

**Isaiah**

**The Lord Is Salvation**

**The  
Raised  
Fist**

**Isaiah 9:8-10:4**

**Lesson Seventeen**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## **The Raised Fist**

From Isaiah 9:8 to Isaiah 10:4, Isaiah records some things that cause God to raise His fist to Israel. If you think about it, there couldn't be anything more frightening than having God raise his fist to you. You know, the school bully whose raised fist might mean a black eye or a sore jaw. But what could God do? He made it all, He has all power. If He hammers you there is no telling what kind of damage could be done. Four times, chapter nine verse twelve, chapter nine verse seventeen, chapter nine verse twenty-one and chapter ten verse four, Isaiah refers to God's hand being raised. These statements end four different prophesies of bad things to come. Read Isaiah 9:8-17.

God is speaking to Israel, the northern kingdom. Israel had suffered, but the people of Israel were arrogant. They said, "No big problem." We will rebuild our cities with better material and we will replace the burned forests with better trees. But then, Israel was attacked by Syria, from the northwest, and the Philistines, who were constant enemies of Israel from the southwest. There must have been significant destruction. Isaiah warns Israel that, since they are not sorry, since they are unwilling to do God's will, He continues to hold up His hand. In other words, God has His fist up like He is going to pound them.

Then, verse fourteen draws an interesting picture. This says that God will cut off the head and tail of Israel. Think about it, only the body is left. Verse fifteen identifies the head as the established leaders, elders and those who the people trust. The tail is those who are the least honored, teachers who teach only lies. The result is a mess. There are no leaders and the people are victims of anyone who is unqualified and tries to lead them. There is only confusion. The young men who show promise of being good leaders, and the most vulnerable (widows and orphans) are victims, and God cannot have mercy on them. Everyone has chosen the wrong way, everyone ignores God and speaks foolishness. God continues to be angry with all of them. His hand is still raised in a threatening fist.

The next picture begins in verse eighteen. Read Isaiah 9:18-21. This is a nation in chaos. In the 22 years between the death of Jeroboam II in 746 BC and 722 BC when Israel (also called Samaria) was conquered by Assyria, there were six kings. Only one of those kings died a natural death, the rest were killed before their time. One commentator said those years were a time "when one nobody after another seized the throne without even the pretense of legitimacy."

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In other words, just anybody could be king and no one obeyed the law.

The nation was being destroyed by their own wickedness and God was destroying the nation through their own sin. They found out that sin brings its own destruction. Verses twenty and twenty-one describe a most terrible scene. People were attacking one another. Brothers were killing one another for food. Children were being eaten because of hunger. And, the tribes were beginning to fight one another. Isaiah mentions Ephraim and Manasseh. These were two of the stronger northern tribes. When the land was divided up in the days of Joshua, these two tribes were neighbors. They were, of course, children of two of Jacob's (Israel's) sons. They began to fight with one another, and the only people they hated more than each other were the people of the southern kingdom, Judah.

But even this sin and internal fighting did not take God's attention away from their sinfulness and their selfish godlessness. His fist was still raised.

The final picture is what we might call, as one commentator called it, legalized robbery. Read Isaiah 10:1-4. This final warning suddenly turns south. These verses seem to be written to Judah, the southern kingdom. They begin with God accusing the leaders of Judah of making laws that favor the rich and hurt the poor. Those in power have the advantage. They can change the law so that the poor must pay the bills, while the rich enjoy getting richer.

What a sad picture. But then God tells them what is going to happen because of their selfish laws. He said there will be a day of judgment, a day of punishment...doomsday. When that happens, and the punishment will come from a long way off, what are they going to do? To whom are they going to turn? Where will they hide all this wealth they have gained by robbing the poor?

The only thing they can do is hide among the prisoners taken by the enemy, or maybe just lie down on the piles of dead people left in the streets after the battle. God's hand is raised.

This lesson should be a wake up call to all those who are only concerned about their own safety and material things. God judges us by how we treat Him and other people.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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**Scripture Memory:** "Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people." Isaiah 10:1, 2a

**Lesson Goal:** To help students understand the justice of God.

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## Student Worksheet

### **The Raised Fist — Isaiah 9:8-10:4**

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. How many times does Isaiah refer to God raising His fist, and where are these found?
2. God will cut off the head and the tail. Who is represented by the head and who by the tail?
3. They found out that \_\_\_\_\_ brings its own destruction.
4. They begin with God accusing the leaders of Judah of making laws that \_\_\_\_\_ the rich and \_\_\_\_\_ the poor. Those in power can change the \_\_\_\_\_ so that the poor must pay the bills, while the \_\_\_\_\_ enjoy getting richer

**Scripture Memory:** “Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people.” Isaiah 10:1, 2a

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.