

A Hypocritical Nation

Isaiah Chapter Ten

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is in the middle of a series of prophecies that began in chapter seven, and continues through chapter twelve. These are messages that were given to the evil and wicked King Ahaz, king of the southern kingdom of Judah; a king who offered his son as a human sacrifice. So, it's a bleak and black background on which Isaiah wrote this section of Scripture. Our last report was difficult to follow, dark in understanding, and theologically verged on mind-boggling; at least, for me it did. This report may be a little easier. The theme of our last report was that the Lord Jesus Christ was the child who was born, given unto us as a son: and that the governments of the world shall be upon his shoulder *IN THAT DAY*: and that His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

If you have not read our previous report, I suggest you go back and do so now. If you will take the time to do that, then this report will make much more sense to you. The theme of this report is that the Assyrians were going to be used by God — nearly seven hundred years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem — as judgment against Israel. God said that's what He was going to do, and He did exactly that; then God judged the Assyrians - and that segue's into the Great Tribulation period and the Battle of Armageddon later in this series of prophecies. Stated here are certain great principles; gigantic programs that pertain to the Lord's dealings with men and nations at His second advent. All of that is neatly wrapped in the next thirty-four verses, as a precursor! That makes this one remarkable chapter; and, although I say that about half of the chapters of the Bible, I should probably just say it about all of the chapters of the Bible – because it's true....

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

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 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 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.

~ God opens with a brief discussion on injustice in the courts of law in the nation Israel, and how that system of injustice was, in turn, reflected in the culture of the people. Israel was supposed to mete out justice; but was not doing so. Their legislation became an abortion of justice! They were oppressing the poor, dishonest in their affairs, and covetousness of the sinful nations around them who were worshiping idols under every tree. These first several verses might remind some of Plato or one of the moralists of his historical period; because Plato wrote volumes on justice. The notable exception is the overruling authority of God's divine and holy justice. The judge, bench, courtroom, and jury on earth are designed to emulate the justice of God, friends. We are answerable to Him.

This is actually very modern and up-to-date; and we are seeing this prophecy worked out in contemporary society, without question. The condition of the legal systems of this world, as they attempt to enforce law and order, have become utterly corrupt. The legal system is corroded and mired in deterioration and degradation; flawed with everything from bias to prejudice to favoritism to bribery! These are irrefutable facts that apply worldwide, my friends; and yet we scratch our heads and wonder why global lawlessness abounds. Well, our state of political anarchy is not some enigmatic riddle that cannot be understood. We don't want the answer. Our moral awfulness shouldn't come as any surprise. Further, any notion of freedom has been bent to the breaking point, and current leaders are telling us to prepare to give it up altogether. So, the modern parallels are unmistakable with that which we are studying.

Law and order is a deeply perverted phrase in contemporary society. Actually, it is treated like a pornographic term. Well, if you want to live in peace and safety, and walk down the street without being robbed or killed, then you're going to have to have the laws enforced. That's what I want! Blaming the police for societal problems is an idiot's game — although they may bear some responsibility; but, no, the larger injustice is because of the trouble in the courts, and in the lack of enforcement of the laws in the first place. This problem affects all strata's of society, too, by the way.

Isaiah talks about the needy and the poor here, also. Those are truly the ones needing justice and protection today. Every modern-day program in place to help the poor man only *HURTS* the poor, my friends. Well, the only One Who can provide justice to the poor is Almighty God. The men designing these poverty programs are so utterly godless, and filthy in every thought and deed, that it is literally impossible for the government to extend help to the poor man who so desperately needs help. The officials in power are in no position to judge or represent me. Interestingly, I hear men today talk about how they believe in the free-thinking foundation of this country as the founding fathers did — but the founding fathers had a healthy respect for the Word of God. That's the missing ingredient; and that key ingredient is what made this country great. Without the Word of God as a guiding principle, the laws and systems will not work, cannot work — and do not work, obviously....

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

~ Alright, verse five is the key to this entire passage, and it is simply too much for most people to handle. Many of you who are actually still reading this report — which probably isn't many — aren't going to find this acceptable; but, don't bother writing to me trying to straighten me out — I suggest you talk to God about straightening Isaiah out, if that's what you want to do. This is what God told Isaiah to write concerning His plan and purpose; and that's exactly what Isaiah did. In the day in which we are studying, God used the king of Assyria as a symbol and a type of the future coming of the king of the north. That means God is using this man as a rod

to chasten His people Israel. That which the Assyrian did to Israel was that which God had Personally ordained. The atrocities the Assyrian's wrought in Israel is what God wanted done. That's the way it is, friends; irrespective of whether you believe it, understand it, accept it, agree with it, like it – or not! God isn't seeking validation or approval from you or me.

Just as a parent takes a belt, or a switch, and paddles a misbehaving child, God is using the king of Assyria against the children of Israel. I know many of you don't spank your kids anymore – and that's your problem – because God still does. The king of the north will come up against Immanuel's land *IN THAT DAY* – the last days – and, my beloved - it isn't going to be pretty! They will be beaten within an inch of their lives. So, what we have here is Isaiah reaching beyond the immediate future of his day, and looking way down to the last days of the nation Israel. Remember, "*in that day*" is a prophetic term that designates the future; and refers to the Great Tribulation period coming upon the earth. Even as I write this report and you read it, that day is not yet. At the end of this chapter, it will conclude with the path of approach by the enemy from the north, and this series of prophecies will conclude with the commencement of the Battle of Armageddon....

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.

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.

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

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

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, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols?

~ God takes full responsibility and makes no apologies for what's happening — and will happen. Many Bible teachers believe this has reference to the beast out of the sea in Revelation chapter thirteen; which would make this the ruler of the Roman Empire. Personally, I don't subscribe to that theory; because directions in the Bible are always *FROM* Jerusalem — and it is Russia that is north of Jerusalem! Rome is west. Today, Russia has won the cold war and, even though their economy is down the drain, they still flourish. Frankly, Russia has America on the ropes — and has had us that way for a very long time. When we fought in Viet Nam, we weren't fighting North Viet Nam — no, friends, we were fighting Russia — and China. We were literally humiliated in that war, too. See, this passage tells us very definitely that God uses godless nations to judge His Own; and, although America is not God's chosen people, America is not found anywhere in prophecy, either. That tells me that America passes off of the world stage long before these end time prophecies concerning Israel come to pass. Turn all of that over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with.

If you had asked the Assyrian, in the day in which we are studying, if they knew they were a rod in the Lord's hand, they would have laughed at you. If you had asked the Russian, in the days of the Viet Nam war, if they knew they were a rod in the Lord's hand, you would have gotten the same response. Actually, the Russian would have simply denied the existence of God altogether — but I digress. Either way, that talk and concept would have been utterly ridiculous to all of them — both ancient and modern. Well, you never get away from God, friends; because that would be impossible. Even those who have no awareness of God in any way, shape or form will glorify Christ Jesus and be used for the accomplishment of His plans and purposes....

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.

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 their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man:

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.

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 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.

~ God says that when He was finished using Assyria to punish His children, He was going to punish the people He used to do the punishing! Why? Because they had an opportunity to turn to Him and they refused to do so! They thought they did all of those things by their own power and might – but God had shown them reality. That, my dear readers, is utterly remarkable; at least, to me it is. History bears this out in myriad judged nations. Isaiah's writing was available to all nations of the earth to read. Remember, Isaiah wrote it out, and hung it up like a billboard sign. It is absolutely critical for a nation — any nation — to have men of God who don't mind dying for truth and justice. We need more people who can truthfully claim God is leading and guiding them in their lives. God will give His people that type of man when they will turn to Him. Today, we need to be sure *NOT* that God is on our side – but that *WE* are on God's side. I'm afraid we have lost sight of these truths completely. This world has lost its way....

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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