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You Women Who Are So Complacent

32: 9-14

You women who are so complacent DIG: Up to this point, how have the men responded to Isaiah’s message (see 28:7-10)? Why might he be turning to the women at this time? What does he anticipate for them? What does he mean by the thorns and briars (see 1:7, 5:6, 7:23, 27:4)? What is wrong with the revelry and merriment over which he calls the women to mourn (see 22:12-13)?

REFLECT: What is the difference between “security” in God’s love and “complacency” that you are in the right? Are you at ease because you think you can manipulate ADONAI? Or because you are resting in Him? Are you merely going about your business as if everything will remain the same? How can you be sure that you have the correct view of the events in this world? What lights your path?

The righteous **far eschatological** Kingdom described in **32:1-8** will be preceded by judgment. **ADONAI** has every intention of providing a final restoration, but judgment for sin was demanded first. As in the previous chapters, **Isaiah** alternates between **the near historical** invasion of **Assyria** in **32:9-14** and **the far eschatological** righteous Messianic Kingdom of **32:15-20**; between **the LORD’s** indignation of one nation and **God’s** anger with all nations. Here **Isaiah** reverts back to **the** present **Assyrian** threat and points out another area of sin that must be punished, the false security of **Judah’s women** (**to see link click [Av - The Women of Zion Are Haughty](#)**). **They** were probably representative of the attitude of **Judah** in general.



You women who are so complacent, rise up and listen to me; you daughters who feel secure, hear what I have to say (32:9). He calls these **Jewish women to listen and to hear.** While there is nothing inherently wrong with ease and security, **they** are destructive when based on a false premise (**Amos 6:1**). **Those women** were living in such a self-confident state that **they** failed to see the coming judgment and the calamity that would come with it. Throughout the Scriptures, the recurring question is, where is your trust? And if the answer is anything other than **ADONAI**, you are in for trouble.

The devastation would begin soon, in **little more than a year** Assyria would invade Judah in 701 BC. At that time, those very **women** who felt so **secure** would **tremble. The grape harvest would fail and the harvest of fruit would not come (32:10).** So, the first evidence of judgment would be the failing **harvest of the grapes** and other **fruit** as **the Assyrians** would overrun **their** fields. It is as if **Isaiah** was saying, “You may rejoice now, but what about next year when the harvest fails?” It is easy to trust in our circumstances, assuming everything will go unchanged. Trust in **God**, however, raises us above our circumstances. I know that is easy to do. Faith, in the face of calamity, can only be seen in a relationship with **the LORD** that is so strong that it overcomes fear. And even then, we may have to say to **Jesus**, “**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief**” (**Mark 9:24**).

The prophet called on the **women** to begin to mourn for the land about which they feel so confident. **Tremble, you complacent women; shudder, you daughters**

who feel secure! The harvest time was supposed to be especially joyful. Here, **Isaiah's** words would have been especially painful. Particularly in happy times, we do not like to be reminded that death stares us all in the face. **God's prophet** would not let **the women** of **Judah** escape the reality of the coming judgment. Therefore, because of the coming disaster, the **women** are told to **strip off** their **clothes and put** on **sackcloth around** their **waists (32:11)**.

*The people of Noah's day displayed the same attitude and so, according to **Jesus**, will those who live in the last days before **His** return. False security is a constant problem, and it is the way of wicked people to indulge in it even when disaster is staring them in the face. It is a way of avoiding the necessity of coming to terms with reality.¹¹²*

The grape harvest was the basis of **their** economy, and its failure would cause **Judah's women** to mourn for the land in which **they** had placed **their** confidence. **Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vines (32:12)**. It seems that it was common for **men** in the ancient Near East to **beat** upon **their breasts and put sackcloth around their waists** as a gesture used in lamentation to express exceeding great grief and sorrow (**Luke 18:13**)

And for the land of My people, a land overgrown with thorns and briars - yes, mourn for all houses of merriment and for this city of revelry (32:13). The phrase, **and for the land of my people**, makes it very clear that just because **the Jews** might be called **the people of God**, **He** is not some lucky charm for **them (Jeremiah 7:4)**. **They** do not have some kind of magical claim to **Him**. **The pleasant fields** and **the good vines** could be **overgrown with thorns and briars** as quickly as any other place whose people were out of harmony with **God**. Elsewhere in **1:7, 5:6, 7:23, and 27:4** the terms **briars and thorns** are used. But here **Isaiah** reverses them and uses **thorns and briars**, which is the phrase used in **Genesis 3:18** with respect to the curse on **the land**.

The climax of the mourning is reached in this verse. Why the mourning? Because **Jerusalem** would become empty. Perhaps most significantly, **the fortress**, or the palace will be empty. There would be no earthly king in Judah. It was as if **Isaiah** was saying, "No, the Kingdom I am talking about will not be brought in by people going about their business as usual." **The** gutless, scheming **leaders of Judah** described in **Chapters 28-31** would not bring in a new day. **They** would bring disaster.

The Assyrian advance was *the beginning* of the end for **Jerusalem**. **The City** of David would fall to the Babylonians 115 years later in 586 BC. Therefore, **Isaiah** was not saying that the judgment would be completed in **little more than a year** but that it would *begin* in **little more than a year**. **In the near historical future, the fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted (Lamentations 1:1); the citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for unfettered flocks (32:14)**. This was foretold in **6:11-13**, implied in **11:11**, and predicted again in **30:8-17**. The general sense one gets is that, what was formerly cultivated, now has become **a wasteland**.

Olam, the Hebrew word **forever**, does not always carry the same weight as the English word “forever.” In the next section we learn that eventually **the Holy Spirit** will be **poured out upon Israel and the people of God will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest (32:15-20)**. Consequently, it is obvious that **Isaiah** saw a day when the desolation would cease. Therefore, it is better to understand *olam* here as meaning *for a long intermediate time*.

The women and men of **Judah** had lost **their** way. **They** were looking to the world for help (**First John 2:15-17**). So how can you be sure that you do not go in the wrong direction in your life? The Bible teaches us that **God’s Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path (Psalm 119:105)**. Recognizing that **His Word** was **his light** to direct **him (119:130 and Proverbs 6:23)**, **the psalmist** vowed to **follow** it (**Psalm 119:105-106**). How about you? Is it easy? No, the world, our flesh and the devil tempt us (**James 1:13-15**). But is it worth it? Read on.