

Pride.

### **Spiritual Principle**

The highest wisdom begins with recognizing who God is.

## **LXVIII. FAILED PEACE AGREEMENTS**

Human agreements:

Break.

God's Word:

Does not.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Do not build eternal confidence upon temporary agreements.

## **LXIX. WHEN THE LAND MOURNS**

The visible world reflects:

Invisible spiritual crisis.

### **Spiritual Principle**

National and social health is not disconnected from righteousness.

## **LXX. GOD’S “NOW”**

The destroyer had:

A season.

Then God says:

Now.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

God’s silence should never be interpreted as surrender.

## **LXXI. CHAFF AND STUBBLE**

The enemy appears:

Substantial.

God says:

Chaff.

Stubble.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Divine perspective often reveals how fragile human arrogance really is.

## **LXXII. THE HYPOCRITE BEFORE FIRE**

Outward religion cannot:

Protect.

An inwardly rebellious heart.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

You cannot hide behind Zion while resisting the God of Zion.

## **LXXIII. THE RIGHTEOUS WALK**

Isaiah uses the word:

Walks.

Righteousness is:

A way of life.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Holiness is more than occasional behavior.

It is:

A path.

## **LXXIV. THE KING'S BEAUTY**

The future is not ultimately about:

Buildings.

Land.

Spoil.

It is about:

The King.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Heaven would not be heaven without the King.

## **LXXV. PAST TERROR BECOMES A QUESTION**

“Where is the scribe?”

“Where is the tax collector?”

“Where is the one who counted the towers?”

They are:

Gone.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Fear often looks permanent only while you are inside the crisis.

## **LXXVI. ZION'S UNBREAKABLE ROPES**

The tent survives because:

God secures it.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Weak-looking things can become unshakable in God's hands.

## **LXXVII. THE LORD AS OUR MIGHTY ONE**

God is not merely:

Present.

He is:

Mighty.

### **Spiritual Principle**

Divine presence without divine power would not be enough.

Isaiah promises:

Both.

## **LXXVIII. THE ONE TRUE GOVERNMENT**

Judge.

Lawgiver.

King.

All perfectly united in:

The Lord.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

Human government divides authority because humans are imperfect.

God requires no such safeguard against corruption because His character is perfectly holy.

## **LXXIX. SALVATION BELONGS TO THE LORD**

The chapter's political, military, and spiritual tensions converge in:

**“He will save us.”**

### **Spiritual Principle**

Salvation is not merely:

A doctrine.

It is:

God acting for His people.

## **LXXX. THE VICTORY OF THE WEAK**

Even the lame:

Carry spoil.

### **Crawford Bible Study Principle**

God enjoys accomplishing victories that make human strength impossible to worship.

## **LXXXI. HEALING AND FORGIVENESS TOGETHER**

The chapter ends with:

No sickness.

Forgiven iniquity.

### **Spiritual Principle**

God addresses both:

Consequences.

And:

Cause.

# **LXXXII. SEVEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 33**

## **1. The Destroyer Is Warned**

Treachery will be repaid.

## **2. Zion Prays**

God becomes morning strength and salvation.

## **3. Human Systems Fail**

Peace envoys weep and highways empty.

## **4. The Lord Arises**

Enemy pride collapses.

## **5. Holiness Is Revealed**

The hypocrite trembles and the upright stand secure.

## **6. The King Is Seen**

Terror gives way to beauty.

## **7. Zion Is Restored**

God reigns, saves, heals, and forgives.

### **Key Truth**

**Isaiah 33 moves from treachery, fear, and instability toward divine intervention, righteous living, the beauty of the King, the security of Zion, and the final blessings of salvation, healing, and forgiveness.**

# **LXXXIII. FINAL APPLICATION**

Isaiah Chapter 33 begins with:

A destroyer.

But it ends with:

A Savior.

It begins with:

Treachery.

It ends with:

Forgiveness.

It begins with:

Fear.

It ends with:

Peace.

That progression matters.

The destroyer thinks:

He controls history.

Isaiah says:

No.

When you finish:

Destroying.

You will be:

Destroyed.

God remains:

Judge.

Then the people pray:

**“Be our strength every morning.”**

That is a prayer worth carrying into:

Every day.

Not:

Strength once.

Strength:

Every morning.

Why?

Because:

Every morning has new burdens.

New decisions.

New temptations.

New fears.

New opportunities.

Then Isaiah says:

God will be:

**“The sure foundation of your times.”**

Not:

Your bank account.

Your government.

Your health.

Your plans.

Your reputation.

God.

That matters especially when:

Times feel unstable.

Then God says:

**“Now I will arise.”**

Maybe you have prayed and wondered:

When will God move?

Isaiah reminds us:

Silence is not surrender.

Delay is not absence.

The Lord knows when to say:

Now.

Then comes the great question:

Who can dwell with:

The consuming fire?

Isaiah's answer forces us to examine:

How we live.

Our:

Speech.

Money.

Integrity.

Response to bribes.

Attitude toward violence.

What we watch.

What we listen to.

Holiness reaches:

Every part of life.

Then suddenly Isaiah lifts our eyes:

**“Your eyes will see the King in His beauty.”**

That is greater than:

Escaping Assyria.

Greater than:

Restored highways.

Greater than:

Political stability.

The believer's deepest hope is:

The King.

Then Zion becomes:

Secure.

And the Lord is declared:

Judge.

Lawgiver.

King.

And Isaiah says:

**“He will save us.”**

Finally:

No sickness.

Forgiven iniquity.

This is salvation in its fullness.

Not merely:

Enemies defeated.

But:

People forgiven.

Therefore:

Wait for the Lord.

Ask for morning strength.

Fear Him as treasure.

Walk uprightly.

Reject dishonest gain.

Guard your ears.

Guard your eyes.

Do not let temporary terror become permanent faithlessness.

Look for:

The King.

And rest in this confession:

**“The Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us.”**

## **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Be gracious to us.

We wait for You.

Be our:

Strength every morning.

Salvation in every trouble.

When the times are:

Unstable.

Become the stability of our times.

Give us:

Wisdom.

Knowledge.

Salvation.

Teach us to treasure:

The fear of the Lord.

Father, when human plans fail:

Keep us from despair.

When peace agreements collapse:

Remind us that Your Word remains.

When enemies seem powerful:

Remind us that when You arise:

Nations scatter.

Father, make us people who:

Walk righteously.

Speak uprightly.

Reject dishonest gain.

Refuse bribes.

Turn away from bloodshed.

Guard our ears.

Guard our eyes.

Purify our hearts so we may live in reverence before:

Your holiness.

Father, thank You for the promise that:

We will see the King in His beauty.

Lift our eyes above:

Fear.

Politics.

Conflict.

Loss.

And fix them upon:

You.

Thank You that You are:

Our Judge.

Our Lawgiver.

Our King.

Our Savior.

Bring peace to Your people.

Give security where there has been fear.

Bring healing where there has been sickness.

And above all:

Forgive our iniquity.

May our lives rest upon this confidence:

You will save us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## Key Verse

**“For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us.” — Isaiah 33:22**

## Central Truth

**Though treacherous powers destroy and human systems fail, the Lord remains the sure foundation of His people's times, providing daily strength, wisdom, justice, protection, and salvation; He calls His people to righteous living, reveals the beauty of the King, secures Zion in His presence, and brings His redeemed people into healing and forgiveness.**

# Isaiah 33 in One Sentence

**Isaiah warns that the treacherous destroyer will himself be destroyed, calls God's people to wait on the Lord for daily strength, declares Him the stability and treasure of Zion, describes the terror of sinners before His holiness and the security of the upright, promises that the redeemed will see the King in His beauty, and concludes that the Lord as Judge, Lawgiver, and King will save, heal, and forgive His people.**