

Introduction

God has used the Assyrians to bring judgment on his own people for their wickedness, but he is about to bring judgment on the Assyrians for their treatment of God's people 10.5 **Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger...** If we wonder about the severity of God's judgment of his people, the later chapters of 2 Kings show just how bad the idolatry of the people of Judah had got, noting particularly the idolatry of Ahaz King of Judah 2 Kings 16:10-14, 18. He decided that it was more important to defer to Tiglath-Pileser than to defer to the Lord Almighty, the Holy One of Israel. He believed Tiglath-Pileser offered him more security than God. So in 10.6 God says that he sends the Assyrians against his own sinful people. But the Assyrians themselves were not innocent, and so we come to the first section of today's passage:

10.5-19 God's judgment on Assyria

The King of Assyria did not see himself as part of God's purposes in judgment; He simply saw an opportunity for political expansion. So in his boastfulness in v9 he lists some of his conquests and v13-14 express utter contempt for other nations. It all brings on him v12 the terrible judgment of God, detailed in v15-19.

10.20-34 God's reassuring word to the remnant of Israel.

Isaiah speaks words of comfort v24 **do not be afraid of the Assyrians**, to those in Israel who had continued to trust in their God, or who had repented and turned to him. They v20 **truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel**, not the King of Assyria. *Salvation was by faith in the OT as it is in the New Testament.*

11.1-5 The shoot or Branch of Jesse

In v1-3a Isaiah begins by describing the *character* of the Messiah. The Spirit of the Lord brings wisdom, understanding, counsel, power and the fear of the Lord. Then in v3b and 4a: Messiah's gifts are *used* on behalf of the needy and poor. Contrast the King of Assyria! With v4b note Jn 12.48b and Heb 4.12. Isaiah sums up his character in v5 as total integrity and total reliability **Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash round his waist.**

11.6-16 The results of the reign of the Messiah

Hostilities will be ended v6-9a, because of v9b. v10 **the nations will rally to him** fulfilling Gen 22.18. Rom 15.13 gives Paul's response to v10. The prospect of the Messiah's second coming should fill us with **all joy and peace** – and note – **as you trust in him.** v11-16 speak of the restoration of the exiles and the overcoming of the enemies of Israel and Judah, but also in v13 of their hostility to each other. All this when the Messiah returns for the second time.

12.1-6 A great psalm of praise resulting from an understanding of all God has done and will one day do.

With v1 see the experience of every Christian in Eph 2.3b-5 calling forth v4-5. Living on the other side of Messiah's first coming, note v4b **make known among the nations what he has done with Mat 28.19-20.** With his salvation v2 **I will trust even in trouble** 2 Cor 7.4b. David Jackman writes that 'There has to be a radical shift in the control-centre of their everyday living if they (and we) are to enter into the fulfilment of God's magnificent, eternal purposes...'. ⁵ **Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.**"