

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 226 – Woe To Them Through A Child Might Write Them (Isaiah 10:1-19)

1. Was/Is God pleased with those who rule unrighteously and treat the defenseless as prey?

No: *“(1) Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed; (2) To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless” (Isaiah 10:1-2)!*

- **Isaiah 1:23, Jeremiah 22:13, Amos 5:11-12, Micah 3:1-4, Micah 3:9-11, Malachi 3:5, and Matthew 23:14; cf. James 1:25-27.**

2. Were those oppressors that God was angry at going to be able to escape His anger?

No: *“(3) And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory? (4) Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still” (Isaiah 10:3-4).*

- When God decides to destroy, there is no escape (**Ezekiel 24:13-14, I Thessalonians 5:3, and Hebrews 12:25**).
- When you are destroyed, where does your glory go (**Psalms 49:16-17 and Proverbs 11:4**)?
- Without God... (**Deuteronomy 31:16-18 and Judges 6:13**; cf. **II Chronicles 15:1-2**).
- His hand is stretched out still, which began in chapter five (**Isaiah 5:25**).
- Remember, under the Old Law God was the captain of the armies of Israel and gave them their victories when they were faithful (**II Chronicles 13:12**).

3. Who did God use as a rod of anger against the people of His wrath?

The Assyrians: *“(5) O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. (6) I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets” (Isaiah 10:5-6).*

- **II Kings 18:11-14.**

4. Were the Assyrians acting solely on their own desires against Samaria and Jerusalem?

No: *“Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few” (Isaiah 10:7).*

- God put it in His heart (**Proverbs 21:1**; cf. **II Chronicles 30:12**).

- “He meaneth not so” simply refers to the fact that many do not understand the plans of God (**Micah 4:11-12**). When they killed Jesus, by their own will, they did not realize they were carrying out God’s will (**Acts 2:22-23** and **Acts 13:27-29**).
- What is in a king’s heart was not always directed by God (**I Chronicles 28:1-3**).
- God did not control kings against their will (**II Chronicles 36:11-13**).

5. Were the children of Israel overly confident in their leaders and cities?

Yes: *“(8) For he saith, Are not my princes altogether kings? (9) Is not Calno as Carchemish? is not Hamath as Arpad? is not Samaria as Damascus? (10) As my hand hath found the kingdoms of the idols, and whose graven images did excel them of Jerusalem and of Samaria; (11) Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols” (Isaiah 10:8-11)?*

- Don’t trust in those leaders (**Psalms 118:8-9** and **Psalms 146:3**).
- Don’t trust in those strong cities (**Jeremiah 48:7** and **Amos 6:1-2**).
- Try crying to your idols and see if they’ll deliver (**Judges 10:10-14** and **Jeremiah 2:28**).

6. Why did God punish the Assyrians AFTER doing His will?

Because of their pride and lack of acknowledgement to God for what they did: *“(12) Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. (13) For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: (14) And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped. (15) Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood” (Isaiah 10:12-15).*

- Assyria has a surprise coming (**Isaiah 37:36-38**).
- When God enables something, credit should not be taken (**Deuteronomy 8:14-18** and **Ezekiel 28:2-9**).
- Even when God does not empower someone to do something, self-exaltation does not go unnoticed (**Isaiah 2:11**, **Matthew 23:12**, and **I Peter 5:5**).
- Without God, no one would exist let alone do anything (**Genesis 1:1**). Every ability everyone has is God given (**I Peter 4:11**). It’s your choice in how you use those abilities (**Matthew 25:14-30**).
- *“(20) Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? (21) Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonor” (Romans 9:20-21)?*

7. What was God going to do to the Assyrians?

Famine, seemingly through fires in the forest and fields: *“(16) Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire. (17) And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day; (18) And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standardbearer fainteth. (19) And the rest of the trees of his forest shall be few, that a child may write them” (Isaiah 10:16-19).*

- What God did (**II Chronicles 32:21, Isaiah 14:24-27, and Zephaniah 2:13-15**).
- God has used famine as a punishment for disobedience (**Ezekiel 5:16-17 and Ezekiel 14:13**).
- God was the light of Israel (**Isaiah 60:19**).
- He would bring the flame (**Psalms 50:3 and Jeremiah 7:20**).
- There would be so few trees left that a child may write, describe them.