

# A BETTER KING, SERVANT, CONQUEROR

*The Book of Isaiah*

**Isaiah 9:8—12:6**


## Verse to Remember

*In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted." Isaiah 12:4*

## Day 1 — "...his hand is still upraised."

(Is. 9:12, 17, 21; Is. 10:4)

**Read Isaiah 9:8—10:4.**

1. Summarize the response of Israel to the message of the Lord's coming judgment. (Is. 9:9-10)
  
2. When the twelve tribes of Israel entered into a covenant with the LORD, they were warned of the consequences of disobedience and rejection (Lev. 26). It is no surprise that the LORD must punish Israel's leaders and false prophets.
  - a. But what other surprising groups of Israelites will be shown no pity? (Is. 9:17; \* Is. 1:17)
  
  - b. Why is the Lord punishing them all? (Is. 9:13, 17b; See God's punishment also in Gen. 6:5-7.)
  
  - c. It may be tempting to stand back and judge God's people for their failure to obey God, but what does Romans 3:9-12 say about us?
  
3. Read Isaiah 10:3-4. Why do you think God asks these questions?

## Political Review

At the time of the great kings, David and Solomon, there was one united nation, a brotherhood of the twelve sons of the patriarch Jacob. In the last lesson we learned of a coming King whose rule and reign will supersede all earthly kings and kingdoms. In this passage, the kingdom is divided into Israel and Judah.


Read 2 Kings 16—18 for some historical context on both Judah and Israel.

- In 732 B.C., the king of Israel was attacking Judah and King Ahaz needed someone to save them from this attack. He sent gifts to the king of Assyria asking for his help. (2 Kgs. 16:7)
  
- Assyria's help caused Ahaz to befriend the king of Assyria. Ahaz changed the worship in the temple to be more similar to the worship in Assyria. (2 Kgs. 16:10-17)
  
- The kingdom of Israel completely fell to Assyria in 722 B.C. The people were taken from the promised land and sent to Assyria. Only the kingdom of Judah remained. (2 Kgs. 17:1-23)
  
- Ahaz's son Hezekiah became the new king of Judah. He obeyed God. Hezekiah attempted to restore worship of the true and living God. He broke his father's alliance with Assyria. (2 Kgs. 18:1-8)
  
- In response, the King of Assyria attacked in 701 B.C. and captured all but Jerusalem. He sought to destroy Judah as he had destroyed Israel. (2 Kgs. 18:13-37)

## Day 2 — Assyria, "the rod of [God's] anger"

(Is. 10:5)

**Read Isaiah 10:5-19.**

1. Why does the king of Assyria think Israel and Judah are just like the other nations he has conquered? (Is. 2:8; Is. 10:10-11;  2 Kgs. 18:33-35)
  
2. Assyria has a misinformed idea of the true and living God because of Israel's failure to accurately represent him. God however has an accurate view of Assyria.
  - a. How does God describe the Assyrian nation? (Is. 10:5-6, 12, 15)
  
  - b. How will God punish Assyria? (Is. 10:16-19; read ahead Is. 10:25-26, 33-34)

3. What names does Isaiah use for the One who controls the nations? (Is. 10:16-17, 33-34)

Which one stands out to you? Why?

### Assyrian Domination


The nation of Assyria has conquered whole kingdoms in the north (Is. 10:8-9). As Isaiah prophesies, it has even taken Samaria, the capital of Israel. The northern kingdom has faced its "day of reckoning" (Is. 10:3). As the power and territory of Assyria grows, they become a serious threat to the southern kingdom of Judah. In a wave of destruction they capture Judah's fortified cities as they advance towards the goal of taking Jerusalem and causing the fall of Judah (Is. 10:28-32).


## Days 3 & 4 — "In that day..."

(Is. 10:20, 27; Is. 11:10, 11; Is. 12:1, 4)

**Read Isaiah 10:20—11:16.**

1. God has used Assyria to judge Israel. What difference is seen in the survivors? (Is. 10:20-21; Contrast with Is. 9:9-10, 13)

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2. Describe the Assyrian threat that God's remnant in Zion (Jerusalem) fears. (Is. 10:6-11, 13-14, 28-32; Is. 8:7-8;  2 Chr. 32:1, 9-15)

3. After the Mighty One finishes his judgment, Assyria ("once a cedar in Lebanon," Ez. 31:3) will only have a few trees left standing and Judah will have been cut down to only a stump. What characterizes the Branch that comes up from the roots of this stump? (Is. 11:2-3a; Jn. 1:29-34)

"It is this Root itself, equivalent to the shoot and Branch of verse 1, which becomes the rallying standard for the peoples. This root is no longer under the ground and invisible, but standing to such a height that it can serve as a point about which the peoples will meet and rally. As the Root the Messiah was unknown and disregarded; as the Standard He is lifted up that all men may gather about Him."<sup>2</sup>

4. The Branch Isaiah refers to is the promised ruler of Isaiah 9:6-7, who we know to be Jesus.<sup>1</sup>

- a. How will his rule be different than any of the kings of this world? (Is. 11:3b-5)
  
- b. Look at the images in Isaiah 11:6-9a. What is so striking about these changes that the Branch brings about?

5. All through Day One of this study God's hand had been raised up against Israel. Because of the Branch, how will God's response to his people change? (Is. 11:11)

**Day 5 — "The LORD...is my strength and my song"**

(Is. 12:2)

**Read Isaiah 12.**

Moses and Miriam sang when God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians (Exod. 15:1-18). David sang when the ark of the covenant was brought to Jerusalem (1 Chron. 16:7-36). Both of these songs are echoed in the *Songs of Praise* in chapter 12.

**Read this chapter aloud in praise to the God of your salvation.**

1. In what ways is this song also your song?

2. To whom could you "make known...what he has done" (Is. 12:4)?

\*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

<sup>1</sup> Check out what Zechariah says about the Branch in Zech. 6:12-13.

<sup>2</sup> Edward J. Young, *The Book of Isaiah*, Volume 1 Chapters 1-18 (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2001), 393.