

Isaiah 33:13-22

In **Exodus 19:5-6**, God said, "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."

This Haftarah expands on what His covenant and his kingdom entails, and its final fulfillment:

God speaks to the faithful:

Isaiah 33:13 - "You who are far away, listen to what I have done! You who are close by, recognize my strength!"

Rashi - "You far-off ones": Those who believe in Me and do My will from their youth. "you near ones": Repentant sinners who have recently drawn near to Me.

Spiritually, this could also refer to believers in Isaiah's time, and to believers through the ages.

Isaiah 33:14 - "The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites."

Rashi - i.e., "Afraid" of how they would find an opening to repent.

Then they ask a question:

"Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?"

Better translated as, "Who will stand up for us against a consuming fire? Who will stand up for us against the everlasting fires?"

The answer is "He who walks righteously." This can only be the Messiah.

Isaiah 33:15-16 - "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure."

With Messiah "standing up" for repentant believers, they shall see the New Jerusalem:

Isaiah 33:20 - "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken."

The Lord will "rule there as our mighty king."

Isaiah 33:21 - But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. (i.e. no war galleys, Jerusalem will be safe from any attack).

See **Revelation 21 and 22** - The New Jerusalem