



Prophecies, Promises, Warnings

Isaiah 10:1-34

Verse-by-verse

Verses 1 - 4 – [Verses 1 - 4 are part of Isaiah's vision, or prophecy of the *stretched out hand of God* (chapter 9:8-21). We saw last week that this was a figure of speech used for God's hand of judgment on Israel.]

God used the Assyrians to punish Israel. Because of their behavior, the nation would go into captivity and there will be no one to flee to for help.

At the first coming, they will not recognize righteousness (the day of punishment/visitation; see Luke 19:44). Because of unrighteousness, the nation would be destroyed in 70 A.D. Who would they **flee for help then?** Even God will not be there for them (vs. 4).

Four things caused God to stretch out His hand in judgment:

- 1. Unrighteous decrees...write misfortune.** Vs. 1 Making unjust laws and oppressive decrees.
- 2. No justice for the needy.** Vs. 2
- 3. Abusing the poor, especially widows.** Vs. 2
- 4. Robbing those without fathers.** Vs. 2

General overall oppression of the people by the leaders' wicked ways. This was a violation of God's Law in so many ways! Exodus 22:22; 23:6; Deuteronomy 15:7-8; 24:17-18.

Isaiah warned in 1:17:

"Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor, Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow."

James 1:27 says,

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this; to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

In verses 5-19, Isaiah predicts judgment on Assyria and God's rod of discipline on Samaria (capital of Israel).

Verses 5, 6 –

- **Woe to Assyria...** God often uses what would appear unlikely to us, to accomplish His purposes. God makes it clear they are a staff in His hand. God will later use Babylon against Judah. The prophet Habakkuk is utterly baffled by this. (Habakkuk 1:5-17).
- **I will send him...** The Assyrians were not nice people. Yet in His sovereignty God directs them to be used as a tool for vengeance.
- **Ungodly nation** (vs. 6). Literally, **hypocritical nation**.

Verses 7-11 –

- Assyria doesn't realize he is being used by God.
- **Are not, is not, is not, is not...** One city is like another. That's what Assyria thought. Therefore it appeared Jerusalem could be easily taken, since these other cities had "greater gods" in the minds of the Assyrians, than did Jerusalem; they believed that city could be taken more easily.

This is what the Arab nations thought about Israel:

1948: War of Independence (Israel attacked on all fronts by Arab nations, but seizes the day and wins the war and its Independence for the first time in over 2,000 years).

1967: Six Day War (Israel gained the West Bank, and East Jerusalem from Jordan).

1973: Yom Kippur War (Israel attacked on a Holy Day by Egypt and Arab forces. Israel wins.)

Throughout history nations have believed Jerusalem was an easy win. But not so! Only when God directed it to be so.

Though God was using Assyria, the motives were purely political and expansionist. The same thing may be happening today.

Verses 12-19 –

- **By the strength of my hand I have done it** (vs. 13-14).
- God will take them down for their arrogance (vs. 12).
- **Trees of his forest.** His army (or soldiers) will be so few even a child could **write** down the number. This was fulfilled in 701 B.C. and recorded in Isaiah 37:36-37. Then in 609 B.C. the Assyrian Empire fell to the Babylonians. Again, this has been the pattern for all who oppose God and His plans for His covenant people.

Verses 20 - 23– But God always has a remnant! Isaiah shifts his focus to the vision of the Jewish remnant in the great tribulation!

- **In that day.** We know this phrase often refers to the latter days when the Lord will punish the wicked and set up His righteous kingdom (Isaiah 4:2). It could refer here to a more immediate “day” of judgment on the Northern Kingdom of Israel by Assyria. And yet the phrase **never again** (vs. 20) appears to mean the latter days since Israel will **depend on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel...**
- **The destruction decreed** (vs.22). Many, perhaps millions will die in the tribulation, but a remnant will believe and be saved. There will be great destruction, but the righteousness of the King of kings will overflow and there will be an end to the oppression of the Jews in the land.

Verses 24-34 –

- **The anointing oil** (vs. 27). The Hebrew just says “oil.” It was probably the kind of oil used for anointing a king, but symbolizing rich blessings from God. Literally the word is “fat”. Fat in many cultures (except the U.S.) is a coveted thing. In many cultures a fat person is considered rich! So here it might mean Israel has been anointed by God and He will not allow them to be burdened forever.
- Verses 28-30 might be referring to Armageddon
- Whoever is **“he”** in verse 32 (the Antichrist?), he is going to shake his fist at Jerusalem. Daniel 9:27.
- But God is going to cut him down.

- **The Mighty One** (vs. 34). Literally "**a mighty one.**" Possibly a reference to Jesus, or it could be an angel in the Tribulation, see Revelation 10:1, and 18:21.

Next week, chapter 11 and 12.