

## A Trek Through Isaiah 10 - 10:16 - 11:16

Bruce Pike

October 1, 2023

### Context

- Ch 7 - 11 are matching addresses to Judah and Israel
- 9:8 - 11:16 Address to Israel
  - 9:8 - 10:4 Israel's Choice and Its Consequences
  - 10:5-15 Interlude: Woe to Assyria (Isaiah's view of history)
  - 10:16-34 A Believing Remnant Preserved
  - 11:1-16 The Coming King
- Today: the last two sections

### A Believing Remnant Preserved 10:16-34

Structure. Chiastic. Each section has vivid illustrations

- A1 v16-19 Judgment on Assyria: pathetic remnant.
- B1 v20-23 Judgment on Israel: believing remnant
- B2 v24-27 Security for Israel: burden removed
- A2 v28-34 Destruction for Assyria: cut down.

Judgment on Assyria: pathetic remnant 10:16-19

Isaiah 10:16–19 (LSB)

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

17And 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.

18And He will bring to an end the glory of his forest and of his fruitful orchard, both soul and body, And it will be as when a sick man wastes away.

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

- V16
- Therefore. Re v5-15 how history works
- Lord, Yahweh of hosts. Emphasizing His sovereignty. He is Lord over both Assyria and Israel/Judah. He raised up Assyria, now will cause them to decline.
- Wasting disease...fire. Two metaphors for destruction. Internal and external
- V17
- light of Israel. Light to His people. To Assyria a consuming fire.
- His Holy One. Separate from sin. In covenant with His people.
- Thorns and briars. The Assyrian army. Fuel for the fire.
- In a day. Burns quickly.
- V18
- Forest and fruitful orchard, soul and body. Totality.
- Sick man wastes away. Metaphor for internal decay. The healthy powerful Assyrian army to be completely changed.

- V19
- Trees of his forest. Majestic to Israelites who had no great forests.
- So small in number that a child could write them down. Assyria to be brought down to nothing.
- Fulfilled in Isa 37:36 (the Assyrians at the gates of Jerusalem): Then the angel of Yahweh went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And the men arose early in the morning, and behold, all of them were dead bodies.

Judgment on Israel: believing remnant 10:20-23

Isaiah 10:20–23 (LSB)

20 Now it will be in that day, that 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 Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel.

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

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

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

- V20
- the remnant of Israel and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped. Those elected to believe.
- rely on the one who struck them. Alliance with Assyria.
- Truly rely on Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel. Return to the true God, who has never left them.
- V21
- A remnant will return. Re his son's name Shear-Jashub.
- To the Mighty God. Same title as Is 9:6
- V22
- sand of the sea...only a remnant.
  - As Is 7:3 ...you and Shear-jashub your son. "A remnant shall return"
  - The remnant is those who lean on Yahweh in truth.
  - Sad contrast of the small remnant with the innumerable sand of the sea. Here is a warning that mere physical descent from Abraham is not sufficient for salvation.
  - Abraham was promised that his descendants would be as the sand of the sea. This will be fulfilled in the church, and in the end times when all Israel comes to faith in Jesus.
- A destructive end is decreed, overflowing with righteousness.
  - For the great number of the people who did not believe.
  - Their destruction will demonstrate Yahweh's righteousness.

Outcome for Israel: Security 10:24-27

Isaiah 10:24–26 (LSB)

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

25“For in a very little while My indignation against you will end and My anger will be directed to their destruction.”

26And Yahweh of hosts will waken 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.

27So 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.

- V24
- Therefore. Refers back to v19.
- O My people who inhabit Zion. Spoken directly to the people in Jerusalem, because it was at Jerusalem where the Assyrian was destroyed and God’s people preserved. Yahweh decreed that Israel would perish as a nation while Judah would be preserved, even though both deserved destruction. But both Judah and Israel are still God’s people and this hope extends to the believing remnant in both of them.
- Do not fear the Assyrian. Because Assyria will be reduced to nothing.
- Rod...staff. For a while, Israel would suffer under Assyria as under Egypt. But note there is not a sword to slay them.
- V25
- For in a very little while. As Ps 30:5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.
- V26
- Four reasons for trust
  - Who God is: Lord Yahweh of hosts
  - Who the remnant is: My people.
  - Where the remnant dwells: Zion, the city of God.
  - Witness of history:
    - Like the slaughter of Midian. Enemies defeated.
    - The way He did in Egypt. People delivered.
- V27
- Will be removed...will be broken. Not by Judah but by Yahweh.
- Fatness. Heb oil, fatness. Strength sufficient to break the yoke.

## Outcome for Assyria: Destruction 10:28-34

### Assyria's march towards doom 10:28-32

#### Isaiah 10:28–32 (LSB)

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

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

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

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

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

- V28
- He has come. Spoken as if Isaiah is on a high place watching the advance of the Assyrian army toward Jerusalem from the north.
- Not a prophecy of the actual route. Isaiah is painting a picture of an irresistible army overrunning Judah.
- V30
- Cry aloud with your voice. Heb scream (in terror)
- V31
- Fled...sought refuge. All of Jerusalem's helpers desert her.
- V32
- Stand at Nob...shakes his fist. Within sight of Jerusalem itself. It seems that nothing can save her.

### Assyria brought down 10:33-34

#### Isaiah 10:33–34 (LSB)

33Behold, the Lord, Yahweh of hosts, will lop off the boughs with a terrible crash; Those also who are high in stature will be cut in pieces And those who are lofty will be made low.

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

- V33
- Behold. A sudden, dramatic change.
- Lop off the boughs. Metaphor of a mighty forest being cut down. Assyria, who was Yahweh's axe, now feels the axe themselves.
- Boughs...thickets. Top to bottom.
- V34
- by the Mighty One. The Lord of history, majestic in power and in faithfulness.

## The Coming King 11:1-16

### Context

- 11:1-16 a parallel section to 9:1-7.
  - Both speak of the coming King.
  - There the coming King was presented against the backdrop of the present darkness.
  - Here the coming of the King is preceded by the destruction of the world's kingdoms.
  - As Ps 2:2-5 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against Yahweh and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord mocks them. Then He speaks to them in His anger And terrifies them in His fury...
- Structure
  - Two parts. Each begins w the root of Jesse.
  - V1-9 The King and His kingdom.
  - V10-16 The King gathers His people.

### The King and His kingdom 11:1-9

#### Heritage of the King 11:1

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

- a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse.
  - The Messiah, descended from David.
  - Of Jesse. Downplaying the current house of David. Elsewhere Isaiah makes it clear that the Messiah will be a descendent of David (9:7; 16:5; 55:4-5)
- stem.
  - Isaiah could see the results of Ahaz' apostasy: the Davidic monarchy would appear to be dead. But from the stump of David will come the Branch (Messiah).
  - Contrast the Assyrian stump (Is 10:33-34) which is truly dead.
- Fruit.
  - Fulfillment of Yahweh's plan for His people.

### Endowment of the King 11:2

The Spirit of Yahweh will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and might, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh.

- Given in seven attributes. Number of completeness. 1 plus 3 pairs.
- the Spirit of Yahweh
  - In the OT, God's spirit was given to equip people with divine ability for their work. As Bezalel's craftsmanship (Ex 31:3), Samson's strength (Jdg 14:6), David's ability to rule God's people (1 Sam 16:13)
  - As Is 61:1-2a The Spirit of Lord Yahweh is upon me...
    - Applied by Jesus to Himself in the synagogue at Nazareth (Lk 4:18-19)
- The Spirit of wisdom and understanding
  - Ruling attributes
  - Wisdom: Having knowledge. Able to use it skillfully.
  - understanding. Able to rightly appraise and rightly judge. Able to perceive the truth, especially of the human heart.
- the Spirit of counsel and might
  - Practical attributes
  - Counsel: Able to devise a right course of action
  - Might: Able to carry it out.
- the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh
  - Spiritual attributes
  - Knowledge: Of Yahweh.
  - Fear of Yahweh: the beginning of wisdom.

### Motivation of The King 11:3a

And He will delight in the fear of Yahweh

- As David in Ps 40:8 "I desire to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my inner being."

## Righteousness of the King 11-3b-5

Isaiah 11:3–5 (LSB)

3..., And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor render a decision by what His ears hear;

4But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with uprightness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will put the wicked to death.

5Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

- Right judgment
  - Not by eyes and ears. Indicating divine knowledge.
  - With righteousness and uprightness.
- Concern for the lowly
  - Judge the poor...decide for the afflicted.
- Diligence to destroy the wicked.
  - Earth. Parallel with the wicked
  - With the rod of His mouth. As Rev 1:16b ...a sharp two-edged sword which comes out of His mouth.
  - Put the wicked to death. As 2 Th 2:8 ...And then that lawless one will be revealed—whom the Lord Jesus WILL SLAY WITH THE BREATH OF HIS MOUTH
- Prepared for battle
  - Belt about His loins. Belt held clothing in place.
  - Righteousness. Having integrity. Doing the right thing in all circumstances
  - Faithfulness. Dependable and true
  - As Rev 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it is called Faithful and True...

The coming kingdom. 11:6-9

Isaiah 11:6–9 (LSB)

6And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a young boy will lead them.

7Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8And the nursing baby will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.

9They will do no evil nor act corruptly in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of Yahweh As the waters cover the sea.

- Description of the kingdom.
  - V6 Predator and prey coexist peacefully.
  - V6 Man leads gently, not oppressively. Animals accept his dominion.
  - V7 Animals transformed; all herbivores.
  - V8 No enmity between man and reptile.
  - Curse reversed. As Ro 8:21 ...the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption...
- Summary and explanation
  - V9
    - Summary: the whole world will become God's holy mountain. No sin.
    - Explanation: all men have intimate knowledge of God.
- When? New heavens and earth.



The King gathers His people 11:10-16

- Two gatherings: the nations (Gentiles) and the remnant of His people (Israel)

Signal for all nations 11:10

Then it will be in that day, That the nations will seek the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a standard for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.

- In that day. In the end times.
- the nations will seek the root of Jesse
  - Nations. Gentiles. All nations will come.
  - Root of Jesse. Messiah.
  - How can the root of Jesse (his beginning) be the same as the shoot from the stem of Jesse (v1)? Because of the Incarnation: Eternal God became a man.
- Stand as a standard
  - No longer hidden in the stump.
  - As Jesus in Jn 12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.
    - The cross was the means to redeem all men and is the standard for them to come to.
  - Contrast w Is 5:26 He will lift up a banner to the nations. Then to punish Israel; now to bring her home.
- For the peoples. All the nations will come to Him. He will welcome them in.
- Resting place will be glorious.
  - Where He comes to rest. Jerusalem.
  - Lit glory. It will be glory.

### Gathering of Israel 11:11-12

Isaiah 11:11–12 (LSB)

11Then it will be in that day, that the Lord Will again acquire the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Ethiopia, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the coastlands of the sea.

12And He will lift up a standard for the nations And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the scattered of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

- V11
- In that day. In the end times.
- The remnant of His people. Believing remnant of Israel.
- Second time. The first time was the Exodus.
- Assyria...Egypt. Superpowers, but no power can prevent the gathering.
- V12
- Banished...scattered. Not just to Babylon.
- From the four corners.
  - From all over the known world
  - South: Pathros (south Egypt) & Ethiopia (south of Egypt)
  - East: Elam and Shinar (Babylon)
  - North: Hamath.
  - West: coastlands of the sea

### A transformed people 11:13-14

Isaiah 11:13–14 (LSB)

13Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, And those who assail Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, And Judah will not assail Ephraim.

14And they will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west; Together they will plunder the sons of the east; They will stretch out their hands over Edom and Moab, And the sons of Ammon will obey them.

- V13
- God's people truly united. No jealousy or harassment on either side.
- V14
- They will swoop down. Take the initiative. Victorious over those who had been victorious over them.
- Will obey them. Head of the nations rather than being influenced by them. Contrast Is 2:6a ...the house of Jacob...full of things from the east and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines,

Highways for God's people 11:15-16

Isaiah 11:15–16 (LSB)

15And Yahweh will devote to destruction The tongue of the Sea of Egypt; And He will wave His hand over the River With His scorching wind; And He will strike it into seven streams And make men walk over dry-shod.

16And there will be a highway from Assyria For the remnant of His people who will remain, Just as there was for Israel In the day that they came up out of the land of Egypt.

- V15
- Obstacles removed
  - Devote to destruction the tongue of the Sea of Egypt. As in the Exodus
  - Wave His hand over the River. The Euphrates reduced to small streams.
  - Highway. All obstacles removed.
- V16
- The remnant of His people who will remain. Believing remnant of Israel.
- Just as there was for Israel In the day that they came up out of the land of Egypt.
  - All Israel brought out
  - All done by Yahweh.

Application

- 11:10 says that the Messiah will stand as a standard for the peoples? 11:12 says He will lift up a standard for the nations. What does that mean?
  - A signal calling for a response.
  - A flag to submit to.

References

Scripture quotations are from The Legacy Standard Bible, Copyright © 2021 by the Lockman Foundation A Corporation Not For Profit, La Habra, California, all rights reserved.

Calvin, John, *Commentary on the Prophet Isaiah*, Baker Books, 2009

Henry, Matthew, *An Exposition, With Practical Observations, of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah*, Blue Letter Bible, [https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Isa/Isa\\_000.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Isa/Isa_000.cfm)

Motyer, Alec, *Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary in Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*, Intersity Press, 1999

Oswalt, John, *The Book of Isaiah*, Eerdmans, 1986

Stevenson, Peter, *A Commentary on Isaiah*, BJU Press, 2003

Young, Edward, *The Book of Isaiah*, Eerdmans, 1972