

OT 651 Isaiah
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What is one new thing you learned?

Isaiah 32: 1-8:

The Kingdom of Righteousness

32 See, a king will reign in righteousness
and rulers will rule with justice.

² Each one will be like a shelter from the wind
and a refuge from the storm,
like streams of water in the desert
and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land.

³ Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed,
and the ears of those who hear will listen.

⁴ The fearful heart will know and understand,
and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear.

⁵ No longer will the fool be called noble
nor the scoundrel be highly respected.

⁶ For fools speak folly,
their hearts are bent on evil:
They practice ungodliness
and spread error concerning the LORD;
the hungry they leave empty
and from the thirsty they withhold water.

⁷ Scoundrels use wicked methods,
they make up evil schemes
to destroy the poor with lies,
even when the plea of the needy is just.

⁸ But the noble make noble plans,
and by noble deeds they stand.

This chapter spoke to me the most as I was reading because Isaiah comes to the point in the text where after hearing about false leaders in Chapters 28-29, Chapters 30-31 spoke of false counsel, we learn of the true leader and the characteristics of his reign (Oswalt, 362). God has carefully laid out the ways of a leader if only we would take the time to pray for the wisdom contemporary leaders need.

A leader is expected to rule with righteousness and rulers are to rule with justice (32:1). God had given laws and standards by which leaders were to ascribe to as they ruled people and government. Righteousness and justice ensure that all members of a society are protected

morally, treated with mercy and compassion. Leaders today could glean a lot from this text. God expects righteousness in His people and that includes leaders. Justice is to be brought forth also with compassion and equality which clearly isn't happening then or now.

Verses 2-7 go on to explain the blessings and bounty that comes both to the leader and his kingdom. When our hearts are pure and we seek and practice the will of God, it can only bring blessing, honor, and grace which God is more than willing to bestow upon His people then and now. Spiritual blindness will disappear, foolishness will be dissipated, no longer noble yet the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized will be exalted. God is going to restore order in creation through His leaders. This also serves in my opinion as a possible warning that if these tenets do not occur, God will judge leaders for their disobedience. There is no more room for ungodliness, sin nor disobedience; it is time for the humble to be exalted and the pure of heart to take care of each other according to the will of God.

The rest of Chapter 32 goes on to appeal to the women of Jerusalem expressing the urgency of the climate. Isaiah is issuing the message that we still have time to get it right, to use what he has said from "Thus saith the Lord". This text also offers a glimpse into the future for Israel and the soon coming King who will fulfill this prophecy and the Word of God.