

Isaiah 10 - The Book of Immanuel: Judgment on Unjust Lawmakers; Assyria Judged; The Remnant Returns

I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1—35:10)

(1) Condemnation of Judah (Is 1:1—12:6)

(B) Book of Immanuel (Is 7:1—12:6)

(d) Reasons for the coming Assyrian invasion (Is 9:8—10:4)

(iv) Injustice (10:1-4)

(e) God to Judge Assyria (10:5-34)

(i) While God had used Assyria to judge Judah he would cut Assyria down when she went too far (10:5-11)

(ii) God will punish Assyria while preserving a Jewish remnant (10:12-34)

Isaiah 10

(iv) Injustice (10:1-4)

1 Woe to those who enact unjust statutes And to those who constantly record harmful decisions,

1 Woe to those who enact evil statutes And to those who constantly record unjust decisions,

1 "How terrible it will be for the one who enacts unjust decrees, for those who write oppressive laws that they have prescribed

1 Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed;

- One of the symptoms of apostasy, where pride and selfishness issued unrighteous decrees to legalize oppression of the poor and fatherless

2 So as to deprive the needy of justice And rob the poor among My people of *their* rights, So that widows may be their spoil And that they may plunder the orphans.

2 So as to deprive the needy of justice And rob the poor of My people of *their* rights, So that widows may be their spoil And that they may plunder the orphans.

2 to deprive the needy of justice and to rob the poor of my people of their rights, so that widows may become their spoil and so that they may plunder orphans!

2 To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!

3 Now what will you do in the day of punishment, And in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your wealth?

3 Now what will you do in the day of punishment, And in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your wealth?

3 What will you do on the day of Judgment, in the calamity that will come from far away? To whom will you run for help, and where will you leave your wealth,

3 And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?

4 Nothing *remains* but to crouch among the captives Or fall among those killed. In *spite of* all this, His anger does not turn away And His hand is still stretched out.

4 Nothing *remains* but to crouch among the captives Or fall among the slain. In *spite of* all this, His anger does not turn away And His hand is still stretched out.

4 so you won't have to crouch among those in chains or fall among the slain? "Yet for all this, his anger has not turned away, and his hand is still stretched out, ready to strike."

4 Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

(e) God to Judge Assyria (10:5-34)

(i) While God had used Assyria to judge Judah he would cut Assyria down when she went too far (10:5-11)

5 Woe to **Assyria**, the **rod of My anger** And the staff in whose hands is My indignation,

5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hands is My indignation,

5 "How terrible it will be for Assyria, the rod of my anger! The club is in their hands!

5 O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation.

- "...Assyria...rod of My anger" - two OT allusions to the Antichrist (#2,26); see [Allusions to the Antichrist](#)

— "Assyrian" - 3x in this chapter; see also v12,24; see note on Micah 5:5-6

6 I send it against a godless nation And **commission it against the people** of My fury To capture spoils and to seize plunder, And to trample them down like mud in the streets.

6 I send it against a godless nation And commission it against the people of My fury To capture booty and to seize plunder, And to trample them down like mud in the streets.

6 I'm sending my fury against a godless nation, and I'll command him against the people with whom I'm angry to seize loot and snatch plunder, and to trample them down like mud

in the streets.

6 I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

- "...commission it against the people" - an incredible statement about God's control and usage of the Antichrist (Cf. Jer 6:27, see notes there)

Here God makes one of the strangest statements in the Bible. This is the key verse of the entire passage, and it sheds light on the whole purpose of God, for this verse says He will use Assyria as a rod to chasten His people Israel. God goes so far as to say that He is responsible for sending Sennacherib, the Assyrian, against Israel and for sending the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity. [May be a double metaphor: it appears to be an allusion to the final World Leader also.]

7 Yet it does not so intend, Nor does it plan so in its heart, But rather it is its purpose to destroy And to eliminate many nations.

7 Yet it does not so intend, Nor does it plan so in its heart, But rather it is its purpose to destroy And to cut off many nations.

7 But this is not what he intends, and this is not what he thinks in his mind; but it is in his mind to destroy, and to cut down many nations.

7 Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few.

- Assyria is a symbol of another kingdom in the north whom God will use in the last days
— Many Bible expositors believe this verse has reference to the "beast" which will come out of the sea, mentioned in Rev 13

8 For it says, "Are not my officers all kings?

8 For it says, "Are not my princes all kings?

8 "Because this is what he is saying: 'My commanders are all kings, are they not?'"

8 For he saith, Are not my princes altogether kings?

9 "Is not **Calno** like **Carchemish**, Or **Hamath** like **Arpad**, Or Samaria like Damascus?

9 "Is not Calno like Carchemish, Or Hamath like Arpad, Or Samaria like Damascus?

9 Isn't Calno like Carchemish? Isn't Hamath like Arpad? Isn't Samaria like Damascus?

9 Is not Calno as Carchemish? is not Hamath as Arpad? is not Samaria as Damascus?

- "...Calno" - Niffea, lower Mesopotamia; a city of Nimrod (Gen 10:10; "where tower was built" LXX); desolate in Amos' day (Amos 6:2); taken in 732 BC

- "...Carchemesh" - northern capital of the Hittites; conquered by Sargon in 717 BC (Pharaoh Necho defeated by Nebuchadnezzar in 606 BC)
- Now Jerablus, Syria, 360 mi. N of Jerusalem
- "...Hamath" - Caananite city (Gen 10:18); independent monarch at time of David (2 Sam 8:9-10; 2 Kings 17:24)
- Antiochus named it Epiphania; Hama today
- "...Arpad" - reduced by Tiglath-Pileser early in his reign (748 BC). Revolted against, with Hamath, Sargon; punished.

10 "As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, Whose carved images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria,

10 "As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, Whose graven images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria,

10 As my hand has reached to the idolatrous kingdoms whose carved images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria,

10 As my hand hath found the kingdoms of the idols, and whose graven images did excel them of Jerusalem and of Samaria;

11 Shall I not do the same to Jerusalem and her images Just as I have done to Samaria and her idols?"

11 Shall I not do to Jerusalem and her images Just as I have done to Samaria and her idols?"

11 will I not deal with Jerusalem and her idols as I have dealt with Samaria and her images?"

11 Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols?

(ii) God will punish Assyria while preserving a Jewish remnant (10:12-34)

12 So it will be that when the Lord has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, *He will say*, "I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the **king of Assyria** and the arrogant pride of his eyes."

12 So it will be that when the Lord has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, *He will say*, "I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the pomp of his haughtiness."

12 "For the Lord has finished all his work against Mount Zion and against Jerusalem; he will punish the speech that comes from that willful heart of Assyria's king and the haughty look in his eyes.

12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of

Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.

- Nations are permitted to afflict Israel in chastisement for her national sins, but invariably retribution falls upon them (Gen 15:13-14; Deut 30:5-7; Is 14:1-2; Joel 3:1-8; Micah 5:7-9; Matt 25:31-40)

- When God gets through using Assyria to punish His people, God will deal with the Assyrians and judge them

— They do not escape, either; history is a testimony to the fact. God judged them.

— Isaiah shows that God controls and judges all the nations of the earth

- "...king of Assyria" - an OT allusion to the Antichrist; see also v5,24; Micah 5:5-6

13 For he has said, "By the power of my hand and by my wisdom I did *this*, Because I have understanding; And I removed the boundaries of the peoples And plundered their treasures, And like a powerful man I brought down *their* inhabitants,

13 For he has said, "By the power of my hand and by my wisdom I did *this*, For I have understanding; And I removed the boundaries of the peoples And plundered their treasures, And like a mighty man I brought down *their* inhabitants,

13 He keeps bragging: 'I've done it by the strength of my hand, and by my wisdom, because I'm so clever. I removed the boundaries of nations, and plundered their treasures; like a bull I brought down those who sat on thrones.

13 For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed

14 And my hand reached to the riches of the peoples like a nest, And as one gathers abandoned eggs, I gathered all the earth; And there was not one that flapped its wing, opened *its* beak, or chirped."

14 And my hand reached to the riches of the peoples like a nest, And as one gathers abandoned eggs, I gathered all the earth; And there was not one that flapped its wing or opened *its* beak or chirped."

14 My hand has found, as if in a nest, the wealth of the people; and as one gathers eggs that have been abandoned, so I have gathered all the inhabitants of the earth. Nothing moved a wing, opened its mouth, or chirped.'

14 And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped.

The Destruction of Assyria

15 Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it? *That would be* like a club wielding those who lift it, *Or* like a rod

lifting *the one who* is not wood.

15 Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it? *That would be* like a club wielding those who lift it, *Or* like a rod lifting *him who* is not wood.

15 "Does the ax exalt itself over the one who swings it? Or does the saw magnify itself in opposition to the one who wields it? As if a rod were to wield those who lift it, or as if a club were to brandish the one who is not wood!

15 Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood.

16 Therefore the Lord, the GOD of armies, will send a wasting disease among his stout warriors; And under his glory a fire will be kindled like a burning flame.

16 Therefore the Lord, the GOD of hosts, will send a wasting disease among his stout warriors; And under his glory a fire will be kindled like a burning flame.

16 Therefore, the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies will send a wasting disease among Assyria's sturdy warriors, and under its glory a conflagration will be kindled, like a blazing bonfire.

16 Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire.

17 And the Light of Israel will become a fire and Israel's Holy One a flame, And it will burn and devour his thorns and his briars in a single day.

17 And the light of Israel will become a fire and his Holy One a flame, And it will burn and devour his thorns and his briars in a single day.

17 "The light of Israel will become a fire, and its Holy One a flame, and it will burn and consume Assyria's thorns and briers in a single day.

17 And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day;

18 And He will destroy the glory of his forest and of his fruitful garden, both soul and body, And it will be as when a sick person wastes away.

18 And He will destroy the glory of his forest and of his fruitful garden, both soul and body, And it will be as when a sick man wastes away.

18 The splendor of its forest and its fruitful land the LORD will destroy— both soul and body— and Assyria will be as when a dying man wastes away.

18 And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standard bearer fainteth.

19 And the rest of the trees of his forest will be so small in number That a child could write them down.

19 And the rest of the trees of his forest will be so small in number That a child could write them down.

19 What survives of the trees in his forest will be so few that a child can count them."

19 And the rest of the trees of his forest shall be few, that a child may write them.

The Faithful Remnant is Saved [Remnant of Israel: Past, Present, Future](#)

20 Now **on that day** the **remnant** of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will no longer rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

20 Now in that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

20 At that time, the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no longer rely on the one who struck them down, but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

20 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

- Now we have a vision of the Jewish Remnant during the Great Tribulation: the scene shifts from Assyria in particular to the final destruction of Gentile world power at the return of Christ.

— Unlike the rest of Israel, the Remnant will lean on the Holy One of Israel

- "...on that day" - "the Day of the Lord" (Is 2:10-22; Rev 19:11-21)

- "...remnant" - *Shear-jashub*

21 A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.

21 A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.

21 A remnant will return—a remnant of Jacob—to the Mighty God.

21 The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

- Isaiah declares that ultimately they will return to the God of Israel, a return that can only be accomplished by faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

- According to Rom 11:25-27, all Israel will be saved. According to v20-23, only the Remnant will be saved. This is not a contradiction if understood in the context of Israel's national salvation.

— Zech 13:8-9 points out that two-thirds of the Jewish population will be destroyed during the Tribulation. Only the remnant will survive, the “escaped” of Is 4:2; 10:20; 37:31-32; Joel 2:32; Obadiah 17. The remaining one-third become believers, so at that point “all Israel” and the “remnant of Israel” will be one and the same, as Micah 2:12-13 explains.

22 For though your people, Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, *Only* a remnant within them will return; **A destruction is determined**, overflowing with righteousness.

22 For though your people, O Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, *Only* a remnant within them will return; A destruction is determined, overflowing with righteousness.

22 For even if your people of Israel number as many as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Overwhelming, righteous destruction is decreed,

22 For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.

- Only a remnant implied who will come to believe in the Messiah, from among the large population of Jews

- “...A destruction is determined” - the Remnant will survive a decree of destruction that has been determined upon the whole earth (v23)

— The words here are similar to those found in Is 28:22 where the decree of destruction is issued with the signing of the 7-year covenant that begins the Tribulation

— Synthesizing these two passages, the Remnant will survive the persecution of the Jews and the massive destruction of the earth during the Tribulation

— This passage, along with Is 4:2, 37:31-32, Joel 2:32 and Obadiah 17 refers to them as the “escaped of Israel”

— Is 41:8-16 also records the protection of the Remnant by God’s presence with them. It is a promise to preserve them in the midst of tremendous persecution during Satan’s campaign to destroy them.

23 For a complete destruction, one that is determined, the Lord GOD of armies will execute in the midst of the whole land.

23 For a complete destruction, one that is decreed, the Lord GOD of hosts will execute in the midst of the whole land.

23 because the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies will bring about destruction, as has been decreed, throughout the entire region.

23 For the Lord GOD of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land.

Comfort in the Light of Judgment of Assyria

24 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD of armies says: "My people, you who dwell in Zion, do not fear **the Assyrian** who strikes you with the rod, and lifts up his staff against you the way Egypt *did*."

24 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, "O My people who dwell in Zion, do not fear the Assyrian who strikes you with the rod and lifts up his staff against you, the way Egypt *did*."

24 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies says: "My people, you who live in Zion, don't be afraid of the Assyrians, of the rod that beats you, who lift up their club against you as the Egyptians did."

24 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt.

- "...the Assyrian" - an OT allusion to the Antichrist; see v5,12; Micah 5:5-6 and note there

- Note repeated comparisons:

(1) With Egyptian exodus (10:26; 22:16)

(2) Song of Moses (Deut 31; Rev 15:3; Is 12)

25 For in a very little while My indignation *against you* will be ended and My anger *will be directed* toward their destruction."

25 For in a very little while My indignation *against you* will be spent and My anger *will be directed* to their destruction."

25 In just a little while, my fury will come to an end, and my anger then will be directed to their destruction.

25 For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction.

26 The LORD of armies will wield a whip against him like the defeat of Midian at the rock of Oreb; and His staff will be over the sea, and He will lift it up the way *He did in* Egypt.

26 The LORD of hosts will arouse a scourge against him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; and His staff will be over the sea and He will lift it up the way *He did in* Egypt.

26 The LORD of the Heavenly Armies will brandish a whip against them, as when he struck Midian at the rock of Oreb; and as his staff was stretched out over the sea, so he will lift it up as he did in Egypt.

26 And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt.

- Oreb: Gideon's 300 (Judges 7:19-25)

- Destruction of Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:35)

- Rod of Moses (Ex 4:3-4,20; 14:16,27)

27 So it will be on that day, that his burden will be removed from your shoulders, and his yoke from your neck; and the yoke will be broken because of fatness.

27 So it will be in that day, that his burden will be removed from your shoulders and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be broken because of fatness.

27 At that time, his burden will depart from your shoulder and his yoke from your neck. Indeed, the yoke will be broken, because you've become obese."

27 And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

"War Bulletins" in Advance!

This is a remarkable section of prophecy. It gives certain geographical locations, all of them north of Jerusalem, and it shows the route taken by Assyria and of the future invader from the north (Dan 11).

The Assyrian Invasion

28 He has come against **Aiath**, He has passed through **Migron**; At **Michmash** he deposited his baggage.

28 He has come against Aiath, He has passed through Migron; At Michmash he deposited his baggage.

28 "The Assyrian commander has come upon Aiath and has passed through Migron; he stores his supplies at Michmash.

28 He is come to Aiath, he is passed to Migron; at Michmash he hath laid up his carriages:

- "...Aiath" - 3 mi S of Bethel; 30 mi NE of Jerusalem. Ai (Josh 8:1-28)

- "...Migron" - 30 mi NE: Gibeah of Benjamin (1 Sam 14:2)

- "...Michmash" - 7 mi N of Jerusalem. Jonathan vs. the Philistines; difficult to attack (1 Sam 14:4-13)

29 They have gone through the pass, *saying*, "Geba will be our encampment for the night." Ramah is terrified, and Gibeah of Saul has fled.

29 They have gone through the pass, *saying*, "Geba will be our lodging place." Ramah is terrified, and Gibeah of Saul has fled away.

29 He has crossed over by the pass; his overnight lodging is at Geba. Ramah trembles; Gibeah of Saul has fled.

29 They are gone over the passage: they have taken up their lodging at Geba; Ramah is afraid; Gibeah of Saul is fled.

30 Cry aloud with your voice, daughter of **Gallim**! Pay attention, **Laishah** and wretched **Anathoth**!

30 Cry aloud with your voice, O daughter of Gallim! Pay attention, Laishah *and* wretched Anathoth!

30 Cry aloud, you daughter of Gallim! Pay attention, Laish! Poor Anathoth!

30 Lift up thy voice, O daughter of Gallim: cause it to be heard unto Laish, O poor Anathoth.

- "...Gallim" - birthplace of 2nd husband of Michal, Saul's daughter

- "...Laishah" - Al-Isawizeh, N of Jerusalem

- "...Anathoth" - City of Refuge (Josh 21:8); Jeremiah's birthplace (Jer 1:1)

31 Madmenah has fled. The inhabitants of Gebim have sought refuge.

31 Madmenah has fled. The inhabitants of Gebim have sought refuge.

31 Marmenah is in flight; the inhabitants of Gebim take cover.

31 Madmenah is removed; the inhabitants of Gebim gather themselves to flee.

32 Yet today he will halt at Nob; He shakes his fist at the mountain of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem.

32 Yet today he will halt at Nob; He shakes his fist at the mountain of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem.

32 This very day he will halt at Nob; he will shake his fists at the mountain that is the Daughter of Zion, at Jerusalem's hill.

32 As yet shall he remain at Nob that day: he shall shake his hand against the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem.

- This passage clearly charts the march of the enemy from the north, which brings a state of paralysis and defeat to Jerusalem

The Assyrian Forest Cut Down

33 Behold, the Lord, the GOD of armies, will lop off the branches with terrifying power; Those also who are tall in stature will be cut down, And those who are lofty will be brought low.

33 Behold, the Lord, the GOD of hosts, will lop off the boughs with a terrible crash; Those also who are tall in stature will be cut down And those who are lofty will be abased.

33 Behold, the Lord GOD of the Heavenly Armies will lop off its boughs with terrifying power; the tallest in height will be cut down, and the lofty will be brought low.

33 Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, shall lop the bough with terror: and the high ones of stature shall be hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled.

34 He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an iron axe, And Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One.

34 He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an iron axe, And Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One.

34 He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an ax, and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One."

34 And he shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one.

In 9:8—10:34, Isaiah continues to warn Israel of her impending doom. He also warns Assyria not to become proud of her victories, for she is but a tool in the hands of God. Her day of defeat will come, too. Assyria is a type of the Antichrist who will gather all nations against Jerusalem at the Battle of Armageddon. Just as God defeated Assyria with His miraculous power, so He will defeat Satan and his united armies (Rev 19).