

Assyria's Downfall

Text: Isaiah 10:5-19

Date: 11-15-20 @ 10:30 am

Truth: Pride is the catalyst to one's destruction and when a nation sees itself as captain of its own fate, the fall of that nation will not be far behind.

I. The Reckoning of Assyria (Isa. 10:5-6).

Assyria was accomplishing God's will. They came under His divine will and plan. Of course they chose to act the way that they did but not without the mighty hand of God over them. As God sovereignly desired, He used wicked Assyria to be a club of His anger. Judgment would come to Israel, but woe to those who bring that judgment. As we shall soon see Assyria believed that that they were solely responsible for this punishment, but those who evaluate their success on their own merits will become the object of God's indignation.

II. The Reasons for Assyria's Reckoning (Isa. 10:7-14).

A. Assyria refused to admit that God was behind their conquests (10:7-11).

The bottom line was that Assyria and all nations should have known they were but instruments in God's divine hands. This didn't mean that they were godly or even knew they were being used by God, but they discounted the greatness of Israel's God by assuming that Israel was like any other nation. They were blinded by their bloodthirstiness.

The Assyrians elevated their leaders to places of deity. They were in defiance of Jehovah even as they were being used by Jehovah. II Kings 18:33-35. The leaders placed themselves equal or above God, and when a person or nation places themselves in this position, it will lead to a cruel and painful fall.

Assyria placed God on the level of gods. Additionally, this showed that the Jews had fallen away so far from the true God that their enemies mocked their power. Remember what God had done for Israel before? How He had defeated the Egyptians, the Canaanites, and the Philistines? **To compare pagan gods to the God of Israel was blasphemy against Jehovah, the living God.** To Assyria all "gods" were *idols and graven images*. Assyria thought they and their gods were solely responsible for their conquests, but they were to soon find out that was not the case.

B. Assyria's pride got the best of them (10:12-14).

Once God's work was over with the Assyrians, judgment would come upon them. Why? For their *stout heart* and *high looks*. The word *stout* means *pride, greatness, majesty*. This was indicative of man's wicked attempts to magnify himself against God. The Assyrian's arrogance would lead to their demise.

So who gave them this strength and intelligence? God! But instead they attributed all their advancements to themselves. In the end all that wisdom and might got them their own deserved doom. The earth did not belong to Assyria even though they had conquered much of it. The earth belongs to the Lord (Ps. 24:1).

III. The Promise of Assyrian's Reckoning (Isa. 10:15-19).

Assyria's pompous pride is exposed as he demonstrates that they were but tools in God's toolbox. Where they saw themselves as the reason, Isaiah demands that the tool is worthless without an operator. Instead of gods (themselves), this was God.

Even though Assyria had been used by God, in the end they were not above God. For us we are but instruments for the Master's use. While we clearly have desires, goals, and must work, it is ultimately our sovereign God who is control over this entire universe. A person cannot rise up above God and remain humble.

God, a Light to Israel, will be a fire to Assyria. God will destroy Assyria as fire destroys briars and thorns. The holiness of God will be opposed for a season, but the pure light of God will bring fiery judgment to those who stand in haughtiness against Him.

God can raise up nations; so He can quickly destroy them. The glory of the wicked kingdom will be but a fast developing fire that will be consumed in the flame. He will turn the soul and body into a sick man whose life ebbs away. Pride never wins.

How does Isaiah 10:5-19 apply to us?

1. A person will never win against God no matter how strong, smart, or capable he believes in himself.
2. God's control over mankind is clearly seen in the moving of Assyria to judge and to judgment.

What does this passage reveal about the character and nature of God?

1. God's justice
2. God's sovereignty
3. God's judgment