

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

[www.twojourneys.org](http://www.twojourneys.org)

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at [twojourneys.org](http://twojourneys.org)

## **The Righteous King and Outpoured Spirit Transform a Corrupt World**

**Isaiah 32:1-20**

Two major themes in Isaiah 32 resonate with our current world situation. First, the passage describes the corruption of rulers who use their positions of leadership in government for selfish purposes. They are corrupt, they are on the take... they are not servants of the people but they are serving themselves. They rule harshly and unfairly, seeking a bribe or some side stream of money that comes from their position of power. This grievous situation is seen in governments around the world, but it is especially bad in some places more than others.

Forms of corruption vary, but include bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, graft, and embezzlement. Corruption may facilitate criminal enterprise such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and human trafficking, though is not restricted to these activities.

The most corrupt governments on earth right now: Somalia, Afghanistan, North Korea

Examples of selfish, wicked government corruption:

In Nigeria, more than \$400 billion was stolen from the treasury by Nigeria's leaders between 1960 and 1999

- Haiti: International Red Cross ranked Haiti was 155<sup>th</sup> out of 159 for corruption; After the earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, Reuters ran a story showing that endemic corruption was a threat to siphon off billions of dollars of aid; this had been going on for decades
- China: Communist Party members live at a much higher level than non party members; there is bribery, embezzlement, cronyism, monopolistic practices in which government money goes to builders connected with the government; there are vast privileges and perks that go with government leadership; in my hotel room on my last night in China a few weeks ago, the English language paper had a headline on government corruption... but the paper itself is controlled by the government!! Examples: 80% of beautiful housing in desirable resort areas along the coast in Shandong province went to government officials

- Prohibition-era Chicago: Al Capone ran the town; many of the police leadership and the politicians were involved in some way with Capone; Mayor Big Bill Thompson was on Capone's payroll; called "the best mayor money could buy"
- In medieval times, the "nobles" and aristocracy would plunder the poor, taking by force whatever they wanted... the king or duke or earl or whatever could charge any taxes he desired... few peasants could challenge them

The second major theme is how the power of the Holy Spirit can change everything... making leaders godly, making society richly blessed; though this is not a utopian vision for what can happen in this world, it is a foretaste of the New Heavens and New Earth, and a call for Christian leaders NOW to use their positions of power to BLESS their people and ENRICH their lives... truly to serve the people for their benefit in the pattern of Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT ALONE can this happen

The backdrop of this chapter:

*<sup>RSV</sup> Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan.*

We see this all throughout human history and all around the world.

"Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Actually, no... the human heart was ALREADY CORRUPT... power gives an opportunity to put the corruption ON DISPLAY... a chance to glut oneself on the "good stuff" of the world: food, gold, beautiful houses by spectacular scenic vistas, human praise/accolades, luxurious possessions, soft clothes, fine furniture, etc.

The only remedy?? The Kingdom of God displayed in the Person of the Son of God, and empowered by the Spirit of God!! That's what Isaiah 32 puts on display... a transformation from corrupt human rule to the rule of righteousness and justice in the pattern of King Jesus by the power of the Spirit.

## I. God's Purpose: Noble Rulers Instead of Wicked Ones (vs. 1-8)

### A. Who Is the King of Verse 1?

*Isaiah 32:1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice.*

1. It is a prediction, a prophecy, of the future of a king...
2. As a Christian, it's easy to think this must be talking about Jesus Christ, the coming king... and that is certainly possible

3. But the language of Isaiah 32 is so clearly bound to the immediate circumstances of Isaiah's day that some scholars think Isaiah is speaking of the future of Hezekiah's own reign
4. The verse speaks of "rulers" who will rule under the king with justice... most other translations speak of PRINCES under the king

*ESV Isaiah 32:1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice.*

These are probably counselors ruling under the righteous king

5. Hezekiah was poorly served by counselors who were urging him to turn to Egypt for military aid... some of these same underlings may well be referred to in this chapter as the morally corrupt rulers who reign under the king
6. Perhaps Isaiah is predicting a spiritual renewal after the Assyrian invasion that will result in a much purer kingdom
7. Wicked rulers will be replaced with godly ones... and the kingdom will shine in righteousness
8. Or perhaps Isaiah is speaking of a future son of David who is not the messiah, but who will reign righteously... like Josiah
9. My opinion: prophecy is about BOTH Hezekiah AND the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ
10. NOT eschatological... not the New Heavens and New Earth... for there still will be threats and dangers that the rulers under the king will have to protect the people from...

*Isaiah 32:2 Each man 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.*

That doesn't sound like heaven to me!! Just the effects of godly rulers under the great and righteous king

11. The essence of the coming king: RIGHTEOUSNESS... that which conforms to the character of Almighty God

#### B. Vision for a New Society

1. Princes Like the Righteous King (vs. 2)

*Isaiah 32:1 rulers will rule with justice.*

- a. The rest of this section focuses on these sub-rulers, these princes, not the King
- b. It primarily says they will rule WITH JUSTICE like their righteous King
- c. They use their position to PROTECT their people and PROVIDE for their needs

***Isaiah 32:2 Each man 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.***

2. Prophets/Priests who hear, understand, and teach the word of God (vs. 3-4)

***Isaiah 32:3-4 Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. <sup>4</sup> The mind of the rash will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear.***

- a. The “seers” were the prophets who should see the Lord by faith and see His word by understanding
- b. The prophets and priests were entrusted with the teaching ministry of the people
- c. By the power of the Spirit, these leaders WILL BE OPEN to God, to His word... they will HEAR God speak, and understand His will... from this they will LEAD the people

3. Ability to weed out wicked men from leadership (vs. 5)

***Isaiah 32:5 No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected.***

4. Noble leaders making noble plans and carrying them out (vs. 8)

***Isaiah 32:8 But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.***

- a. Unlike the wicked men who used to lead, these noble princes will be noble in HEART not mere the “nobility” of an aristocracy, landed gentry who are spoiled and corrupted by their privileged birth... so-called “NOBLES” who are born with a silver spoon in their mouth, but whose hearts are not noble at all...
- b. NO, these princes will truly be NOBLE because they will be conformed to the King who is reigning in righteousness
- c. Their NOBILITY consists in their “generosity” or “liberality” to the poor... they are lavish in blessing those entrusted to their care

- d. And having a noble heart, they want to give MORE and MORE to the people
- e. So they make NOBLE PLANS... in government, language, these are their POLICIES or the PARTY PLATFORM... or CAMPAIGN PROMISES... what they intend to do with their power
- f. Their plans are truly godly, and then... AMAZINGLY, when in power, they actually CARRY THEM OUT... they stand firmly in a pattern of actual good deeds done for the benefit of the poor

C. By Contrast, Wicked Fools Who Use Positions to Oppress (vs. 5-7)

***Isaiah 32:5-7 No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected. <sup>6</sup> For the fool speaks folly, his mind is busy with evil: He practices ungodliness and spreads error concerning the LORD; the hungry he leaves empty and from the thirsty he withholds water. <sup>7</sup> The scoundrel's methods are wicked, he makes up evil schemes to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just.***

1. The old society described with painful clarity
2. The “fool” here is same as that in the Book of Proverbs... a morally corrupt man who has no fear of God at all, and who lives for this world and for himself

***Psalm 14:1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.***

3. Old society CELEBRATED and HONORED these people!! They gave them the places of honor at the banquets... people paid them compliments, flattered them, honored them in public, and raised them higher and higher; indeed these fools who were princes EXPECTED and even DEMANDED these kinds of perks

In China, the leaders of the communist party are accorded with amazing privileges – staggering wealth, the best living arrangements, medals of honor for their patriotism, banquets in their honor, etc.

4. The fools SPEAK FOLLY (vs. 6) because their MINDS ARE BUSY WITH EVIL
  - a. Their words are utter folly from the heavenly perspective (because they are spoken with NO FEAR OF GOD), though the people may acclaim them as the height of wisdom

***Acts 12:21-23 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. <sup>22</sup> They shouted, "This is the voice***

*of a god, not of a man." 23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.*

- b. Their mouths speak folly because their minds are busy with EVIL PLANS
  - c. At every moment, they are scheming to crush and grind the people more and more to gain earthly privileges for themselves, or to get revenge for some insult, or to rise higher in personal power
5. They TEACH FALSE DOCTRINE about the Lord and live wicked lives in His sight

***Isaiah 32:6 He practices ungodliness and spreads error concerning the LORD;***

- a. These wicked men live wicked lives... lives of sexual immorality and/or gluttony and/or greed
  - b. And this all stems from their false doctrine about the Lord
  - c. In Israel, the princes and priests and prophets were to teach and live according to the Law of Moses; but the word of God was far from them
  - d. Around the world, the rulers of the Gentiles teach error about the Lord (that He doesn't exist, or is Allah or is Buddha or is not the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ)
6. Sins of Omission and Sins of Commission

***Isaiah 32:6-7 the hungry he leaves empty and from the thirsty he withholds water. 7 The scoundrel's methods are wicked, he makes up evil schemes to destroy the poor with lies, even when the plea of the needy is just.***

- a. They should have been providing for the poor and protecting them
- b. Instead, they walk away and do nothing for the plight of the poor
- c. They go beyond this: they make active plans to deprive the poor of what little resources they have
- d. They crush them in court, and deny them justice

D. Contrast Striking

***Isaiah 32:8 But the noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.***

## II. God's Purging: Judgment Clears the Building Site (vs. 9-14)

***Isaiah 32:9-14*** *You women who are so complacent, rise up and listen to me; you daughters who feel secure, hear what I have to say!* <sup>10</sup> *In little more than a year you who feel secure will tremble; the grape harvest will fail, and the harvest of fruit will not come.* <sup>11</sup> *Tremble, you complacent women; shudder, you daughters who feel secure! Strip off your clothes, put sackcloth around your waists.* <sup>12</sup> *Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vines* <sup>13</sup> *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.* <sup>14</sup> *The fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted; citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks,*

### A. Prophecy is Mixed: Not Merely Beautiful Promises (vs. 1-8 and 15-20), but also Dire Warnings of Judgment

1. Vss. 1-8 promise a change of society in which the wicked, corrupt princes will be removed and replaced by godly, noble men who protect the people and provide for them
2. Vss. 15-20 speak of the outpoured Spirit which changes the desert to a fertile field, and the fertile field to a forest; a society of blessing in which everything is fruitful and peaceful
3. In between: a DIRE WARNING of a coming judgment
  - a. Immediate context: Assyria is coming and will conquer almost everything in the land of Judah
  - b. Jerusalem will be spared, but everything else killed or destroyed
  - c. This will CLEAR THE BUILDING SITE for the godly society God intends... everything PURGED BY FIRE

***Isaiah 4:4*** *The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire.*

- d. Only proper response: be humbled, weep and wail, grieve, repent, seek the Lord's protection, turn away from the sins that are bringing this terrifying judgment
- e. Warning given to COMPLACENT WOMEN of Judah

### B. Ungodly, Complacent Women

1. Isaiah focuses on these women as representatives of a whole corrupt society
2. Verses 9-11 speak again and again of the complacency of these women

- a. “complacent” vs. 9
  - b. “feel secure” vs. 9 and 10
  - c. “complacent” vs. 11
  - d. “feel secure” vs. 11
3. Complacency = arrogant, self-righteous attitude of UNCONCERN
- a. They don’t see the real situation spiritually
  - b. They don’t see the wickedness of the land, their own great sins in the sight of God
  - c. They don’t see what happened to the northern Kingdom of Israel as in any way a “shot across the bow”, a warning to them that, unless they repent, they will also all likewise perish
4. The ungodliness of the women of Zion already highlighted in Isaiah 3:

***Isaiah 3:16-24 The LORD says, "The women of Zion are haughty, walking along with outstretched necks, flirting with their eyes, tripping along with mincing steps, with ornaments jingling on their ankles. <sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord will bring sores on the heads of the women of Zion; the LORD will make their scalps bald." <sup>18</sup> ¶ In that day the Lord will snatch away their finery: the bangles and headbands and crescent necklaces, <sup>19</sup> the earrings and bracelets and veils, <sup>20</sup> the headdresses and ankle chains and sashes, the perfume bottles and charms, <sup>21</sup> the signet rings and nose rings, <sup>22</sup> the fine robes and the capes and cloaks, the purses <sup>23</sup> and mirrors, and the linen garments and tiaras and shawls. <sup>24</sup> Instead of fragrance there will be a stench; instead of a sash, a rope; instead of well-dressed hair, baldness; instead of fine clothing, sackcloth; instead of beauty, branding.***

5. These complacent women are living for luxuries and comforts... for buying fine clothes and laying on embroidered couches and drinking wine... just like the luxury-loving women of Israel that Amos prophesied against

***Amos 4:1 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, "Bring us some drinks!"***

***Amos 6:4-7 You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. <sup>5</sup> You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. <sup>6</sup> You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. <sup>7</sup> Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.***



C. Judgment is Imminent!!

***Isaiah 32:10 In little more than a year you who feel secure will tremble***

***<sup>NASB</sup> Isaiah 32:10 Within a year and a few days You will be troubled, O complacent daughters***

Very definite time frame!!! Then, the grape harvest will FAIL!!

***Vs. 10 the grape harvest will fail, and the harvest of fruit will not come.***

D. The Prophet Calls on them to REPENT

1. Sharp commands... immediate action called for

***Isaiah 32:9 You women who are so complacent, rise up and listen to me; you daughters who feel secure, hear what I have to say!***

2. RISE UP!!! Get off your ivory couches!! Listen to my warnings!!!

3. Repent!! Tremble!! Mourn!!

***Isaiah 32:11 Tremble, you complacent women; shudder, you daughters who feel secure! Strip off your clothes, put sackcloth around your waists.***

***Isaiah 32:12 Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vines***

***Isaiah 32:13 and for the land of my people, a land overgrown with thorns and briers-- yes, mourn for all houses of merriment and for this city of revelry.***

4. The time of luxurious revelry and drinking and empty foolish laughter will END... it will either end in deep repentance and grieving for sin, or it will end when the Assyrians come and invade... either way, it WILL end!

E. Thorns and Briars will Cover the Fruitful Fields: (vs. 13)... a clear symbol of the CURSE from God for sin

1. Agricultural richness of the essence of the Promised Land's blessedness

2. Rich soil, Ample rainfall, Bountiful harvests... all part of God's blessing on the Promised Land

***Deuteronomy 11:10-12 The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden. <sup>11</sup> But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. <sup>12</sup> It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.***

***Deuteronomy 11:9 a land flowing with milk and honey.***

3. But God promised to curse the land if they turned away and sinned... WHICH THEY DID
4. Not merely agricultural... not merely a crop failure...

***Isaiah 32:14 The fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted; citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks***

This is a prediction of the destruction of the walled cities of Judah... and you could extend it beyond this immediate prophecy to the fall of Jerusalem a century later at the hands of the Babylonians

F. Summary

1. Section I: God's PURPOSE: A Transformed Society Depicted by Contrast... a King will reign in righteousness and rulers under him will reign with justice; unlike the previous corruption of wicked leaders (vs. 1-8)
2. Section II: God's PURGING: A Devastated Land Under the Judgment of God... clearing the building site for the holy society God wants to build
3. Section III: God's POWER: the Outpoured Holy Spirit transforms everything

III. God's Power: The Outpoured Spirit Produces a Harvest of Righteousness (vs. 15-20)

***Isaiah 32:15-20 till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest. <sup>16</sup> Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field. <sup>17</sup> The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. <sup>18</sup> My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. <sup>19</sup> Though hail flattens the forest and the city is leveled completely, <sup>20</sup> how blessed you will be, sowing your seed by every stream, and letting your cattle and donkeys range free.***

A. 'Til the Spirit is Poured Out (vs. 15)

1. The devastating purge of verses 9-14 will continue until God pours out His Spirit from on high
2. Isaiah and Jeremiah (and other prophets) clearly predict the devastation of God's judgments on all nations because of their sins

3. BUT the difference between what God does to His own people and what He does to other nations is this: after judgment comes MERCY, and the TRANSFORMING POWER of the Holy Spirit
4. Without this, the godly society of verses 1-8 will NEVER HAPPEN!!
5. The smoldering ruins of some bombed out European village in WWII did not give way to righteous rulers, but vigilante groups of thugs who prowled the rubble looking to take advantage of anarchy... human nature NEVER CHANGES until GOD CHANGES THE HUMAN HEART BY THE SPIRIT

***Ezekiel 36:25-30 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. <sup>28</sup> You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. <sup>29</sup> I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. <sup>30</sup> I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine.***

6. Without this, it is merely judgment!! No harvest of righteousness at all
7. The Spirit ALONE can change the wicked human heart... without the Spirit, we learn nothing, but just reset for the next wave of selfishness and sin

#### B. The Spirit Poured Out from on High

1. The Spirit likened to WATER again and again... water that is Poured Out

***Isaiah 44:3-4 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. <sup>4</sup> They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.***

2. This spiritual water transforms the land and makes it fruitful... a harvest of righteousness

***Isaiah 32:15 till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest.***

3. The real desert is the heart of the sinner...
4. The Spirit has the power to change the heart of the sinner and make it flourish with the righteousness of God

5. The result of the Spirit's actions: changed human hearts result in a changed human society, with justice and righteousness

***Isaiah 32:16 Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field.***

6. This, of course, is the society described in verses 1-8

C. The Effects of the Spirit (vs. 17)

***Isaiah 32:17 The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.***

1. The terrifying words of warning in verses 9-14 have passed
2. The judgment of God is over; no wrath need be feared again
3. Instead of the arrogant, faithless complacency Isaiah prophesies against in verses 9-11, we have true peace, true quietness, true assurance... GOD LOVES US: GOD HAS FORGIVEN US; GOD IS AT PEACE WITH US

D. Final Words of Blessing in Old Covenant Images of Prosperity (vs. 18-20)

***Isaiah 32:18-20 My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. <sup>19</sup> Though hail flattens the forest and the city is leveled completely, <sup>20</sup> how blessed you will be, sowing your seed by every stream, and letting your cattle and donkeys range free.***

#### IV. How Isaiah 32 Preaches Christ

A. Jesus is the Perfect Coming King

***Isaiah 32:1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness***

***Matthew 25:31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory***

1. He alone perfectly and absolutely reigns in righteousness

***Hebrews 1:8-9 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."***

2. He is the true shelter from the storm and refuge from the wind... the coming judgment of God... BY HIS BLOOD ALONE WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD

***Isaiah 32:2 a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm***

The ultimate storm and wind is the judgment of God on us for our sins... just like verses 9-14, we are the sinful ones, complacent, at ease, not troubled by the coming wrath. Jesus calls us to flee the wrath to come and find refuge in Him:

***Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ***

***Colossians 1:20 by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross***

***1 Thessalonians 1:10 Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.***

3. He alone lives to satisfy our thirst in the desert

***Isaiah 32:2 like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land.***

a. John 4:

***John 4:14 whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."***

b. John 7:

***John 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.***

4. He alone pours out the Holy Spirit on us, changing us forever to love what He loves and hate what He hates

***Acts 2:33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.***

B. The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1. The Spirit is poured out on all who repent and believe in Jesus!!

2. This is the Promise of the gospel

***Acts 2:17-21 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. <sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the***

*coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

When the gospel is preached, the Holy Spirit cuts us to the heart and convicts us of our sins; then we call on the name of Jesus and receive the gift of forgiveness and the indwelling Holy Spirit to change us

*Acts 2:38-39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

3. When this happens, our lives change and become no longer like spiritual deserts... dead, no fruit... instead... we become a FERTILE FIELD that eventually grows into a FOREST of righteousness
4. All of this by the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ poured out on us from on high

#### C. How His Disciples Rule Like Princes Under Him

1. Having been changed by the Spirit, we can now carry out roles of leadership under the King
2. We can be godly husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, elders, political leaders, bosses, authority figures
3. We will seek to use our positions for the glory of God and the benefit of the people entrusted to our care

### V. Applications

#### A. Worship KING JESUS for the Perfection of His Government

1. He is the perfect shelter from the wind and the perfect refuge from the storm
2. He provides streams of water in the wastelands for His people
3. He is the Good Shepherd who comes not to steal or kill or destroy, but to give His people life—ABUNDANTLY
4. He is the King who will reign in righteousness, and He is worthy of our praise and our trust
5. SO... COME TO CHRIST!!! As we've said!!!

#### B. For Christian Leaders

1. The “princes” under King Jesus are His disciples who are established in positions of leadership in the family, the church, and the world
2. Christians leaders are to IMITATE their King... we are to use our positions of authority in the manner of Christ for the glory of Christ
3. Understand the elements of GODLY LEADERSHIP in this chapter
  - a. “righteousness” = that which conforms to the character of God and His laws
  - b. “justice” = not much different than righteousness... it is the APPLICATION of godly principles to every case... not favoring the poor over the rich or the rich over the poor, but doing what is right in every case
  - c. “shelter in the storm”/“shadow of a great rock in a dry and thirsty land” = PROTECTION for people; this world is a HARSH PLACE, with natural disasters, diseases, poverty, suffering and death threatening all the time; godly leaders seek to be a protection for the people entrusted to them (vs. 2)
  - d. “streams of water” = PROVISION of basic needs, sustaining life (vs. 2)
  - e. “eyes of those who see” will be open, and “ears of those who hear” will be open TO GOD’S INSTRUCTION... they will be people of the Bible, people of the leadership of the Holy Spirit (vs. 3)
  - f. “heart will understand”... having taken in God’s word, they MEDITATE on it and understand God’s purposes in this world (vs. 4)
  - g. “The stammering tongue will be fluent and clear”: having understood the King’s purposes, they SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD and THE PLANS OF GOD clearly to the people they lead (vs. 4)
  - h. Noble in character, they make NOBLE PLANS for those entrusted to them, and they actually SEE THEM THROUGH (vs. 8)

Summary: Clear portrait of a godly leader: submitted to King Jesus, character conformed to Him in loving righteousness and justice and hating wickedness; seeing themselves as servants to the people entrusted to their care... PROTECTING them from the harshness of this life, PROVIDING for their basic needs, LISTENING everyday to God’s word, MEDITATING ON IT and SPEAKING IT, MAKING NOBLE PLANS and ACTING ON THEM

4. Use your position to SERVE the people... to protect them and provide for them, not for your own corrupt selfishness

- a. This means ELDERS of the church... do not love trappings of power or use the position to stoke your pride, or because you are greedy for money
  - b. This means HUSBANDS... use your position of leadership in the marriage to SERVE and PROTECT your wife, feeding and caring for her as Christ does the church
  - c. This means PARENTS... use your position of leadership to SERVE your children, bringing them up with tenderness and affection, with godly discipline; meet their needs and love them and cherish them
  - d. This means EMPLOYERS... use your position of leadership to BLESS your employees, so that their lives are enriched because they work for you
  - e. This means GOVERNMENT LEADERS... use your position of authority to serve and protect the people, not for graft or corruption
5. Pray for Christian leaders you know to do this!!
- a. Pray for the elders
  - b. Pray for husbands
  - c. Pray for parents
  - d. Pray for employers
  - e. Pray for government officials...
  - f. Pray for everyone in authority, to live according to these principles!!

### C. Make Noble Plans, and See them Through

- 1. Verse 8 a great “New Year’s Resolution” verse! But it doesn’t just have to be New Year’s to make noble plans
- 2. What are “noble” things? KJV uses the word “liberal”
- 3. The Christian life should be one of big plans made from a big vision of a big God

William Carey: “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.”

- 4. Be ambitious in the internal journey
  - a. Make noble plans to put sin to death; to memorize Scripture; to pray longer and for more people; to display the fruit of the Spirit more consistently than ever before



5. Be ambitious for the external journey of evangelism, ministry, and missions
  - a. Make noble plans for ministry to the poor and needy
  - b. Make noble plans for evangelistic outreach to neighbors, coworkers and friends
  - c. Make noble plans for prayer for missions, or going on a short-term mission trip
6. ***“And by noble deeds he stands”***: having made noble plans, then ask God for power through the Spirit to carry them out

#### D. Hate Complacency!!

1. Isaiah hammers these complacent women who live such lazy lives of self-indulgence
2. You should hate spiritual complacency too!
  - a. False peace, false security
  - b. Spiritual laziness: failure to understand what is going on in the world; failure to care for the lost; failure to grieve deeply over sin; failure to repent deeply, to yearn deeply for the righteousness this passage speaks of

Illus. Like spider victim; stung by spider stinger, paralyzed but still alive; feeling a terrible sleepiness, drowsiness coming over you; wrapped up by the spider's silk to be consumed later

3. Remedy in this text: RISE UP... LISTEN TO GOD'S FIERY PROPHETIC WORD... SEE WHAT IS COMING (all the wreckage of the prophecies is foretaste of future judgment of entire world)... UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD... SPEAK IT PASSIONATELY TO EACH OTHER... PRAY

#### E. Receive the Fullness of the Spirit

1. The gift of the Spirit is the transforming power of God through the word
2. Power to love righteousness and hate wickedness
3. Power to hear God speak through His written word and to go change the world as He commands
4. Power to be witnesses to the lost
5. Power to bear a harvest of fruit that will last for eternity

6. ASK to be filled with the Spirit; that the Spirit would be continually poured out on you, and on this church
7. From lazy, complacent overconfidence to genuine grief over sin, zeal for the glory of God, harvest of fruit in keeping with repentance
8. Power to move from a spiritual desert to a fertile field, and from a fertile field to a forest
9. BY THE SPIRIT!!! The Sovereign Third Person of the Trinity
10. Poured out continually from above (Joel 2, Acts 2)... **POURED**
  - a. Like a liquid, a constant stream
  - b. Implied constant dependence... like the stream of water flowing by an old water mill (Eno River mill)... if the stream stops flowing, the mill stops turning
  - c. Poured out **INTO** us and then **OUT FROM US**

***John 7:37-39 Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive***

11. So... begin your day by seeking the **FILLING OF THE SPIRIT**
  - a. Confess any known sin... ask God by the Spirit to work deep repentance in you
  - b. Ask for forgiveness... then receive it by faith based on the blood of Jesus
  - c. Then walk in a sense of full assurance of salvation
  - d. Continuous **GUIDANCE** to make **NOBLE PLANS** and **BY NOBLE DEEDS STAND**

F. Seek Full Assurance by the Spirit of Your Salvation in Jesus

***Isaiah 32:17 The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.***

G. Long for the New Heavens and New Earth, the "Home of Righteousness"

1. The text speaks of people living peacefully

***Isaiah 32:18 My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.***

2. This is truly fulfilled only in heaven

***Revelation 7:9-10*** *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*

***Revelation 7:13-17*** *Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes-- who are they, and where did they come from?" <sup>14</sup> I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. <sup>16</sup> Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

That is the true fulfillment of this chapter!!