

Isaiah 10 — God’s Judgment and God’s Remnant

Isaiah begins this chapter with a strong word of warning:

*“Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees,
Who write misfortune,
Which they have prescribed,
To rob the needy of justice,
And to take what is right from the poor of My people,
That widows may be their prey,
And that they may rob the fatherless”* (Isaiah 10:1–2, NKJV).

God sees injustice, especially when it is aimed at the most vulnerable—the poor, the widow, and the orphan. Leaders who abuse power, twist laws, or exploit people for selfish gain will one day answer to Him.

Sadly, this is not just ancient history. Even today there are those who prey upon the weak—religious charlatans who manipulate the elderly, political powers who trample the poor, and systems that thrive on greed rather than righteousness. God declares a woe on all such behavior, and His judgment will not be withheld forever.

Isaiah then asks a piercing question:

*“What will you do in the day of punishment,
And in the desolation which will come from afar?
To whom will you flee for help?
And where will you leave your glory?”* (Isaiah 10:3).

When God’s judgment comes, there will be no place to hide. Without Him, people will bow down with the prisoners and fall among the slain. Still, Isaiah repeats the refrain: *“For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still”* (Isaiah 10:4). God’s judgments are meant to turn hearts back to Him, but Israel refused.

Assyria: God’s Tool of Discipline

God calls Assyria *“the rod of My anger”* (Isaiah 10:5). He would use this powerful empire to discipline Israel for their hypocrisy and rebellion. Yet Assyria was not acting with humble submission to God—they were driven by arrogance, cruelty, and the desire to conquer.

They boasted, *“By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom”* (Isaiah 10:13). They exalted themselves as if their idols had given them victory. But God reminds them:

*“Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it?
Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it?”* (Isaiah 10:15).

Assyria was only an instrument in God’s hand. The glory belonged to God, not to them. Because of their pride, Assyria too would face destruction. History records this fulfillment when the angel of the Lord struck down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a single night (2 Kings 19:35).

This is a reminder for us as well: if God uses us, it is not because of our strength, but because of His power working through us. We are merely instruments. All glory belongs to Him.

God Preserves a Remnant

Though judgment would come, God promised not to wipe out Israel completely. Isaiah looks forward to a day when the remnant will no longer trust in oppressors but will *“depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth”* (Isaiah 10:20).

This points not only to Israel’s near history but also to the ultimate fulfillment in the last days, when a remnant will turn to Christ during the time of great tribulation. God will keep His promises and preserve His people.

The Coming Deliverance

The chapter closes with a vision of the nations gathering against Jerusalem, but the Lord Himself will step in:

*“Behold, the Lord,
The LORD of hosts,
Will lop off the bough with terror;
Those of high stature will be hewn down,
And the haughty will be humbled”* (Isaiah 10:33).

Human pride will fall, and God alone will be exalted. This points us forward to the day when Jesus Christ returns, judges the nations, and establishes His righteous kingdom (Isaiah 11).

Practical Application

1. Guard against injustice. God sees how we treat the poor, the widow, and the orphan. True religion shows compassion, not exploitation (James 1:27).
2. Reject pride. Like Assyria, we are tempted to boast in our own strength. But without God, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Our role is to be humble instruments in His hand.
3. Trust God in times of discipline. Israel faced judgment because of disobedience, but God’s goal was restoration. When God allows trials in our lives, it is not to destroy us but to draw us closer to Him (Hebrews 12:5–6).
4. Cling to the remnant hope. No matter how dark the world becomes, God always preserves a faithful people. We can trust His promises even in days of chaos.

Isaiah 10 reminds us of two powerful truths: God will judge sin, but God will also preserve His people. The question is—where do you stand?

Without Christ, we are all like Israel—wandering, proud, and facing judgment. But in Jesus, God has made a way for forgiveness and eternal life. The same Lord who struck down 185,000 Assyrians in one night is also the Savior who laid down His life for you on the cross.

He drank the cup of judgment so that you wouldn't have to. He rose from the grave to offer you life. All you must do is receive Him.

Today, you can turn from pride and trust in Jesus Christ. Give Him your life. Lean on Him daily. Let Him be your strength, your righteousness, and your peace.

Don't wait until the "*day of visitation*" when judgment falls. Call on Him now. Trust Him today, and keep trusting Him every day, for He alone is your hope and salvation.