

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**The
Conqueror
Will Be
Conquered**

Isaiah 10:5-19

Lesson Eighteen

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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The Conqueror Will Be Conquered

Up to this point, we have seen Assyria as the great threat to Judah, and as the great military force that would finally conquer Israel. The king of Assyria was taking over weaker nations pretty quickly. As we have said, in 722 BC the northern kingdom, Israel, was defeated by Assyria. This nation with such a strong army was, seemingly, unstoppable.

We have in our lesson today a great illustration of how people in Isaiah's day saw the work of their gods. Many, if not most of them, saw the wars between nations as god-wars. When a nation won the battle or the war, it meant that their god was stronger. So when the Assyrians won against the northern kingdom, Israel, it was seen as a victory for the Assyrian gods and a defeat for Jehovah God, Israel's God. In the thirty-sixth chapter of Isaiah, a representative of Assyria tells the people of Jerusalem that they should admit that their God was not strong enough to save them from the attack of the king of Assyria.

Verses five through eleven tell us what the king of Assyria thought. What he had in mind, according to verses 7-11, was destruction. He believed that he was stronger than the gods of other nations. The word god here could mean "god-lets," like mini-gods...making fun of their gods. He lists six cities and nations he has conquered, and he has no doubt that he will conquer Jerusalem and the gods they worshipped. We must recognize the fact that not all of Judah worshipped Jehovah God. Many of them, as we have seen, worshipped other gods, even the King.

We see more of the king's thinking in verses thirteen through fifteen. He, with great pride, said that the defeat of all the other nations was his doing. He cleared away boundaries that divided nations. All the nations now belonged to his kingdom. He said that he took all the expensive things, the treasures, of these nations; it was, for him, like taking eggs from a deserted bird's nest or like a farmer gathering eggs from the hen's nest. Opposition from these smaller nations had made no difference in the king's ability to have everything he wanted.

But, in verse twelve, we have a new voice. It is the voice of the future. Isaiah said that God would finish with the work of judgment against Mount Zion...Jerusalem. Mount Zion, as we have mentioned, was the hill on which Jerusalem was built and when it is referred to here, it means that the target of the king of Assyria was Jerusalem, the capitol city. God's judgment against Jerusalem and Judah would come to an end.

Then we hear God say, "I will punish the king of Assyria." Isaiah understood the attack and destruction by the Assyrians was God's judgment on Judah. Rather than Assyria being a threat to God, they were a tool being used by God for punishing Judah. And, when God was through

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with them, He would punish Assyria. God could not tolerate the pride of Assyria. Isaiah said that the king of Assyria had no more potential of conquering God than a tool had of taking over the person using the tool.

So, what was God going to do? It is not a pretty picture. The great army of Assyria, the great nation that the king had likened to a bull in verse thirteen, would be destroyed. God had allowed them to grow strong, and to conquer many nations. God had used them to bring His judgment on nations. Remember, God used the nation of Israel to bring judgment on many nations as the Israelites invaded and conquered Canaan after their escape from Egypt.

But now, God was through with them, and He would bring judgment on Assyria. God would become like a flamethrower. Assyria is seen as a briar patch. The best way to get rid of a field of briars is to burn them. So God would be a fire that sets the briars on fire and burns them to the ground. It would happen quickly.

The next picture is of a forest...a beautiful, thick forest of great trees. Some see this as a picture of the many nations conquered by Assyria brought together in a great wooded area. But, when God finished His judgment, there would be so few trees that a child could count them on his fingers. The fields that produced great crops, another reference to the growth and greatness of Assyria, would become dried up land. And finally, the great nation, Assyria, would die just like a person with a terrible illness who slowly fades away. It would be a lingering, sad, slow death for a nation that at one time was the greatest in the world.

What does this tell us about our world today? First, it should tell us that God is in control, no matter who seems to be winning the wars. As we see here, God used a nation that did not believe in or worship Him to do His will.

Second, no one is greater than God. Now that may seem to be an unnecessary statement. However, how many people behave as if they don't need God? How many leaders of nations never call on God, and give God no credit for their victories?

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

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Scripture Memory: "What will you do on the day of reckoning, when disaster comes from afar? To whom will you run for help? Where will you leave your riches? Isaiah 10:3

Lesson Goal: To help students understand the way God works in this world.

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Student Worksheet

The Conqueror Will Be Conquered—Isaiah 10:4-19

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

1. What did people in Isaiah's day think it meant when one nation conquered another?
2. Not all of Judah worshipped Jehovah _____. Many of them, as we have seen, worshipped other _____, even the _____ worshipped other gods.
3. To what city does the name Mount Zion refer?
4. What nation did God use to punish Judah?
5. What are the three pictures that tell us what God had planned for punishing Assyria?

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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.