

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”**  
**August 16, 2016**

**Isaiah 33-34.** Promises and judgments.

**Luke 11:37–12:21.** Jesus’ denunciation of the religious hypocrites.

**Job 8:1–10.** Bildad blames Job’s children for their deaths.

**COMMENTS:**

**Isaiah 33-34.** In **chapter 33** we have several promises and judgements of God upon Judah. **Isaiah 33:2** records the prayer of the godly remnant when Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrian army: *Isaiah 33:2, O LORD, be gracious to us; we have waited for Thee. Be Thou their strength every morning, Our salvation also in the time of distress.* Assyria was proud of her power and the spoils she had gathered in battle. The Assyrian army swept through the land like devouring “locusts,” but that would change. The day would come when Judah would strip the dead Assyrian army and Sennacherib would be assassinated in the temple of the god he claimed was stronger than Yahweh (**33:36–38**). The Lord is exalted in the defeat of Assyria (**33:5**), for no human wisdom or power could have done what God does. We must remember that both nations and individuals can have stability in uncertain times, but only when they are properly related to God by seeking His wisdom. What an encouragement to know that regardless who becomes our President, God is in control. Note the promise in **Isaiah 33:6** *And He shall be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; The fear of the LORD is his treasure.* What a foundation! The only true foundation! Without the Lord, without the wisdom and knowledge that we gain from the Lord, there is no stability—period! As a matter of fact, all that we are, and all that we do is a total waste apart from the Lord. We are absolutely nothing without Him and His grace—period! **Chapter 34** records judgment on the entire world. In God’s judgment of wrath against the armies of all nations, the dead bodies will rot on the ground. Also the stars will be dissolved. Catastrophic events in the sky will accompany the Messiah’s return to the earth to establish His millennial reign. And we, church age believers, will be with Him with a “front row” seat as per Revelation 19:8-16, *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: `Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

**Luke 11:37–12:21.** This section contains the record of the high point of the rejection of Jesus and His message. Then, after the record of this rejection, Luke began to record Jesus' words as to how disciples should live in the midst of rejection. Note Christ's denunciation of the religious people with six "woes." The first three "woes" denounce the Pharisees for their *wrong priorities*. They were careful about tithing even the tiny leaves and seeds from the herbs, but they forgot about important things like justice and love. They majored on the minors! They also put *reputation* above *character*. They thought that sitting in the right seats and being acknowledged by the right people would make them spiritual. Reputation is what people think we are; character is what God knows we are. The Pharisees were like unmarked graves that did not look like graves at all! This meant that they were unconsciously defiling others when they thought they were helping them become holier! Instead of helping people, the Pharisees were harming them. The scribes felt the sting of our Lord's words and tried to defend themselves. Jesus used three vivid illustrations in answering them: burdens, tombs, and keys. The scribes were good at adding to the burdens of the people, but they had no heart for helping them carry those burdens. What a tragedy when "ministers" of God's Word create more problems for people who already have problems enough—like we see on Christian programming with all of the appeals for money! The scribes were also good at "embalming" the past and honoring the prophets who had been martyred by the religious establishment "*to which they belonged.*" Both Bible history and church history reveal that true servants of God are usually rejected by the people who most need their ministry, but the next generation will come along and honor these people. The Pharisees were like "hidden graves," but the scribes built elaborate tombs! They were like those who killed heroes and would be responsible for the ultimate crime of crucifixion of the Son of God. Finally, the scribes were guilty of robbing the common people of the knowledge of the Word of God. It was bad enough that they would not enter the kingdom themselves, but they were hindering others from going in! It is a serious thing to teach God's Word and convince the people that nobody can understand and explain the Law except the trained and authorized teachers. Their attitude was that no one could understand the Word apart from their expertise. As helpful and necessary as theological and exegetical studies are, the most important requirement for Bible study is a true love for God for His own sake, which is *always* characterized by an alacritous obedient will, the necessary condition to be Spirit-taught, rather than merely man-taught. Only through the Holy Spirit can we really "get it."

**Job 8:1–10.** Eliphaz did not directly accuse Job of having done something to deserve all that had befallen him. Bildad moved closer to doing this first in claiming that Job's children did deserve their fate (8:4) and second in promising that Job would be restored if he was upright (8:6). The "if" naturally implies that he may not be. Bildad continued Eliphaz's argument that the moral order of the world was not threatened by what had happened to Job (8:3). He claimed the accumulated wisdom of generations supported his point (8:8–10). May God deliver us from believers who think they possess all wisdom that will die with them.

*Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

*Pastor Don*