

# Daily Worship Notes

March 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026



## Westminster Shorter Catechism

*Question 57:* Which is the fourth commandment?

*Answer:* The fourth commandment is, *Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidervent, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

*Scripture Proofs:*

Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Comment – Remember the Sabbath Day!

*Psalm of the Week:* Psalm 40A. The words are on page 8.

*Please pray for:*

Mon - Sean Russell

Tues - Jackson & Meghan, & Jackson Scott

Wed - Larry & Leah Sinaro

Thur - Sheldon & Pam, David, Jonah, Simon & Daniel Smit

Frid - Michael Spracklin

Sat - Maddie Tessier

*Bible Questions for the week:*

Question: What did God want Moses to tell the people of Israel?

*Answer:* Exodus 19:3-6

Question: Who was Moses allowed to bring up the mountain with him?

*Answer:* Exodus 19:24

Please pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.

These notes have been written by Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley, drawing heavily on Alec Motyer's book "The Prophecy of Isaiah".



# the book of ISAIAH

## **Monday – Isaiah 9:8-21 – Wickedness – unsatisfying, destructive, death!**

As the statement in verse 19 indicates, ‘wickedness’ is nothing less than self-destruction, because it ultimately brings God’s wrath down upon itself. Wrath that consumes all before it. But even before it is consumed, it is all pointless because no matter what they do, slice meat on the right, devour on the left, they are never satisfied, they are always hungry for more. That’s the way of the world. Devouring everything it can, whether people, property, or wealth; but it never reaches the point where it says, ‘That’s enough, I am satisfied.’ Why? Because it can’t. There can be no fulfilment in wickedness, in patterns of thought and behaviour that disobey God.

The devil would respond, ‘Oh yes, there can’. He’s been saying that since the day he whispered that into Eve’s ear in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). But remember one thing – the Devil is the father of lies (John 8:44).

But there’s more than wickedness not satisfying; it is self-destructive in the process of pursuing the unattainable, as the phrase “each devours the flesh of his own arm” makes clear.

But there’s more than wickedness, not satisfying, and bringing self-destruction in the process of pursuing the unattainable; it’s the scope of the destruction it brings, as we see in verse 21, which paints a sad picture of national devouring, national destruction. Motyer writes of this war by Judah, within Judah, on Judah: “It is the final condemnation of this society that with all bonds of family relationship, shared experiences, and divine believing commonly enjoyed, the only thing in the need that united them was a common enmity.” What an awful thing rejection of God is!

### **Questions**

1. Does disobeying God satisfy?
2. Does disobeying God end well?

### **Memory Verse**

“the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.” *Psalm 19:9*



## **Tuesday – Isaiah 10:1-5 – The Wicked will face their end!**

This final section in this ‘poem’ from chapter 9:8-10:4 returns to the subject of leadership, but not in the same way as in chapter 9, verses 13-17. In those verses, the charge against the leaders was expressed in general terms – basically stating that the leaders were inept and misled people. That’s not good, but the charge here is different. And not different in a good way. Here, the leaders are singled out for their deliberate, blatant misrule, making rules intended to serve their own self-interest and the interests of their fellow social elites.

Central to their legislation is the making of decrees, rules, and regulations that will benefit themselves by oppressing the innocent and needy through abuses of the justice system. This is not the fruit of the inept, incompetent rule that often walks the corridors of power. This is a wilful, carefully planned, deliberately orchestrated and executed attack on the most vulnerable in the nation; the needy, the poor, the widows, and the orphans to deprive them of what was rightfully theirs so they could eke out a basic existence. A focused, intentional denial of justice, a literal tearing away of justice, for the sole purpose of manipulating the law in such a way that would see the filling of the pockets of those who rule. Yes, of course, the legislators would have argued that their decision didn’t necessarily mean that they would become rich, such evil never does, and the outcome is always the same. The poor are humiliated and downtrodden, and the evil doers seemingly continue their perpetual rise to the top, undaunted and unthwarted. Until God says that is enough and, in an instant, orchestrates their downfall, to a point where they are confronted with the questions, “What will you do on the day punishment?” and “To whom will you flee for help?” and “where will you leave your wealth?” They are not left, though, to search for the answers, for they are given “Nothing remains but to crouch among the prisoners or fall among the slain.” Not an appealing proposal.

And what of the world today? Nothing has changed. Oppression by abuse of justice still reigns, as the heart desires of men and women who govern remain dark because they are ignorant of and hardened to the truth and light of God. And nothing will change on their end; it will remain the same as stated here!

### **Questions**

1. How were the rulers abusing the people?
2. What consequences will rulers who abuse people today face?

### **Memory Verse**

“the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.” *Psalms 19:9*



**Wednesday - Isaiah 10: 5-15 - The absolute sovereignty of the Lord in the world.**

The thrust of this passage is clear – the absolute sovereignty of the Lord in the world. Without the forester welding the axe, it will lie lifeless. Without the carpenter moving the saw, it will not cut the wood. (verse 15).

Assyria was a ruthless, imperialist power. Seeking and destroying all before it with no mercy shown. The question is, what role did God’s Sovereign hand play in the Assyrian rampaging? It is a thought that disturbed the prophet Habakkuk (Habakkuk 1:1-5), even if, in the end, he would not have had it any other way (Habakkuk 3:17-19). The fact is that there is only one Agent who is decreeing all that comes to pass, and while it may not seem obvious at a given point in history, the reality is that He does all things perfectly for His own glory and the good of His chosen people. And we must remember that.

The Assyrian holocaust (slaughter on a mass scale) was not the result of them just being ‘let loose’ on the world. God sent this measured destruction, where it was justified – verse 6, “Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.” It was a region of terror that never went beyond the limits God had set upon it, and, in the end, Assyria was punished for its role (verse 12). This, of course, begs the screamingly obvious question – how could Assyria, the axe, be culpable if God was directing where it struck, as the axe-wielding forester. How could the forester blame the axe for the damage and destruction it wrought? If he hadn't picked it up, then nothing would have happened. This is beyond unfair on the Assyrians. Here we face the biblical paradox: the Lord sovereignly executing His decrees and will, while the instruments He uses to achieve His purposes remain morally responsible for their actions. This is the case, as we see tomorrow, when Isaiah opens up to us the thoughts and actions of the Assyrians, which prove not their complicity, but their culpability and resulting moral guilt.

**Questions**

1. Who is in control of all that happens in the world?
2. Who is responsible for their actions?

**Memory Verse**

“the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.” *Psalm 19:9*



### **Thursday – Isaiah 10:5-16 - The culpability of the Assyrians.**

The phrase “he says” in verse 8 indicates that it’s the Assyrian king's mind, thoughts, and actions that are discussed in verses 7, 8-13, and 14.

The fact that it is the Assyrian king whom Isaiah is referring to as speaking here, rather than God, is evident from the six verses, in which we find the first-person verb ‘I’ used seven times and the first-person pronoun ‘my’ used four times. All of which refer to what the Assyrian king is thinking and doing. So, the claiming of responsibility is clear, which, when seen from our perspective, means that while God’s Sovereign role is unquestionable, the Assyrians are fully culpable. The Assyrians are pressing ruthlessly toward their ends and goals, and God is directing and using that to accomplish His holy purposes.

And what of those thoughts and goals? Well, they stem from the fact that the Assyrian king has had a lot of success; kingdoms have fallen to him, and their kings have become his commanders, i.e., executives who carry out his bidding and edicts. The sentiment is that ‘surely nothing can stop him now’. As he sees the situation, verses 13-14, he can do as he pleases; he can change boundaries, disregard rights (treasurer), and depose kings. He believes he can do whatever he wants. Literally, it’s a case of thinking, ‘I am like God, able to do what I want.’ Of course, he isn’t, and that’s not just a matter of power; it is seen in his motives. There is a huge disparity between his motives, seen in verse 7 and those of the Lord’s. A lust for destruction drives the king. He wants nothing but the total destruction of Ephraim, God’s people and the surrounding nations, whereas God desires to bring just, commensurate judgement on those who have rebelled against Him.

So this passage shows us three things:

1. The threat against Ephraim was not idle - the outstretched hand of verse four.
2. As we have just considered, Assyria will be the Lord’s instrument of judgement against Zion (verse 12).
3. The attack on Zion will be the Assyrian zenith, the highest point of its power. From this date on, she will be subject to God's judgement and punishments.

### **Questions**

1. Who is speaking in these verses?
2. Why is it important to understand that, and what does it indicate?

### **Memory Verse**

“the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.” *Psalm 19:9*



## **Friday - Isaiah 10:16-19 – The destruction of Assyria by Almighty God!**

### *Overview of Isaiah 10:16-34*

The central theme of this passage of God's Word is that the people of God are surrounded by the world and all the danger it presents; and yet there is always the prevailing, preserving hand of the Lord through which a penitent, faithful remnant is kept.

In the conveying of that, there are two sections, verses 16-23 and 24-34, both of which begin with *Therefore*, and each contains a division which is announced by the words *in that day* (verses 20 and 27). The first section speaks of the Lord's act of holiness as the Holy One in verses 17 and 20, and the second section outlines the Lord of power as the Lord Almighty in verse 26 and the Mighty One in verse 34.

So, verse 16 begins with 'therefore', and Isaiah proceeds to remind us of who God is, 'The Lord of Hosts', the 'Sovereign One'. He possesses all power and authority, and He will exercise it in the pursuit of His eternal decrees. What a contrast to the hollow posturing and pronouncements of the King of Assyria in the earlier verses of this chapter. It brings to mind Psalm 2, where the kings of earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and His anointed, and the Lord sits in heaven and laughs - He holds them in derision.

Little does the Assyrian King and his mighty army know that, as they march triumphantly on Jerusalem, fresh from the destruction of other far greater nations; they are heading straight for a fire that will consume them, that's what verse 17 is saying. The contrast in verse 18 between the forest (uninhabited natural growth) and the fertile fields (ordered cultivation) speaks of them being totally cleared in destruction. Nothing will be left of the Assyrians as God prepares to cultivate afresh, as seen in verse 19, where a child can count what is left of them.

### **Questions**

1. Who is presented in verse 16?
2. How will the Assyrians do when they attack Jerusalem?

### **Memory Verse**

"the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether." *Psalm 19:*



## **Saturday - Isaiah 10:20-23 – A Remnant!**

As in verses 16-19, the key thought continues to focus on the Holy One (verse 20). Though judgement begins, as it always does, at the house of God, a remnant will be preserved; these are the survivors, characterized by their faith and repentance.

The background to verse 20 is the Aram-Ephraimite alliance. When threatened by the rising power of Assyria, the northern kingdom (variously known as Israel/Jacob) had turned to a nation that for a century had been an enemy for support. It's amazing how enemies can become friends when faced with the same existential threat from a third party. It happens in the world, but this is a nation known as the people of God; what have they done? They, too, have turned their backs on the Lord and sought help from the world; and they will face God's just judgement for doing so.

We must never look to the world for help. The world is our enemy. It has nothing to offer us but sin, sorrow and separation from God. As John writes in 1 John 2:15,17, "Do not love the world or the things in the world... the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

It is wonderful, though, to read of those who renounce this folly and have turned to seek and rely on the Lord. There is a remnant of Jacob, God's people, who will return (verse 21). This is an active decision, chosen out of love for the Lord and not simply a doing of something because there is no other escape. The one to whom they are turning is called the 'Mighty God', literally the God of warrior prowess, the God of all authority and power. Yes, the promise that they would be as numerous as the sand of the sea may seem far off now, but it will be through this remembrance that one will arise to be the Saviour of this people and the world.

### **Questions**

1. Whose word did the nation of Israel reject?
2. What should we be so thankful to God for?

### **Memory Verse**

"the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether." *Psalm 19:9*

## Psalm 40A

1. I waited for the LORD;  
He stooped and heard my cry.  
He brought me from a pit,  
Out of the dungeon mire,  
My feet set on a rock,  
My footsteps made secure.  
My lips He gave a song,  
A song to praise our God.

2. Many will see with awe,  
And so will trust the LORD.  
Blessed he who trusts the LORD,  
And turns not to false men.  
LORD, none compares to You,  
Your thoughts and works, my God!  
Should I declare each one?  
Their number is too great.

3. You seek no offering,  
Desire no sacrifice;  
But You have given me.  
An opened, ready ear.  
You seek no off'rings burnt,  
Nor sacrifice for sin.  
I said, "Behold I come,  
As in the book foretold.

4. To do Your will, O God,  
Is surely my delight;  
Your law is part of me,  
Set deep within my heart."  
Good news I have proclaimed,  
Declared your righteousness  
In the assembly great;  
You know, LORD, I spoke out.