

We have seen that the immediate teaching of chapter 33 relates entirely to the days of Hezekiah. Yet few chapters of the Bible have more vital lessons for us today. All the principles which characterized God's dealings with His people then are true today. If we trust in Him and obey Him, He is ready to deliver us from every evil and to bless us with all spiritual and material blessings. When everything looks black, He can drive away the clouds by His marvelous power, and give us deliverance far beyond what we could ask or think. Yet our life here is only a pilgrimage journey. What really matters is that we have Him for our lawgiver and king, and that through Christ we be forgiven our iniquity.

Isaiah 34-35

Isaiah 34

In this entire section of the book of Isaiah (chs. 28-35), we have seen the great importance of the historical background. The prophet has repeatedly concerned himself with events of his own day, and has described God's will in relation to them. Every now and then these events have been a starting point from which he has looked into the far distant future and has told how God will manifest His righteousness and His love in days to come. Hardly a chapter can be fully understood without careful consideration of the immediate situation.

Chapters 34 and 35 are quite different. As the climax and conclusion of the section, they contain very little which relates directly to the immediate historical situation. Instead, the prophet gives a view of great future events and holds them up before the eyes of God's people for their encouragement and comfort.

The two chapters form companion pictures. Chapter 34 shows God's judgment upon all the evil forces of the world, and describes His overthrow of a great coalition of wicked nations at the end of the age. Chapter 35 shows the ultimate glory and blessing which God will provide for His own.

Chapter 34 begins with a ringing call to all the nations to come together and see the results of God's indignation against the evil forces that oppose Him. It is His desire that all the