

# INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

J. Vernon McGee, Th.D., LL.D.

Copyright @ 1960

## CHAPTER TEN

### THEME:

God used the Assyrian to judge Israel but God will judge the Assyrian. The Great Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon.

### REMARKS:

Great principles and gigantic programs in God's dealings with men and nations are set forth in this chapter. The chapter opens with a brief discussion on the courts. The injustice of the courts of the nation are reflected in the culture of the people and the chastisement of God.

The Assyrian is a symbol and type of the future King of the North who shall come up against Immanuel's land in the last days.

This prophecy reaches beyond the immediate future of Isaiah's day and extends down to the last days of the nation Israel. Isaiah identifies the period by the designation, "**in that day.**"

The chapter concludes with the awesome picture of the approach of the enemy from the north to the battle of Armageddon.

### OUTLINE:

1. **The JUDGES of ISRAEL are Unjust and will be Judged of God.** Verses 1-4
2. **The JUDGMENT of ASSYRIA After She Executes God's Judgment on Israel.** Verses 5-19
3. **The JUDGMENT of the HOUSE of JACOB in the Great Tribulation and the Preservation of the Remnant.** Verses 20-27
4. **The JUSTICE of GOD at the Battle of Armageddon.** Verses 28-34

### COMMENT:

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

These first few verses may appear at first to be a discourse of Plato or one of the moralists.

The one notable exception is that back of human justice is the justice of God. The judge and throne down here are to reveal His justice and are answerable to Him.

Verse 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!**

God always defends the poor, the needy, the widow, the orphan, and the weak. This is a condemnation of any economic system which oppresses the poor and takes advantage of them.

Verse 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?**

This is a warning concerning a day of reckoning. The unjust judges must stand before the Just Judge. It looks beyond to the final day of reckoning.

Verse 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.**

This distortion of justice works itself out in all strata of society.

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

This is the key verse of the entire passage, and sheds light on the whole purpose of God, for He was using Assyria as a rod to chasten His people. Israel. The destruction which they wrought was what the hand of God wrought. This is difficult for a modern man to swallow.

Verse 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.**

God goes so far as to say that He is responsible for sending Sennacherib, the Assyrian, against His people and for taking the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity.

In view of the fact that the Assyrian is a symbol of the northern kingdom in the last days, and evidently Russia is that kingdom, then God may be permitting Russia to gain such advantages in the present cold war.

Verse 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.**

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

The Assyrian had no notion that he was prompted of God, nor would he admit it.

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

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

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

- Calno was probably a town in northern Syria (Amos 6:2).
- Carchemish was the eastern capital of the Hittites west of the Euphrates.

The pride of the Assyrian blinds him to see a true status, he rests upon his own strength and supremacy.

**Verse 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.**

**Verse 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:**

**Verse 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.**

God will finally deal with the Assyrian and will judge him. Isaiah shows that God controls and judges all the nations of the earth.

**Verse 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.**

**Verse 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.**

**Verse 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;**

**Verse 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.**

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

The Assyrian was only an instrument in the hand of God.

Verse 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.**

In this verse Isaiah begins to look beyond the immediate circumstances which concern the Assyrian to “**that day**.” He speaks of the remnant which shall be preserved in The Great Tribulation.

Verse 24—**Therefore thus said 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.**

This is a word of comfort to Judah that she shall be spared from captivity by the Assyrian.

Verse 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.**

Again the prophet moves beyond, “**in that day**.”

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

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

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

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

Verse 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 is a very remarkable prophecy. It works out the route of the future invader from the north, who is evidently Russia:

AIATH is about 15 miles north of Jerusalem.

MIGRON is south of Aiath and is the pass where Jonathan got a victory over the Philistines (I Samuel 14).

GEBA and RAMAH are about six miles north of Jerusalem.

ANATHOTH was about three miles north of Jerusalem.

LAISH is the extreme north of Palestine in the tribe of Dan.  
MADMENAH (dunghill) north of Jerusalem.  
GEBIM is probably north of Jerusalem, exact site is not known.  
NOB, north, and in sight of Jerusalem.

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

Verse 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.**

God intervenes and delivers His people. This is a reference to the Second Coming of Christ to establish His Kingdom.

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

~ end of chapter 10 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>

\*\*\*