

deliver Jerusalem from the attack of Assyria. The power of the Lord is presented in verse 4 -- a power which nothing human can overthrow. Verse 5 describes the calm action of the Lord who need exercise no tremendous effort to accomplish His purpose -- "As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem." Verse 8 shows that the Lord's purpose is not to be accomplished through human agency. The Assyrian will fall with the sword "not of a mighty man" and "not of a mean man." Verse 9 shows the Assyrians fleeing in fear before the power of the Lord. This verse contains an allusion to the beginning of chapter 29, where Jerusalem was called Ariel, which means "the hearth of God." Here, the Lord says that His fire is in Zion and His furnace in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the great scene of the outworking of His plan. Human efforts can accomplish nothing before the mighty power of God.

In this summary of the chapter we have skipped verses 6 and 7, which briefly parallel the third section of chapter 30, and indicate an eventual complete turning away from idols on the part of the people of Judah.

Thus chapter 31 is a summary and conclusion to the main themes dwelt upon in chapter 30, and drives home the lesson particularly as it relates to the immediate future.

Isaiah 32

The first verse of chapter 32 connects directly with the end of chapter 31, which gave assurance of the complete failure of the attempt of the Assyrian aggressor to establish a great world empire. It states that a world empire will indeed be established, but that it will be set up by God Himself, when He establishes His own king who will reign in righteousness and whose princes will rule in judgment.

Verse 2 tells us something about this king -- something, however, which hardly seems to refer to the time of his universal reign. In that period of glorious millennial prosperity, one will hardly need protection from those dangers which are here indicated by the figures of wind and tempest, for the king will put down everything that is destructive, and men will be able to sit in the open under their vines and fig trees with nothing to fear. Verse 2 is a beautiful picture of