



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 46.3

Old Testament Survey: Assyria & Judah, Through Isaiah's Eyes

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
A full representation of Isaiah's perspective on Assyria's invasion of Samaria and Judah would merit a thick book, not a short lesson. Still, even though we cannot thoroughly parse through the many areas of analysis, we are certainly able to take some examples that both illuminate and convict a reader or student today. That is our goal.
- Prayer for God's, "...will be[ing] done, on earth as it is in heaven."
- Video (39 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ "The lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the LORD alone will be exalted" (Isa. 2:17). A constant theme in Isaiah is the proper humility before the Lord. This is not surprising in light of his startling vision detailed in chapter 6. What on earth could impress anyone after seeing the Lord God Almighty on his heavenly throne surrounded by angelic praise? Isaiah will take this further and prophetically explain that the leader of all will be one who suffers as a servant of all. Contrary to the arrogance of the Assyrian king, God's ultimate and perfect tool for working among mankind is one that leads through service. This is our Lord Jesus. James understood this well and explained it: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you" (James 4:6, 10). The king of Assyria missed this point. We better not!
- ❖ "He does not so intend, and his heart does not think so" (Isa. 10:7). Just because you might not believe in, credit, or follow God as Lord, does not mean he is not still God! God reigns, whether we like it or not and whether we acknowledge it or not. Many people live their lives thinking they rule their own kingdom. In truth, no one lives this world without God's oversight and Lordship. Our responsibility, and the mature, proper, and logical course, is to acknowledge God and live responsibly under his Lordship. He truly is Lord and God, and that raises the question: How are we being faithful today in light of that reality?
- ❖ "Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger..." (Isa. 10:5). God can and does use the pagans and non-believers to further his kingdom and purposes. Although unknowingly, those who do not bow the knee to the Lord still fall into his tapestry that will bring about his kingdom in fullness and power. This has profound implications for the believer. The main implication for consideration in this point for home centers on the fears and frustrations of the believer who is subject to the whims, powers, and control of unbelievers. Whether at work, at school, at play, or even at home, we do well to remember that God is in control. He is constantly at work to bring about his kingdom, whether we realize it or not. (See Rom. 8:31-39). With this reassurance, that even behind the actions of a pagan unbeliever, the hand of God is at work loving and protecting his people and his purposes, what have we to fear? Let us walk, face to the wind, trusting in our God to bring to completion the good work he began in us!

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