

Isaiah 33:17-24—Behold Your Beautiful King

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Oliver and his brothers are being raised in a time of increasing attack on Christian living. With great force, the provincial and federal governments and our courts want to tell you what you should and should not teach your children, how you should and should not discipline your children, what you should feed or not feed your children, what you must do for their health, and what kind of social activities are proper for your children. They want you to take your eyes off of your heavenly Father and look to them for help. Sadly, in order to fit in, many in the church have simply acquiesced 默许 to these social and political demands. For example: Some in church want to dress the way the world does, talk the way the world does, watch the same movies the world does, and imitate the way the world lives. Inevitably, worship becomes a low priority. Even Christian parents have followed the ways of the world and put more emphasis on accumulating their own retirement savings rather than investing in the teaching and discipline of their children. Those parents follow the world. These actions have neutralized 中立 the church – made it weak- and she doesn't even know it. The church should have been the head, but it is becoming the tail. Yet, there is hope. You will hear God's call to look back to him for hope and guidance for the preservation and propagation of the church. **If you look to God with a dedicated focus again, he will remove your enemies and restore your worship.**

Our headings are: Look to Your Beautiful King who will Remove your Enemies, and Look to Your Beautiful King who will Restore your worship.

Our goals are: That, you **will turn your eyes to the Lord who bought you with his blood– and take the time to turn you children's eyes to the Lord – who is their only help in a world that is becoming increasingly hostile.**

Look to Your Beautiful King who Will Remove Your Enemies

1. Sennacherib the Assyrian King came against Judah to intimidate 威吓 her into abandoning her worship of Jehovah and surrender to him the Holy Land – the land in which Christ will come. Because many of the Jews were wicked and did not hold on to the promises of God, only having **a cloak of profession**, they feared Sennacherib. God gave them over to fear. They saw the Assyrians ready to burn Jerusalem to the ground and they could escape to Egypt. Isaiah 33:14 The **sinners in Zion are afraid**; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring 吞灭 fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?" God had threatened execution but it did not make them repent. So God brought the guillotine 断头台 in front of their eyes. The Assyrians always burned the temples of the people they conquered and scattered 分散 the people, if they did not kill them. The Assyrians were the ones, who, when they captured a nation, crushed the heads of the children they capture against brick wall...and all for fun. The Assyrians were God's rod. Judah' fear was understandable. God was going to destroy the Jewish fake religion. On the other hand, **there some Jews who** had remained faithful. These are the ones God addressed here. The Assyrians didn't care who was godly or who wasn't, but God cared.

17 **Your eyes will see** the King in His beauty. They will **see the land that is very far off.**

2.The godly will see the King of beauty.

a. Who are the godly? The ones who did not compromise with sin.

Isaiah 33:15 He who **walks righteously** and **speaks uprightly**, He who **despises the gain of oppressions** 不义, 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 high; His place of defense will be the fortress 坚固 of rocks; Bread will be given him, His water will be sure.

These are the ones who feared God and served man.

b. Who is this King of beauty that the godly will see? It seemed to be Hezekiah in the context, but the true King of Beauty was Jesus Christ. Consider 2 passages that show his beauty.

Songs of Solomon 5:16 His mouth *is* most sweet, Yes, he *is* altogether lovely. This *is* my beloved, And this *is* my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!

Revelation 4:3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone 碧玉和红宝石 in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald 绿宝石.

c. **What characterized this King of beauty?** The Lord is not just beautiful in his looks, but he is more often described as **beautiful in his works**. He will **rule well over his people**. He will **destroy his people's enemies**. In our context today, the Assyrians were next in line. Jesus Christ had **already set them free from their spiritual siege** 围城...and now he will **protect them from their physical siege**. But it didn't stop there. After destroying the Assyrians, the Lord continued his work of **putting all his enemies under his feet**. This is what the phrase "They will see the land that is very far off" means. The King's **army will expand**. The Lord sent his disciples to **conquer the**

world! Y Matthew 28. You are part of this work today.

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

The people of John's day were fearful of the future, so the Lord showed him the glorious future of believers. Do you see why Oliver need not panic?

18 Your heart will meditate on terror: "Where is the scribe 记数目的? Where is he who weighs 称贡银的? Where is he who counts the towers?"

3. This verse is parenthetical. Later, after God destroyed Assyria, the godly will reflect on the terror when the Assyrians besieged 围攻 them. They will remember asking for:

- The Scribe who made a list of the soldiers who were ready to fight and gathered them, but the godly needed none.
- The "weigh-er" who was the one who set the money out to pay for the cost of the war, but the godly needed none.
- The "tower-counters" who surveyed the city towers and made sure they were secure for war. But they godly needed none.

19 **You will not see a fierce people**, A people of **obscure 深奥 speech**, beyond perception 难以明白 Of a stammering 舌头结巴 tongue that you cannot understand.

4. Your beautiful King will destroy the fierce Assyrians. All you will hear from them are groans. They **won't even be able to speak their wild** accusations as they did before. Hear some!

2Kings 18:33 'Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? 34 'Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand? 35 'Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?' 36 But the people held their peace and answered him not a word; for Hezekiah's commandment was, "Do not answer him."

2Kings 19:32 "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: 'He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it. 35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.

Further, God made the Jews rich off of the Assyrians. The Assyrians meant it for evil, but **God used it for good.**

5. See why there was **no need to compromise** – to give in to the world – just as Israel rested in Jehovah before the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.

Look to Your Beautiful King who will Restore your Worship

20 Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes will see Jerusalem, **a quiet home**, A tabernacle 帐幕 that will not be taken down; **Not one of its stakes** will ever be removed, Nor will any of its **cords 绳索 be broken**.

1. Your beautiful King will restore and retain worship and all the appointed feasts: The Burn offering, the Grain Offering, the Peace Offering, the Sin Offering, the Trespass Offerings, and the morning and evening sacrifices. **But you see the ultimate fulfillment of the Tabernacle of Jesus Christ** (John 1). No one was able and no one is able to bring down God's church and stop his worship. Many have tried and many have died. The gates of hell cannot prevail against it. No Assyrian can. No Government of Ontario can. No Supreme Court can. Anything that stands in the way of God's church he will remove. He loves you enough to kill for you. Hebrews 11:9.

Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

This means Ryan and Kristin and anyone with kids need not fear as you raise your children – in spite of an anti-Christian government or judiciary 司法 God will care for you as you remain faithful to him and keep your eyes on him. He gives his angels charge over you. There are more for us than those who are against us. No one – no government- can stop God's worship. So keep your eyes on Jesus. Ignore the lies of weak civil governments or laugh at social pressures. If you don't look to Jesus you will compromise...and worship the world's idols.

2. Your beautiful King – the Prince of Peace - will bring peace again to Jerusalem. It wasn't Hezekiah. **Not one piece of the land will be taken-the** boundary stakes will remain. The cords that held down the temple will not be cut. So the tent will remain. "Tent" is used figuratively of the temple of God. When men worship Jehovah he blesses them with peace. And remember that peace is not brought about by weapons-at least not fleshly weapon-but by Sword of Christ and the

Spirit of Christ. The King of Beauty sent his Word and Spirit to do this work. This is the only way for peace. This is the way God has ordained it.

21 But there the majestic **LORD will be for us**. A place of broad rivers and streams, In which no galley with oars 荡桨船 will sail, Nor majestic ships pass by **23 Your tackle is loosed 松开, They could not strengthen their mast 桅杆, They could not spread the sail...**

3. Your beautiful King will restore protection. He will be a broad river. Broad rivers are natural barriers from enemy attacks. This was a wonderful picture as Jerusalem had land all around and could be attacked. So here God reminded them that none of the weapons formed against his church will prosper. Their ships will fall apart because they cannot cross the wide river. The enemies will think they were “all that” – invincible, but their weapons will be broken. Today there are many who put their faith in their philosophy (Like: It is easier to stop tomorrow than to stop **communism**.) There are others who posit **human reason** as their highest achievement so they reject the truth of God’s Word. They can’t verify God’s truth in a lab so they reject it. They are others who think the civil government is the savior, but how disappointed they will be. Others want **to join a religion** because it is growing faster...but like the Assyrians, all will be beaten back to nothing. Remember, some trust in chariots 战车 and some in horses...but Oliver will remember the name of the Lord his God...the God who will protect him. The Lord who will crush those who reject his offer of peace and save his people.

23...Then the prey of great plunder 掠夺 is divided; The lame take the prey.

4 Your beautiful King will bring plunder-the spoils of war-things for which the Assyrians had worked-and gave them even to the poor, but faithful Jews – the lame.

22 (For the **LORD is our Judge**, The **LORD is our Lawgiver**, The **LORD is our King**; He will save us);

5. Here is another parenthetical verse. **Look at the Trinitarian 三一 formula.** Isaiah pointed out that it was God’s 3-fold covenant relationship with his people that caused him act. He graciously continued to judge their affairs ...always fairly. God’s Word was their law. They could worship him for his law. They could rest in God’s protection.

24 And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick"; The people who dwell in it **will be forgiven their iniquity.**

6. Instead of getting sick from the long siege, the Jews would be healthy and strong. The ones who were struggling to obey would find forgiveness. On what basis would they be forgiven? They would be forgiven because they looked to Jesus Christ when he destroyed their ultimate enemy on the cross. This was the key. Sin is sickness in the soul. Christ’s sacrifice removed sin permanently 永久的 Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Psalm 128:5 The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life. **6** Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

Conclusion:

The godly Jews witnessed a great salvation. They did not compromised 妥协 with the wicked, and for their sakes, the nation was preserved. The Lord forgave the weak ones as well as they looked to him for forgiveness. The Jews were saved by Christ, not Hezekiah.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. Like the Jews of Hezekiah’s day, **you and your children will face increasing attacks to compromise and sin:** “Live like the world. Pursue the things the world does. Dress like the world. Be self-absorbed as the world. Talk like the world talks.” But you don’t have to. 2. You must **keep your eyes on Jesus.** Listen to him. Talk to him. He will show you the deceptive traps of the Devil. **He will give you the strength to say “no” to compromise** with sin. And ultimately, **he will destroy your enemies.** He has **already destroyed your greatest enemies**-death and hell. When you keep your eyes on Jesus through trials **you will come out as purified gold.** **3. Take the time to teach your children so that they don’t fall for the lies of this world and be destroyed.**

Finally, if you are not a Christian, let me tell you that God is a consuming fire-an eternal consuming fire for those who set themselves against him. But he calls to you today: Come to me, and I will give you rest.