

ISAIAH – Chapter 10

Verses 1-4 continues God's pronouncement of judgment upon Samaria.

Vs. 1-2 Woe to the leadership of Israel (Judah) who:

- 1) Make unjust laws.
- 2) Render unjust decisions
- 3) Depriving the poor (helpless) of their rights [no justice]. Ex. 23:6-7; Deut. 15:7-11
- 4) Taking advantage of widows. Ex. 22:22-24; Deut. 24:17-18
- 5) Plundering orphans

These actions involve taking advantage of people who could not defend themselves. These actions are directly opposed to God's revealed law. Isa. 1:11-20

Vs. 3 Good questions (to be asked to those who have lived like mere men!):

- 1) What will you do in the day of punishment?
- 2) What will you do in the devastation which will come?
- 3) To whom will you flee for help?
- 4) Where will you leave your wealth?

Vs. 4 Nothing remains but...

Isa. 10:5-12:6 The fall of the Assyrian empire.

Vs. 5 Woe to those who are used by God to accomplish His purpose (Just because God has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for...Prov. 16:4, does not mean that the wicked are somehow owed thanks. Isa. 7:18-19)

Woe to Assyria, God's instrument (rod) in dealing with Israel...(Babylon will be God's rod when He deals with Judah at a later date. Habakkuk 1:1-2:1)

Note: Overview of the argument recorded in Habakkuk

1:1-4 Why does God allow Judah, His child, to continue in his wickedness?

5-11 Answer – He doesn't; God is going to use the Babylonians to chasten Judah.

12-17 Why would God use the Babylonians to deal with Judah when they are more wicked than Judah?

2:1 Habakkuk awaits God's answer.

2-20 God answers (vs. 2 Hush – be still, God is God).

3:1-19 Habakkuk praises God.

Vs. 6 Assyria is not a godly nation – it's not even aware that God is using it to accomplish His good pleasure.

God is sovereign over His creation and all nations are tools in His hands.

Vs. 7 No praise to Assyria for being God's instrument...it was never Assyria's intention to be an instrument in God's hand. Its intention was to sin.

Verses 8-11 Assyria's heart (attitude) as read by God is:

The greatness of Israel's God is not worth noting in Assyria's mind. Assyria assumed that Israel and Judah were like any other nation.

Vs. 9 Assyria had conquered the Aramean cities of:

- 1) Calno
- 2) Carchemish
- 3) Hamath
- 4) Arpad
- 5) Damascus

Vs. 10 And Israel's capital, Samaria

Since these conquered cities had "greater gods", in the minds of the Assyrians, than did Jerusalem.

Vs. 11 What's to stop Assyria from destroying the city of Jerusalem.
Isa. 36:19-20; 37:10-13

Note: Samaria did worship and rely upon idols – this being the very reason that God gave them over to the hand of Assyria.)

Verses 12-19 That which Assyria has to look forward to when God is finished using her.

Vs. 12 When God is finished dealing with Israel, He will deal with Assyria. Her sin personified in her king – haughty eyes. Prov. 6:16-19, esp. vs. 17; 30:11-14, esp. vs. 13
(Psalms 10:4; 138:6; Proverbs 16:18; 18:12; 21:2-4)

Note: The king of Assyria believes its all about “I”, “my” – 4 times “I” and 3 times “my”! He had taken over other nations and their wealth as easily as a person plucks eggs from a nest. Dan. 5:16-28, opposite Dan 2:19-23; 26-30)

Vs. 15 The king of Assyria had lost touch with reality.

Assyria, the axe, is nothing apart from the hands which swing it.

Assyria, the saw, cannot cut anything apart from the hands which move it.

Assyria, the club/rod, is not different than a stick without the arm that can lift it. 1 Cor. 4:7

Vs. 16 Therefore, God will destroy the Assyrian army by disease and fire. (In 701 B.C., 185,000 Assyrian soldiers surrounding Jerusalem were killed. Isa. 37:33-38. In 609 B.C. Assyria fell to Babylon.)

Vs. 17 The “light of Israel”, Her God, will become a fire.

His Holy One, a flame.

The God of Israel will burn and devour Assyria’s thorns and briars in a single day.

Vs. 18 The God of Israel will destroy Assyria.

1) The glory of his forest.

2) The glory of his fruitful garden.

3) Both soul and body.

It will be like a sick man who wastes away.

Vs. 19 When God gets finished with Assyria, there will be so few trees left in its forest that a child could count them.

Vs. 20-23 The remnant – God used Assyria to chasten Israel, but a remnant will return to the land and they will trust in (rely on) the Lord (not Assyria – Hosea 5:12-15; 7:11-14; 8:9)

“In that day” – Deut. 30:1-10; Matt. 24:29-31

Israel (10 tribes) has been scheduled for a complete destruction. 2 Kings 17:1-20
Let there be no mistake, it is the God of Israel who will carry it out and it is the God of Israel that will resurrect her from the dead. Ezk. 37:1-14

Verses 24-27 Unlike Israel, Judah will not be chastened by God by means of Assyria, Zion is not to fear.

Vs. 25 God’s anger will be spent after Assyria removes Israel. He will deal with Assyria rather than Judah.

Vs. 26 God will deal with Assyria the way He dealt with:

- 1) The Midianites by Gideon. Judges 7:1-24
- 2) The two Midianite leaders at the rock of Oreb. Judges 7:25

He will deal with Assyria the way he dealt with Pharaoh in Egypt.

Vs. 27 God will lift the Assyrian burden and yoke from Judah. Isa. 9:4

Verses 28-34 Assyria's defeat

- 1) Aiath – same as Ai. Joshua 7:1-26
- 2) Migron – located between Aiath and Michmash. 1 Sam 14:2
- 3) Michmash – 9 miles northeast of Jerusalem. 1 Sam 13:2; 14:5; Neh. 11:31
- 4) Geba, Ramah, Gibeah of Saul – all cities in a line in the path between Assyria and Judah.
- 5) Gallim 1 Sam. 25:44
- 6) Laishah – only here in Isaiah 10.
- 7) Anathoth – listed 16 times – given to the tribe of Benjamin. Joshua 21:18
- 8) Madmenah – another town in Benjamin, not far from Jerusalem (in Isa. 25:10 the same Hebrew word is translated manure pile).
- 9) Gebim – a small place north of Jerusalem. Today it is called el-Isawiyeh.

Vs. 32 Nob (1 Sam. 21:1-10) – God will stop Assyria at Nob, Assyria will shake her fist at the temple of God in Jerusalem.

Vs. 33-34 God will cut down the forest of Assyria.

He will lop off the heavy branches of the trees.

He will cut down the tall and lofty trees.

He will thin out the thickets.

And Assyria (the forest of Lebanon) will fall by the mighty one.