



Sermon Notes 4/2/23

“The Remnant of Israel”

How can we be God’s faithful remnant?

1. Let’s serve those in _____.

Isaiah 10:1-2

James 1:27

2. Let’s give God all the _____.

Isaiah 10:12

1 Corinthians 15:10

3. Let’s truly rely on the _____.

Isaiah 10:20

Proverbs 3:5-6

4. Let’s give God all our _____.

Isaiah 10:24

Philippians 4:6-7



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 10: April 2-9

Isaiah 10

When God disciplines His people, there is a refining that takes place. God is refining His people to purify them and set them apart as holy. He is purging away their sin. However, those people who refuse to let go of their sin are often purged away along with their sin. In times of discipline, we are forced to make life-changing decisions. We must decide to go one direction or the other. Will we hold on to our sin, or will we hold on to our Savior? Will we hold on to the world, or will we hold on to the Word?

In Isaiah chapter 10, God was using the nation of Assyria to discipline His people. Most of the Israelites would continue to hold on to their sin even during the most difficult times of the Assyrian captivity. However, God would preserve a remnant of Israel who would learn to let go of their sin and truly rely on the LORD. And that's the kind of people we need to be. Like Isaiah, we need to be that faithful remnant that holds on to God's Word even when most people are still holding on to the world. We need to be that remnant that learns to trust in the LORD even in the most difficult times of life.

Read Isaiah 10

1. Why did God pronounce a judgment of "woe" on the legislators and judges of His people? (10:1-2)
2. What rhetorical question did God ask the oppressors of His people? (10:3)
3. How upset was God when He saw the leaders of His people oppressing the poor? (10:4)

Widows, orphans, slaves, immigrants, and others who were too poor to defend themselves were easy targets for the rich and powerful. But when we neglect or mistreat the poor, God takes it personally. On the Day of Judgment, Jesus will say, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me" (Matt. 25:40). See also Proverbs 14:31; 17:5; 19:17; 22:2, 9, 22-23; 28:3, 8, 27, 29:7, 14; 31:9, and 20.

4. Against what nation did Isaiah declare God's judgment? (10:5)

5. For what purpose did God use Assyria? (10:5-6)

Ray Ortlund comments on how the people of Judah must have felt when they heard that God was using the pagan nation of Assyria to punish His people. He writes,

“Wait just one minute here!” Isaiah’s readers in Israel would have said. “We aren’t a godless nation. Assyria is! How can you say, Isaiah, that God is sending that cruel war-machine against us?” But God doesn’t respect a double standard. The sins he judges out in the world he also judges among his own people (cf. Romans 2:11; 1 Peter 4:17). Belonging to God does not protect us from discipline; it makes us all the more accountable to obey. If we refuse, we are, in practical terms, “godless.”¹

6. How did the nation of Assyria overstep the purpose for which God raised it up? (10:7-11)

7. What did God promise to do with the king of Assyria? (10:12)

8. How did the king of Assyria flatter himself about his accomplishments? (10:13-15)

9. How quickly would God’s judgment come against Assyria? (10:16-17, see also 37:36)

10. How did Isaiah describe the number of trees left in Assyria after God judges them? (10:18-19)

James Smith notes,

After justifying the judgment, Isaiah described in dramatic figures what awaited Assyria. A debilitating disease would cause the stalwart warriors to waste away. Like trees consumed by a raging forest fire they would fall in a “single day.” So few trees would remain that a child would be able to count them! Thus it would become clear that Yahweh was not just another idol, but the Living God, the Light of Israel, the Holy One (10:16–19).²

¹ Ray Ortlund, *Isaiah: God Saves Sinners* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005), 106.

² James E. Smith, *The Major Prophets* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 52.

11. After they were struck down by the Assyrians, how would the surviving Israelites be different? (10:20)

12. In contrast to those who died, how many Israelites would survive the captivity and return to the Promise Land? (10:21-23)

Terry Briley writes,

The Assyrian plundering of Israel fulfills the symbolic name Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, but the promises of this section anticipate the fulfillment of the name Shear-Jashub (A remnant will return, vv. 21-22) in both its negative and positive significance. God is the true source of the devastation which results in the formation of a remnant (v. 23), but he is also the only hope for the remnant's survival and restoration.³

13. Why did God instruct the people of Judah not to be afraid of the Assyrians? (10:24-34)

14. Why do you think God is so upset when poor people are neglected or mistreated?

15. How is the injustice of Isaiah's time similar to or different from the injustice in our culture?

16. How can we give people hope when they are frustrated by injustice in the world?

17. How do people entrusted with positions of power today sometimes abuse their power? Why do they do that?

18. When we are in positions where we are required to make decisions about justice and discipline, how can we make sure that we are faithful and fair in our decisions?

19. How can you encourage someone to truly rely on the LORD during a difficult time?

20. What worries, fears, or anxieties do you need to pray about this week?

³ Terry R. Briley, *Isaiah: Volume 1* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2000), 152.