

Judgment for oppression & INJUSTICE

4th time in this section

10 Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees,
 and the writers who keep writing oppression,
 to turn aside the needy from justice
 and to rob the poor of my people of their right,
 that widows may be their spoil,
 and that they may make the fatherless their prey!
 What will you do on the day of punishment,
 in the ruin that will come from afar?
 To whom will you flee for help,
 and where will you leave your wealth?
 Nothing remains but to crouch among the prisoners
 or fall among the slain.
 For all this his anger has not turned away,
 and his hand is stretched out still.

Judgment on Arrogant Assyria - COVES USS. 5-19

5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger;
 the staff in their hands is my fury!
 6 Against a godless nation I send him,
 and against the people of my wrath I command
 him,
 to take spoil and seize plunder,
 and to tread them down like the mire of the
 streets.
 7 But he does not so intend,
 and his heart does not so think;
 but it is in his heart to destroy,
 and to cut off nations not a few;
 8 for he says:
 "Are not my commanders all kings?"

Assyria is not aware they are being used of God.
 God knows their hearts and allows them to do His bidding. God must stay His hand for Assyria to move against His chosen people.

1-2 THE WICKED LEADERSHIP IS USING THE LAWS THEY WRITE TO OPPRESS THE PEOPLE, TO ROB THE POOR, and to GAIN PERSONAL advantage.

- 3 Three Questions are used to show the PUNISHMENT God intends to use against their sinful lifestyle.
 - Q1. They may seem safe now but God determines the day of punishment.
 - Q2. The unwritten response is "there is nowhere to go or hide" if God has chosen to deal with you.
 - Q3. Those things you trust in and depend on what will happen to these things.
- 4 There is no hope for the wicked but to expect the coming Judgment of God.
- 4b This repeated warning that God's path of justice is not swayed and cannot be stopped. They have gone too far and God's punishment, though slow in coming, will be swift when it comes.

5-19 God's Plans AND MAN'S PLANS ARE CONTRASTED. God plans History and uses the plans of man to accomplish His Goals. God does not cause man to sin, but He limits what man can do. He opens doors and puts up roadblocks so His plans always supercede those of sinful man. God is planning to use the Assyrians as instruments of Judgment AND Justice. see vs. 5

5-6 Assyria is a tool God is using. He did not cause them to be wicked & warlike but they will be used of God to punish & teach his people. The wickedness of Judah has caused God to have to take these actions. When Joshua 12th entered the promise land it was not their righteousness but because of the inhabitants wickedness they were driven out. (Deut. 9.4-5) Here God is fulfilling a warning given to Moses. (Deut 28.58-68) that they would also suffer if they turned their backs on Him.

8 Here is the prideful boast of the Assyrian King. He sees himself as King over Kings. He thinks he is the absolute ruler. Exactly what Proverbs 16.18 is warning about. Pride precedes the fall & a haughty spirit is a sure sign of coming destruction

- 9 Is not Calno like Carchemish?
Is not Hamath like Arpad?
Is not Samaria like Damascus?
- 10 As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols,
whose carved images were greater than those of
Jerusalem and Samaria,
- 11 shall I not do to Jerusalem and her idols
as I have done to Samaria and her images?"

¹²When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion
and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant
heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes.

¹³For he says:

"By the strength of my hand I have done it,
and by my wisdom, for I have understanding;
I remove the boundaries of peoples,
and plunder their treasures;
like a bull I bring down those who sit on
thrones.

- 14 My hand has found like a nest
the wealth of the peoples;
and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken,
so I have gathered all the earth;
and there was none that moved a wing
or opened the mouth or chirped."

- 15 Shall the axe boast over him who hews with it,
or the saw magnify itself against him who
wields it?

8-11 Boasting of Assyrian King. All before have been conquered and all he faces will meet the same fate. He is not considering the possibility that God is at work in these matters. The Assyrian King sees the Hebrew God as just another idol to defeat.

12 THE LORD WILL USE THE ASSYRIAN TO PUNISH, AND THEN HE WILL DEAL WITH THEM FOR THEIR WICKEDNESS.

13 Now God speaks about how easy it is for Him to do His will.

14 Like taking eggs from a birds nest is how easy it is for God to do His will. THE nations cannot resist THE will of God. like frightened birds afraid to chirp they will try to hide from him.

15-19 THE BOAST OF THE ASSYRIAN KING IS SHOWN AS IGNORANCE. A Series of examples of these are given showing they are merely instruments in the hand of God.

- As if a rod should wield him who lifts it,
 or as if a staff should lift him who is not wood!
- 16 Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts
 will send wasting sickness among his stout
 warriors,
 and under his glory a burning will be kindled,
 like the burning of fire.
- 17 The light of Israel will become a fire,
 and his Holy One a flame,
 and it will burn and devour
 his thorns and briars in one day.
- 18 The glory of his forest and of his fruitful land
 the LORD will destroy, both soul and body,
 and it will be as when a sick man wastes away.
- 19 The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few
that a child can write them down.

The Remnant of Israel Will Return

²⁰In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. ²¹A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.

²²For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness. ²³For the Lord GOD of hosts will make a full end, as decreed, in the midst of all the earth.

²⁴Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: "O my people, who dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrians when they strike with the rod and lift up their staff against you as the Egyptians did. ²⁵For in a very little while my fury will come

(15b) These have no power unless it is given to them. God allows Assyria to act but before Him they become powerless.

(16-19) God makes it clear what will eventually happen to the Assyrians. In the end vs. 19 so few of them will remain a child could count them easily. Here God is in control, man's boasting will not stand against God's will. God controls history in advance. He writes the future as if it has already happened, and it happens as he has written it. God is no idol to be conquered. He is the power of all creation to be served. Only what God permits can man do.

(20-24) God will not forget his people - deliverance for them is planned.

(20-23) This punishment, adjustment, will not remain. They will be freed from their captives.

(21) A remnant shall return is the name of Israel's son Shear-jeshub (Isa. 7:3). Only a small portion will come back.

A sifting to find the righteous among the nation.

(22) Those who do not follow God are already judged and the decree is set in place by God Himself.

(23) This end is to sin and sinful men. This is also a great foreshadowing of the final judgment.

(24) Speaking to the righteous among the people God gives them hope for his long-range plans. He calls on them to remember previous times He has delivered them.

to an end, and my anger will be directed to their destruction.
 26 And the LORD of hosts will wield against them a whip, as when he struck Midian at the rock of Oreb. And his staff will be over the sea, and he will lift it as he did in Egypt. 27 And in that day his burden will depart from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck; and the yoke will be broken because of the fat."

28 He has come to Aiath;
 he has passed through Migron;
 at Michmash he stores his baggage;
 29 they have crossed over the pass;
 at Geba they lodge for the night;
 Ramah trembles;

Gibeah of Saul has fled.
 30 Cry aloud, O daughter of Gallim!
 Give attention, O Laishah!
 O poor Anathoth!

31 Madmenah is in flight;
 the inhabitants of Gebim flee for safety.

32 This very day he will halt at Nob; THE DUST CLOUD FROM HIS ARMY COULD BE SEEN IN JERUSALEM.
 he will shake his fist
 at the mount of the daughter of Zion,
 the hill of Jerusalem.

33 Behold, the Lord GOD of hosts
 will lop the boughs with terrifying power;
 the great in height will be hewn down,
 and the lofty will be brought low.

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

25 God's anger at their sins will not last.

26 THEN GOD WILL TURN TO THEIR CAPTORS AND DEAL WITH THEM AS HE DEALT WITH EGYPT AND OREB w/ GIBOON (JO 7.25)
 PREVIOUS 5

27 Deliverance is promised. They will BE FREE AGAIN.

because of the fat is an expression meaning having increased strength

28-32. ISAIAH SHOWS THE APPROACHING ASSYRIAN ARMY move toward Jerusalem. Conquering as they come, spreading fear till they arrive at Nob. Nob is a small village walking distance from Jerusalem. Shaking his fist is symbolic of being able to see his army approaching. Suddenly the prophet stops. He does not describe THE BATTLE OR SIEGE. He lets the reader to imagine how bad it will be. Fear of what might be eaten away at a person while real fear usually passes.

33-34. ASSYRIA will never prevail. They are an instrument in God's hands. Like trees they will BE CUT (Hewn) Down. THE Hebrews are called to look forward and to know God is in total control.