

A Trek Through Isaiah 17 - Is 10:16-34

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Prayer

Introduction

For today

- Message to Israel 3: A Believing Remnant Preserved 10:16-34

(9:35)

What results have we seen from this class?

(9:40)

The righteous shall live by faith.

Ro 1:17 ...“The righteous shall live by faith.”

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that **he exists** and that he rewards those who seek him.

- He exists: He is solitary.
 - He is solitary in His excellency
 - Ex 15:11 Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?
 - He has existed from all eternity, self-sufficient, needing nothing.
 - Gen 1:1 In the beginning God....
 - His essential excellence is above all praise.
 - Neh 9:5 Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.
 - He is honored and dishonored by men, but only in His manifested glory. They affect His essential glory not at all.
 - Job 35:6-7 If you have sinned, what do you accomplish against him? And if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to him? 7 If you are righteous, what do you give to him? Or what does he receive from your hand?
 - Therefore His word is true.
 - Jn 17:17 ...your word is truth.
 - Scripture has no agenda for God. Not given to increase His glory. Not to protect His glory.
 - Scripture’s purpose is to reveal God to us
 - Do we believe this? Do we want to know Him?

(9:45)

A Believing Remnant Preserved 10:16-34

Context

- Ch 7 - 11 are matching addresses to Judah and Israel
- 9:8 - 11:16 Address to Israel
 - 9:8 - 10:4 Israel's Choice and Its Consequences
 - 10:5-19 Interlude: Woe to Assyria (Isaiah's view of history)
 - 10:20-34 A Believing Remnant Preserved
 - 11:1-16 The Coming King
- This section (10:20-34)
 - A believing remnant preserved.

Structure. Chiastic. Each section has vivid illustrations

- A1 v16-19 Judgment on Assyria: pathetic remnant. (sickness, fire)
- B1 v20-23 Judgment on Israel: believing remnant (sand of the sea vs the remnant)
- B2 v24-26 Security for Israel (Midian, Egypt: the LORD acting to save His people)
- A2 v27-34 Destruction for Assyria. (cutting down a forest)

10:16-19 Judgment on Assyria: **pathetic** remnant

Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire. (17) The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame, and it will burn and devour his thorns and briars in one day. (18) The glory of his forest and of his fruitful land the LORD will destroy, both soul and body, and it will be as when a sick man wastes away. (19) The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few that a child can write them down.

- Therefore. Re v5-15 how history works
- Here is Israel's hope.
 - Lord GOD of hosts. He is Lord over both Assyria and Israel/Judah. He raised up Assyria, now will cause them to decline.
 - light of Israel. Light to His people. To Assyria a consuming fire.
 - His Holy One. Separate from sin. In covenant with His people.
- Thorns and briars. The Assyrian army: worthless and bothersome. Fuel for the fire.
- Wasting sickness. Metaphor for internal decay. The healthy powerful Assyrian army to be completely changed.
- Fire. Metaphor for external forces.
- Forest...fruitful land. Totality.
- So few. Assyria to be brought down to nothing.
- Fulfilled in Isa 37:36-37 And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. (37) Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh.

10:20-23 Judgment on Israel: **believing** remnant

20 In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. 21 A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. 22 For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness. 23 For the Lord God of hosts will make a full end, as decreed, in the midst of all the earth.

- remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob. Those elected to believe.
- lean on him who struck them. Alliance with Aram.
- Holy One of Israel. The holy God who judges Assyria also judges Israel.
- sand of the sea...remnant.
 - As Is 7:3 ...you and Shear-jashub your son. "A remnant will return"
 - The remnant is those who lean on the LORD, in truth.
 - Sad contrast of the small remnant with the innumerable sand of the sea.
 - Abraham was promised that his descendants would be as the sand of the sea. But here is a warning that mere physical descent from Abraham (or anything else besides faith in Christ) is not sufficient for salvation.
- Destruction is decreed.
 - For the great number of the people who did not believe.

10:24-26 Outcome for Israel: **Security**

Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: “O my people, who dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrians when they strike with the rod and lift up their staff against you as the Egyptians did. 25 For in a very little while my fury will come to an end, and my anger will be directed to their destruction. 26 And the Lord of hosts will wield against them a whip, as when he struck Midian at the rock of Oreb. And his staff will be over the sea, and he will lift it as he did in Egypt. ”

- Therefore. Refers back to v19.
- Who dwell in Zion. Spoken directly to the people in Jerusalem, because it was at Jerusalem where the Assyrian was destroyed and God’s people preserved. The LORD decreed that Israel would perish as a nation while Judah would be preserved, even though both deserved destruction. But both Judah and Israel are still on God’s people and this hope extends to the believing remnant in both of them.
- Be not afraid. Because Assyria will be reduced to nothing.
- Rod...staff. For a while, Israel would suffer under Assyria as under Egypt. But note there is not a sword to slay them.
- For in a very little while. As Ps 30:5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
- Four reasons for trust
 - Who God is: the Lord God of hosts
 - Who the remnant is: My people.
 - Where the remnant dwells: Zion, the city of God.
 - Witness of history:
 - Midian. Enemies defeated.
 - Egyptians. People delivered.

10:27-34 Outcome for Assyria: **Destruction**

27 And in that day his burden will depart from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck; and the yoke will be broken because of the fat. 28 He has come to Aiath; he has passed through Migron; at Michmash he stores his baggage; 29 they have crossed over the pass; at Geba they lodge for the night; Ramah trembles; Gibeah of Saul has fled. 30 Cry aloud, O daughter of Gallim! Give attention, O Laishah! O poor Anathoth! 31 Madmenah is in flight; the inhabitants of Gebim flee for safety. 32 This very day he will halt at Nob; he will shake his fist at the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem. 33 Behold, the Lord GOD of hosts will lop the boughs with terrifying power; the great in height will be hewn down, and the lofty will be brought low. (34) He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe, and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One.

- v27 (Judah delivered) and v33-34 (Assyria brought down) bracket v28-32 Assyria's march toward doom.
- Will depart...will be broken. Not by Judah but by the LORD.
- Fat. Heb oil, fatness. Strength sufficient to break the yoke.
- He has come. Spoken as if Isaiah is on a high place watching the advance of the Assyrian army toward Jerusalem.
- Cry out. Heb scream (in terror)
- Flight...flee. All of Jerusalem's helpers desert her.
- halt at Nob. Comes to Jerusalem but cannot enter. Shakes his fist in anger and frustration.
- Metaphor of a mighty forest being cut down. Assyria, who was the LORD's axe, now feels the axe themselves.
- Boughs...thickets. Top to bottom.
- by the Majestic One. The Lord of history, majestic in power and in faithfulness.

(10:00)

Discussion

We will break into two groups to discuss today's passage. Here are the topics:

1. **10:20 The believing remnant: Lean on the Lord**
 - a. **Not on the world**
 - b. **In truth**
2. **10:24-26 The believing remnant: Be not afraid**
 - a. **Because of who God is**
 - b. **Because of who we are**
 - c. **Because of where we dwell**
 - d. **Because of the witness of history**

Join the group with the topic that seems most significant. Must be at least three people in each group. Select one person to scribe. Each group will report to the class what they found.

In your group, discuss

- **See:** Something about God that you see in the passage
- **Know:** The effect that this view of God has upon you.
- **Respond:** A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.

Caution: Please focus on personal effects and responses.

- 2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves....

For next week: Is 11:1 - 12:6

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