

Is. 33:13 ¶ "You who are far away, hear what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might."

Verses 13-16 contrast the remnant (Jews who are believers) with the nonremnant (Jews who are unbelievers). Verse 13 encourages the acknowledgement of God's *might*, which the remnant will do at the end of the Tribulation. (The notes associated with Isaiah 10:20 give more details concerning the remnant.)

Is. 33:14 Sinners in Zion are terrified; Trembling has seized the godless. "Who among us can live with the consuming fire? Who among us can live with continual burning?"

The nonremnant (the Jews who are unbelievers) will be *terrified* and totally unable to cope with the conditions brought about by the Tribulation. They will wonder *Who...can* possibly live in the midst of such trying circumstances.

Is. 33:15 He who walks righteously, and speaks with sincerity, He who rejects unjust gain, And shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe; He who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from looking upon evil;

Only those who walk *righteously*, speak *with sincerity*, reject *unjust gain...*, *hold no bribe*, and guard their *ears* and *eyes* will be capable of enduring the Tribulation. Those described here will be Jews who try to live by the Mosaic Law during the Tribulation, many of which will be Orthodox. They will not enter into the covenant with the Antichrist (they make up roughly one *third* of the Jewish population that will not accept Christ until the end of the Tribulation), and will be a part of the believing remnant that will call Christ back at His Second Coming. *Two parts* (*two-thirds*) of the Jews will die during the Tribulation (Zechariah 13:8), most of which will be unbelievers.

Is. 33:16 He will dwell on the heights; His refuge will be the impregnable rock; His bread will be given him; His water will be sure.

Verse 16 addresses the remnant that flees to a place of *refuge* during the second half of the Tribulation. Many of the Jews seeking this refuge will be Orthodox (Jews who incorrectly believe that one attains a righteous standing before God through keeping the Law) until they accept Christ at the end of the Tribulation. This remnant *will dwell on the heights* where they will be supernaturally supplied with *bread* and *water* for three and a half years (the notes associated with Isaiah 41:17-20 and 65:13 address this same subject). This place of refuge is *Bozrah*, a mountainous *wilderness* (for more input read Isaiah 41:17-20, 65:13, Matthew 24:15-16, Revelation 12:6 and 13-14, as well as the notes associated with Isaiah 11:11).

Is. 33:17 ¶ Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; They will behold a far-distant land.

The remnant that survives the Tribulation (all of which will be believers) will see Jesus, *the King in His beauty*. They will also *behold a far-distant land*, the entire land of Canaan originally promised to Abraham in Genesis 15:18. Up to this point the nation will have failed to control and occupy this land in its totality.

Is. 33:18 Your heart will meditate on terror: "Where is he who counts? Where is he who weighs? Where is he who counts the towers?"

The enemy, having been destroyed, will be nothing more than a memory.

Is. 33:19 You will no longer see a fierce people, A people of unintelligible speech which no one comprehends, Of a stammering tongue which no one understands.

Due to the fact that all enemies from among the Gentile nations will be annihilated, the believing remnant will no longer be subject to Gentile enemies speaking languages they cannot understand.

Is. 33:20 Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes shall see Jerusalem an undisturbed habitation, A tent which shall not be folded, Its stakes shall never be pulled up Nor any of its cords be torn apart.

Verses 20 and 21 deal with the conditions that will exist in *Jerusalem* during the Millennium. (Isaiah 52, 60, 62, 65 and 66 address this same subject.) *Jerusalem* will be an *undisturbed habitation*, observing the *appointed feasts*.

Is. 33:21 But there the majestic One, the Lord, shall be for us A place of rivers and wide canals, On which no boat with oars shall go, And on which no mighty ship shall pass--

Jesus, *the majestic One*, will dwell and reign from Millennial *Jerusalem* (also read Isaiah 2:2-4 Zechariah 8:3, 22 and 14:16-17). *Rivers and wide canals* will exist in the city, but no *mighty ship* (warship) will travel these waters. Obviously, this occurs only after the topography of the land is drastically changed as a result of the massive earthquake addressed in Zechariah 14:4-5 and Revelation 16:18-19. These *waters* will *flow* from the Millennial temple and travel south to *Jerusalem*, where they will divide and purify the *Dead Sea* as well as the *Mediterranean Sea* (Ezekiel 47:1-12; Zechariah 14:8).

Is. 33:22 For the Lord is our judge, The Lord is our lawgiver, The Lord is our king; He will save us--

The *king* is the same *king* as that of Isaiah 32:1, who is also *judge* and *lawgiver*. *He will save* His people because His reign is characterized by *justice and righteousness* (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Is. 33:23 Your tackle hangs slack; It cannot hold the base of its mast firmly, Nor spread out the sail. Then the prey of an abundant spoil will be divided; The lame will take the plunder.

The enemy will be destroyed, and *The lame of Israel will take the plunder.*

Is. 33:24 And no resident will say, "I am sick"; The people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity.

The Jews, as well as all believers who inhabit the Millennium, will avoid sickness. Their sins *will be forgiven* as a result of believing in Jesus as Messiah. Obviously, the events of this chapter relate to the end times and not to the Assyrian aggression against Judah in Isaiah's day.

Isaiah 34

Is. 34:1 Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it.

Verses 1-3 deal with all the *nations* who gather for The Campaign of Armageddon. They are called *to hear and listen* to what God has to say. Note: You might want to read the notes associated with Isaiah 13:3 relating to The Campaign of Armageddon.

Is. 34:2 For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter.

Verse 2 deals with the Lord's anger and *wrath* to be displayed *against all the nations* during The Campaign of Armageddon. The phrase, "*utterly destroyed*," from the Hebrew word "charam," can be interpreted, "to exterminate." It can also mean, "to ban," as was the case with Jericho, for all its articles were *under the ban* (Joshua 7:1) and destined for destruction. Therefore, the *armies of all the nations* will be exterminated at Christ's Second Coming, which is reiterated in verse 3.

Is. 34:3 So their slain will be thrown out, And their corpses will give off their stench, And the mountains will be drenched with their blood.

The *armies* (v.2) of *the nations* will be destroyed when Christ returns (notice that it is the *armies of the nations* that are destroyed and not every individual within those nations). According to verse 3, *their slain will be thrown out*, and a horrible odor will spring forth when *the mountains* are *drenched with their blood*. This is described further in Joel 3:12-13 as well as Revelation 14:19-20.

Is. 34:4 And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree.

The judgments of the Tribulation are also directed toward *all the host of heaven* (also read Revelation 6:12-14). In fact, at the end of the Tribulation the present *heavens* will be renovated, a topic that is discussed in more depth in the notes associated with Isaiah 65:17.

Is. 34:5 For My sword is satiated in heaven, Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom, And upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.

Verses 5 and 6 of Isaiah 34 forever settle the location of the Second Coming (note the word "*descend*"—v.5), the location being the city of Bozrah in the land of Edom, located in modern

day southern Jordan. This means that all the armies of the nations will have their sights set on Bozrah when Christ returns to deliver His people (Micah 2:12—“*fold*” meaning “Bozrah” or “Petra,” a city in the territory of *Edom*). This is also confirmed in Isaiah 63:1-6, where Christ is described as *Marching* from *Bozrah* after warring against His enemies. The Antichrist and his armies will be gathered at this location to try to further the annihilation of the Jews—who have been living in Bozrah, within *Edom*, as a place of refuge. The notes associated with Isaiah 33:16 tie in well here.

Is. 34:6 The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, It is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah, And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

As was stated in the notes associated with verse 5, *Bozrah* is located in ancient *Edom* (modern day southern Jordan). The destruction of the armies of the Antichrist is described as *a sacrifice* of God here in verse 6 as well as Ezekiel 39:17-20 and Zephaniah 1:7-8.

Is. 34:7 Wild oxen shall also fall with them, And young bulls with strong ones; Thus their land shall be soaked with blood, And their dust become greasy with fat.

Obviously, the sacrifice in *Edom* will be massive, all brought about by the judgments associated with the Second Coming of Christ.

Is. 34:8 For the Lord has a day of vengeance, A year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

Verses 8-15 give much detail concerning *Edom's* devastation during the Millennium. Christ's return is described as *a day of vengeance* and *A year of recompense*. All Gentile nations will be judged, *Edom* in particular, due to her persecution of the Jews in ages past. Again we see God's commitment to the Abrahamic Covenant—*And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse* (Genesis 12:3).

Is. 34:9 And its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its loose earth into brimstone, And its land shall become burning pitch.

Edom will burn throughout the Millennium (as will *Babylon*—Isaiah 13:19-22; Jeremiah 50:39-40; 51:41-43; Revelation 19:3). Jeremiah 49:13 confirms as well that *Bozrah*, within *Edom*, will become perpetual ruins.

Is. 34:10 It shall not be quenched night or day; Its smoke shall go up forever; From generation to generation it shall be desolate; None shall pass through it forever and ever.

Edom will be *desolate* throughout the Millennium, for as we discovered in Isaiah 32:14, the word “*forever*” means, “to the end of the age,” or, “the end of a dispensation.” No human will inhabit it.

Is. 34:11 But pelican and hedgehog shall possess it, And owl and raven shall dwell in it; And He shall stretch over it the line of desolation And the plumb line of emptiness.

Due to the massive *desolation* of *Edom*, only demons (as confirmed by verse 14) will inhabit it throughout the Millennium (the same can be said of *Babylon*—Isaiah 13:19-22; Jeremiah 50:39-40; Revelation 18:1-2). We will observe as we continue that the creatures mentioned here must be demons and not normal animals.

Is. 34:12 Its nobles-- there is no one there Whom they may proclaim king-- And all its princes shall be nothing.

The royalty within Edom will disappear, leaving it void of leadership.

Is. 34:13 And thorns shall come up in its fortified towers, Nettles and thistles in its fortified cities; It shall also be a haunt of jackals And an abode of ostriches.

Again we see that Edom will become desolate. The creatures mentioned here must be demons, as is indicated by verse 14.

Is. 34:14 And the desert creatures shall meet with the wolves, The hairy goat also shall cry to its kind; Yes, the night monster shall settle there And shall find herself a resting place.

The phrase, "hairy goat," can actually be interpreted, "demon goat"—"a demon that appears as a goat." Therefore, the *creatures* mentioned in verses 11, 13, and 14 must be demons; for even in the book of Revelation demons are characterized as *creatures* that are familiar to man (Revelation 9:1-11). It is interesting that the Church of Satan has as its symbol a goat's head.

The phrase, "night monster," is from the Hebrew word "Lilith" which, based on the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, is interpreted "night hag"—"a kind of demon found in deserted places." Isaiah 34:14 is the only place in the Scriptures where we find the word "Lilith." Lilith, according to Jewish myth, was Adam's first wife until God created Eve. Now, as a female demon (according to the same myth), she seeks to hurt and destroy Jewish children through disease, illness, and death.

It is obvious to me that no human could inhabit Edom during the Millennium, and that only demons will be capable of surviving such an environment.

Is. 34:15 The tree snake shall make its nest and lay eggs there, And it will hatch and gather them under its protection. Yes, the hawks shall be gathered there, Every one with its kind.

"Snake" must also make reference to demons. Taking into consideration what we learned in Isaiah 13 concerning *Babylon*, both Edom and *Babylon* will be inhabited by demons throughout the Millennium.

What is sad about this scenario is that Edom was made up of the descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother. Jacob's name was changed to Israel, and his descendants are the Jews. Esau's descendants became the Edomites. Because the Edomites have displayed a great deal of hostility toward the Jews, they will be cursed during the Millennium in fulfillment of Genesis 12:3. What God does next (Isaiah 34:16-35:10), through the prophet Isaiah, is describe the blessings that will come Israel's way after she had repented and accepted Christ as Messiah.

Is. 34:16 ¶ Seek from the book of the Lord, and read: Not one of these will be missing; None will lack its mate. For His mouth has commanded, And His Spirit has gathered them.

God will see to it that every word of every prophecy will be fulfilled through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Is. 34:17 And He has cast the lot for them, And His hand has divided it to them by line. They shall possess it forever; From generation to generation they shall dwell in it.

The Jews will *possess* the *land* just as God previously promised Abraham in Genesis 15:18. God is so committed to this promise that He went to the trouble of describing in detail the boundaries of the tribal territories during the Millennium (read Ezekiel 48). What a God of detail we serve!