

God will Spare the Remnants of Israel

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SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 10:20-34

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT

A. Historical Background

The prophet Isaiah is a major prophetic book of the Old Testament and is noted for its description of the coming Messiah as God's Suffering Servant. He presents a lofty portrayal of God and His purpose of salvation and is known as the great prophet Isaiah, whose name means "God is salvation. It has 66 chapters that informs, the same number of books in the whole Bible. the first part of this book is God's approaching judgment on the nation of Judah (Isaiah Chapters 1-12). For the past 6 months the Book of Isaiah Bible study lessons are observing how God will punish His people because of their sin, rebellion, and worship of false gods. But it is also mixed with beautiful poems of comfort and promise. Although judgment is surely coming, better days for God's Covenant people lie just ahead. We see how Isaiah, the Prophet received God's call and appointment, the specific instructions attached to Isaiah's divine call and the prophecy of hope amid impending calamities. We see the warnings to Isaiah about following the people and the many prophecies of how God's anger becomes like a consuming fire, and how that anger will not spare prideful nations He uses!

B. Biblical Context

The Book of Isaiah is the longest prophetic book of the Old Testament. Chapters 1:1-16:6 gives the indictment God gives against Judah. During Isaiah's time Judah's safety was threatened by the advancing Assyrian Empire (the enemy of God's people) and sought to protect the interest of the nation by forming an alliance with Egypt to turn the Assyrian back. Isaiah advised the nation to look to their God for deliverance-not to a pagan nation led by an earthy ruler. Isaiah prophesized that that army would be turned back by God before it succeeded in overthrowing the nation of Judah. Folks we have the glorious age to come as a promise, because the heart of this prophecy by Isaiah gives us a view ahead of time that God will prevail. Over time, we see time after time how prophecies are often delivered during a time of great moral and political upheaval. God gives us due warnings and call his people to put their trust in God, who alone could bring real salvation and offer lasting protection for the perilous times.

II. THE LESSON: “GOD WILL SPARE THE REMNANTS OF ISRAEL!”

Last week’s topic was GOD’S ANGER WILL NOT SPARE PRIDEFUL NATIONS HE USES! This contrasts to today’s lesson: “GOD WILL SPARE THE REMNANTS OF ISRAEL!” Immediately God identifies Himself and ascertains his power and declares his declarations, over the actions of the arrogant heart and haughtiness of the prideful. He does this with the power of his own hand, wisdom, understanding and skill. He says I am like a bull, an axe, a staff, I am the Lord, the God of hosts, the Holy One, I am the One whom all will lean on! Our God is a mighty Host and an Almighty God.

A REMINDER: BE MINDFUL TO NOT BE ARROGANT AND PRIDEFUL

Last week we were warned again about being prideful and arrogant and how God’s anger will not be spared! Woe is a chilling word when spoken by God; here the Lord condemns the leaders who write laws that perpetuate evil in the community. The needy are regularly seen in Scripture as those to whom the righteous should show true piety. When godly people reach out to help those who cannot help themselves, they display pure, biblical religion. Conversely, the mark of the ungodly can be seen in their oppressive actions against people who cannot help themselves. Though God sovereignly uses sinners as instruments of His will, they will be held accountable for their own wickedness. Judah is the ungodly nation. God will judge, God anger is real, and punishment is coming. The people must fight the arrogant Assyria and the glory of their haughty looks and Israel must not be like them in the meantime. Shall a saw act more important than the sawyer! A fierce fire will break out and God will destroy the soul and body of those like a disease-ridden person. It contrasts like a hammer using the carpenter to pound nails. These eloquent descriptions reveal his essence.

1. vv. 20-23: “THE REMNANT WHO ARE SPARED WILL LEAN ON GOD”

This subject is relevant! What is a remnant – are survivors - the part of a community or nation that remains after a dreadful judgment or devastation calamity, especially those who have escaped and remain to form the nucleus of a new community (Isa. 10:20-23). The survival of a righteous remnant rests solely on God’s providential care for His Chosen People and His faithfulness to keep His covenant promises. In other words, they will be spared! When one is spared – you are held in reserve, to be lenient or forgiving; show mercy – a duplicate kept as a substitute in case the original breaks down; distinguished. Are you a survivor?

This is what God has in store for those who are few and faithful yet scattered in hard times! The remnant can say boldly-- BUT GOD! He promised

that He would bring the people back from captivity and establish them again in the land of their fathers. This concept is extended to apply to the enemy Assyrian and Babylonian captivities.

In the Books of Isaiah and Amos the remnant consisted of those chosen by God who were rescued from the impending doom of the nation (Isa, 1:9). If we get this in our spirit, we would be strong and of good courage! The remnant/survivors suffer for God and serve Him and stand as witnesses, calling themselves and others to repent of their rebellion, we can rejoice! In Romans 11:5, Paul showed even in the NT that God's purpose is seen in the "remnant" out of Israel who have joined the Gentiles to form the church, the new people of God. Jesus' choice of the apostles who symbolized the Twelve Tribes, we too can become the remnant, who can find our true spiritual home when we believe in Christ. In this thought, we can go onward and upward in Jesus' Name...if only we stay with the Lord in truth and overflow with righteousness! It's not optional, it is conditional.

These verses vividly describe what's left of Israel, those left-alive from the family of Jacob – a remnant – so few who will not continue to depend on the person who defeated them. They will learn truly to depend on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, the Lord of Hosts, all will come back to the Strong God.

How many times do we see REMNANT – totaling 4 times (vss. 20, 21-2 times- and 22- KJV). The flame of Jehovah shall consume the glory of the forest of the enemy, both soul and body, for they shall faint for the remnants are those who shall lean on the Lord. So only a few will remain that even a child can count what's left. No dependance on nobody, except the Lord, the mighty God. But only a few remain. KJV says "consumption" i.e. the finish of all God's dealings with (Israel) in sin and rebellion, the end of all things that bring to completion the times of those remaining will be restored in eternal, overflowing righteousness. Who will remain to serve the Lord among the people of God? Only a few, even at first it was the nation of Israel was "as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return. Who shall keep us – the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, the Mighty God. The language here expresses the loving care of the Lord for His people. They need not fear the armies of the Assyrians. The remnant is the portion of Abraham's offspring that God preserved. Most of the people of the northern kingdom were carried off into captivity. But some Israelites made their way to Judah and became part of the southern kingdom. These people and their descendants would act as a remnant by preserving the names of the northern tribes among the people of God.

2. **vv. 24-26. "CHALLENGES WILL BE FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE"**

For yet a little while the enemy appeared to not spare anyone. But this language expresses the loving care of the Lord for His people. They need not

fear the armies of the Assyrians. Often it seems like the terrorists of life beat you up and threaten you with rods like times past. But God, the Lord of Hosts, in his awesome ways turns his destroying anger on the enemy like Gideon downed Midian at the rock, Oreb, as Moses turned the tables on Egypt. Troubles were pulled off your back and the yoke lifted. Amen! From the viewpoint of eternity, the period of trial is exceedingly brief. We all will go through, but God is with us, somehow, we will make it through. Often, we must refer to the many great triumphs such as in Exodus 15. Yet, notice, the Mighty God (vs. 21) the Lord (vs. 23), the Lord Almighty (vs. 24, 26) is ever identified with His presence.

3. **vv. 27-32.** “A PROMISE: THE YOKE WILL BE BROKEN” Verses 27-32

Remembering God’s great triumphs helps us go through. Notice in these verses the cities as listed are closer and closer to the capital at Jerusalem. Each town conquered was another step toward the impending defeat of the holy city. Initially The language turns to that of panic. The actions are those of a frightened people facing defeat and disaster. The daughter of Zion is Jerusalem. These are the cities Aiath, Migron, Mishmash, Geba, Ramah, Gibeah, Laishah, Anathoth, Madmenah, Gebim, Nob). Naming these places is like recalling how close to destruction we have experienced in our life journey along the way we are: trembling, crying, being poor in spirit, in flight, taking cover, shaking our fists, along the way because some make it, and some don’t. Only the faithful few, the remnants, will make it. God will raise his staff as he did in Egypt. In that day the burden will be lifted from your shoulders, the yoke(slavery) lifted from your neck.

This also refers to a future of the Antichrist and the imminent doom in the Day of the Lord (Ref. Scriptures: Joel 1-2; Micah 5:4-6; Zech. 11; 12; 2 Thess. 2; Rev. 13). God will bring wrath and judgment on the wicked and salvation to the righteous. At times, God enters the arena to assert in bold, dramatic ways that He is in control. The day of the Lord is like the Lord’s war on wickedness, a day of judgment on all things evil so that he can deliver the faithful in the meantime. Beloved seeing the ugliness of the rudeness, evil, lawlessness in the world, even as we are witnessing some things now, must be so, so God will manifest his power!

4. **vv. 33-34.** BUT NOW, WATCH THIS-GOD IS IN CONTROL!

Isaiah the Prophet is compelled to boldly takes a stance that God will bring judgment- Though we have no idea what God is thinking and what He is doing in the godlessness going on. Yet this is the making of God’s people, that we are being threshed like gold being refined, only the faithful will survive. This makes us into a people invincible, it is the intention of God to destroy the evils in Israel’s society and yes, even today, we are to rely and lean not on positions,

status or military power but rather on the Lord. The language says the Mighty God, the Lord, the Lord of Hosts will swing his axe using the enemy, Assyrians, to hewn them down, chop them down like a great tree, cutting them down as a forest is cut down with an ax and all will fall down by the power of the Mighty One. It will take divine intervention, the Lord, the Lord Almighty will be the consumption, the end of all things that He will bring to completion and restoring everything to an overflowing righteousness.

III. CONCLUSION

1. "GOD WILL SPARE THE REMNANTS "
2. A REMINDER: BE MINDFUL TO NOT BE ARROGANT AND PRIDEFUL
3. "THE REMNANT WHO ARE SPARED WILL LEAN ON GOD" (Verses 20-23)
4. "CHALLENGES WILL BE FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE" (Verses 24-26).
5. "A PROMISE: THE YOKE WILL BE BROKEN" (Verses 27-32).
6. BUT NOW, WATCH THIS-GOD IS IN CONTROL! (VS. 33-34).

(Hymn – "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms")