

Isaiah 10:5-34
Assyria is Punished

Rod of God's anger abusing his power (5-11)

Sent to plunder and trample

Seeking to destroy

Setting himself above others (Romans 12:3)

Executing judgment on other nations

Excelling in idols (the world's view versus the biblical view)

Recognizing God's Sovereignty (12-19)

Strength of whose hand? – power lies with God (I Corinthians 4:7)

Swinging ax – above the One who swings it? (Isaiah 40:15-17 / Revelation 17:12-17)

Sending wasting disease – how quickly God can wipe out an army

Single day – how quickly things can change

Splendor wasting away – all they thought they had accomplished (Matthew 6:19-21)

Remnant will be preserved (20-25)

Relying on the LORD – in the midst of disaster

Returning to God – only a few (Matthew 7:13-14 / I Thessalonians 1:9-10)

Righteous destruction – God's purging (Malachi 3:2-6)

Redirecting His wrath – against the abusers (II Thessalonians 1:4-10)

Retribution – "It is mine to avenge," says the LORD (26-34) (Romans 12:17-21)

Lifting the burden of the oppressed (Psalm 146:7-9)

Lofting off the proud branches (John 15:1-4)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 10:5-24

Why does having power often lead to corruption?

How can we keep ourselves from being corrupted by power when we are in positions of authority? (Galatians 3:3 / Ephesians 6:9 / Colossians 4:1)

There is only ONE with absolute power, and He is not corrupt. How does He respond to those who seek to usurp His authority? Examples? (I Samuel 13:11-14; 15:13-23)

When disaster strikes, what is critically important for those who truly belong to God? (Psalm 27:4-5; 34:4-7 / Lamentations 3:19-24)

How do we keep ourselves from compromise? (Romans 6:11-14)

Why is it important for us to leave the pruning and the retribution work in God's hand? (Romans 12:17-21 / James 4:11-12)

Assyria is Punished

Rod of God's anger abusing his power (5-11)

God punishes for a purpose – yet it is His strange work (Isaiah 28:21)

Sent to plunder and trample

This was God's plan to teach His people a lesson

Seeking to destroy

This was man's desire – the evil of his heart (Jeremiah 17:9)

Setting himself above others (Romans 12:3) ***Thinking myself better than others***

Executing judgment on other nations ***Displaying power I think is mine***

Excelling in idols (the world's view versus the biblical view)

Displaying our possessions and/or accomplishments

Recognizing God's Sovereignty (12-19)

He is in charge of everything – I cannot thwart His plans (Proverbs 21:30)

Strength of whose hand? – power lies with God (I Corinthians 4:7)

God is the source of: Life; Light; Love; knowledge; goodness; power (I Cor. 4:7)

Swinging ax – above the One who swings it? (Isaiah 40:15-17 / Revelation 17:12-17)

We are but tools in God's hand (or Satan's) – His purpose will prevail

Sending wasting disease – how quickly God can wipe out an army

How devastating is a plague

Single day – how quickly things can change

1948 – Israel is a nation / 1989 – the Berlin wall / 2001 – the Twin Towers

Splendor wasting away – all they thought they had accomplished (Matthew 6:19-21)

The things of earth are temporary (II Corinthians 4:18)

Remnant will be preserved (20-25)

Relying on the LORD – in the midst of disaster

We must not turn from Him, He is our only hope (Luke 16 – the prodigal son)

Returning to God – only a few (Matthew 7:13-14 / I Thessalonians 1:9-10)

We turn to God first and then from our idols

Righteous destruction – God's purging (Malachi 3:2-6)

He always saves a remnant – His promises never fail

Redirecting His wrath – against the abusers (II Thessalonians 1:4-10)

God is just – everyone will give an account to Him (Hebrews 4:13)

Retribution – "It is mine to avenge," says the LORD (26-34) (Romans 12:17-21)

We can leave the judgment to God (I Peter 2:22-23)

Lifting the burden of the oppressed (Psalm 146:7-9)

This is God's heart – to rescue the oppressed (James 1:27)

Lofting off the proud branches (John 15:1-4)

Nations and individuals both need pruning

Discussion questions for Isaiah 10:5-24

Why does having power often lead to corruption?

Pride – thinking my power makes me better than others

Heart – controlled by the sin nature

Control – wanting to keep others down in order to elevate myself

How can we keep ourselves from being corrupted by power when we are in positions of authority? (Galatians 3:3 / Ephesians 6:9 / Colossians 4:1)

First by acknowledging our need of the Holy Spirit to live righteously – I cannot do it myself

I need to follow the golden rule – treating others the way I would want to be treated

I need to remember that I serve a Master to whom I will give an account (II Cor. 5:10)

There is only ONE with absolute power, and He is not corrupt. How does He respond to those who seek to usurp His authority? Examples? (I Samuel 13:11-14; 15:13-23)

He does not allow them to keep their position – they will be judged.

Saul felt compelled to offer a sacrifice that he was not authorized to make.

Saul chose to keep for himself things that God had said to destroy.

In both of these cases, God let him know that he would be removed from His position.

When disaster strikes, what is critically important for those who truly belong to God?

(Psalm 27:4-5; 34:4-7 / Lamentations 3:19-24)

We must run toward God, not from Him, knowing that He is our only security.

We must remember His great love for us, and that joy comes in the morning for those who put their trust in Him.

How do we keep ourselves from compromise? (Romans 6:11-14)

By believing what God says is true, I am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ. I must offer myself to Him as a living sacrifice – letting the parts of my body be used for His purpose and glory.

Why is it important for us to leave the pruning and the retribution work in God's hand?

(Romans 12:17-21 / James 4:11-12) ***I can never know the whole story of someone else's life.***

Only God is able to judge justly and only He can accomplish the judgment perfectly.

(Hebrews 12:9-11)