



# SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

*A Study of Isaiah - #6*

A dramatic landscape featuring a mountain range in the foreground and a sky with a vibrant color gradient from blue to red. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and casting long shadows. The text is overlaid on the sky.

JUDGMENT ON  
JUDAH AND HER  
INVADERS

Isaiah 7-12

# High-Level Outline

## I. Sovereign Judgment of All (1-39)

A. Judgment on Judah (1-6)

B. Judgment on Judah and Her Invaders (7-12)

1. Doom of Threatening Syria and Israel (7:1-8:7)
2. Immanuel, God With Us (8:8-9:7)
3. Complete, Just Destruction of Israel & Assyria (9:8-10:34)
4. A Second Restoration of Israel's Remnant (11:1-12:6)

C. Judgment against Heathen Nations (13-27)

D. Woes against Jerusalem (28-35)

E. Transition of Threatening Empires (36-39)

## II. God's Salvation of Zion (40-66)

A. Superiority of Jehovah over Idols (40-48)

B. "Things That Make for Peace" (49-57)

C. Establishment of Zion (58-66)



COMPLETE AND JUST  
DESTRUCTION OF  
ISRAEL & ASSYRIA

Isaiah 9:8-10:34

# Rebuild Bigger & Better

14) How did Israel and Samaria show obstinance even after their destruction (**9:8-13**)?

*All the people will know – Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria – who **say in pride and arrogance of heart**: “The **bricks have fallen down**, But we will **rebuild with hewn stones**; The **sycamores are cut down**, But we will **replace them with cedars**.” Therefore the LORD shall set up The **adversaries of Rezin against him**, And spur his enemies on, The **Syrians before and the Philistines behind**; And they shall **devour Israel with an open mouth**. For all this His anger is **not turned away**, But His **hand is stretched out still**. For the people **do not turn to Him who strikes them, Nor do they seek the LORD of hosts**. (9:9-13)*

- Shrugs off punishment, determined to persist without repentance.
- Optimism, determination in the face of God’s punishment indicates “**pride and arrogance of heart**”, nothing noble (**Malachi 1:4**).
- God’s punishment will continue until they submit or are destroyed.
- Punishment will attack on multiple fronts, starting with invasions.

# Pervasive, Deliberate Error

- 15) What segments of Israel's society were surprisingly, suddenly destroyed, and why (**9:14-17**)?

*Therefore the LORD will **cut off head and tail** from Israel, Palm branch and bulrush in one day. The **elder and honorable, he is the head**; The **prophet who <sup>1</sup>teaches lies, he is the tail**. For the **leaders of this people <sup>2</sup>cause them to err**, And those who are **led by them are destroyed**. Therefore the Lord will have no joy in their young men, Nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows; For **everyone is a <sup>3</sup>hypocrite and an <sup>4</sup>evildoer**, And every mouth **<sup>5</sup>speaks folly**. For all this His anger is **not turned away**, But His hand is **stretched out still**. (9:14-17)*

- King Ahaz led in idolatry; Urijah the priest followed (“**he encouraged moral decline**”, **2 Chr.28:16-25; 2 Kgs.16:1-18**).
- Represent leaders at “both ends” – political and religious.
- People willingly followed and manifested same character (**Mt. 15:14**).
- Leaders often influenced by people (**Hos. 8:4; 2 Chr. 24:17-18**).

# Divisive, Self-Destruction

16) What wicked trait ironically fed the destruction of Israel (**9:18-21**)?

*For **wickedness burns as the fire**; It shall devour the briers and thorns, And kindle in the thickets of the forest; They shall mount up like rising smoke. Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts The land is burned up, And the people shall be as fuel for the fire; **No man shall spare his brother**. And he shall **snatch** on the right hand And **be hungry**; He shall **devour** on the left hand And **not be satisfied**; Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm. Manasseh shall devour Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh; Together they shall be against Judah. For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still. (**9:18-21**)*

- Unprincipled selfishness produces insatiable greed – even unto self-destruction (**Ecclesiastes 4:1-6; 5:10-17**).
- Combined with scarcity (**7:21-25**), desperate schemes would arise.
- Frequently, God turns the wicked against each other (**Judges 9:5-20; 23-24; 2 Chronicles 20:14-29; Revelation 17:16-17**).

# Abuse of Power

17) What irony was to be suffered by the judges & leaders of Israel in the day of destruction (**10:1-4**)?

***“Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, Who write misfortune, Which they have prescribed To rob the needy of justice, And to take what is right from the poor of My people, That widows may be their prey, And that they may rob the fatherless. What will you do in the day of punishment, And in the desolation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your glory? Without Me they shall bow down among the prisoners, And they shall fall among the slain.” For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still. (10:1-4)***

- The poor came to them for help, but doubtless they ignored their pleas for help and mercy (**Luke 18:1-8; 2 Sam. 15:2-6; Lev. 19:15**).
- Having rejected God and gained His wrath (**Deu. 27:19**), they will have nowhere to turn. And, if to God, likewise they will be ignored (**9:17; Pr. 1:24-32**).



# “His Anger not Turned Away”

18) What is the point emphasized by the refrain, “*For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still*” (**9:12, 17, 21; 10:4**)? Compare to Amos’ refrain, “*For three transgressions of <some nation>, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment*” (**Amos 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13; 2:1, 4, 6**)

- Anger, wrath, punishment was not just for one or two sins.
- Considerable mercy, patience had already been shown.
- Implies they had ignored God’s warnings, punishment.
- Time of patience has passed. Only destruction can resolve. Too much wickedness has piled to ignore any longer. Their destruction is more than justified – and it will be complete.

# Heart of Destruction


19) Was Assyria aware that they were being used as “*the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is my indignation*” (10:5-9)?

What was their intention?

*“Woe to Assyria, the **rod of My anger** And the **staff in whose hand is My indignation**. I will send him against an ungodly nation, And against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, To seize the spoil, to take the prey, And to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Yet **he does not mean so**, Nor does **his heart think so**; But it is **in his heart to destroy**, And cut off not a few nations. For he says, ‘Are not **my princes altogether kings**? Is not Calno like Carchemish? Is not Hamath like Arpad? Is not Samaria like Damascus?*

(10:5-9) (Samaria, 722 B.C.; Carchemish, 717; Jerusalem, 702-701)

- Assyria had no awareness of being used by God (**2 Kings 18:25**).
- No distinction among the peoples and cities – or their “gods”.
- Like empires after, Assyria sought plunder (**Hab. 1:6-16; Dan. 7:4**).
- Focus of punishment may shift if executioner misunderstands or sins themselves (**Deu. 32:15-27; Pro. 24:17-18**).

A dramatic, painterly landscape. The sky is filled with soft, textured clouds in shades of teal, blue, and yellow. A bright sunburst breaks through the clouds in the center-right, casting a golden glow. Below the sky, a range of mountains is visible, rendered in dark, textured brushstrokes of brown and purple. The overall style is reminiscent of a classical oil painting.

20) For what cause was Assyria also punished, despite accomplishing God's will (**10:10-15**)?

# The Boastful Axe

*“As my hand has found the kingdoms of the idols, Whose carved images excelled those of Jerusalem and Samaria, As I have done to Samaria and her idols, Shall I not do also to Jerusalem and her idols?”*

*Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Lord has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, that He will say, “I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks.” For he says: “By the strength of my hand I have done it, And by my wisdom, for I am prudent; Also I have removed the boundaries of the people, And have robbed their treasuries; So I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man. My hand has found like a nest the riches of the people, And as one gathers eggs that are left, I have gathered all the earth; And there was no one who moved his wing, Nor opened his mouth with even a peep.” Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, Or as if a staff could lift up, as if it were not wood! (10:10-15)*

# The Boastful Axe

20) For what cause was Assyria also punished, despite accomplishing God's will (**10:10-15**)?

- Like Nebuchadnezzar (**Dan. 4:20-32**), he attributed all of his success to himself, thinking he was mightier than all (**Psalms 24:1**).
- He gave no distinction, recognition, thanks or honor to God.
- Comparable to a tool foolishly turning on its wielder – no power without its wielder.
- God sets boundaries of nations, kings and people (**Deu. 32:8; Dan. 4:17; Acts 17:26**) and enables one to *overflow* another (**8:7-8**).
- Could God use us to accomplish his will today (for example, proclaim the gospel, teach His truth, answer error, help those in need, shine a light of hope & faith, encouraged the discouraged)?


When we are successful, do we swell with pride, take credit and pat ourselves on the back, or do we take opportunity to thank God and give glory to Him?

# Assyria as a Burning Forest

21) Who or what was God going to burn and for what purpose (**10:16-19**)?

*Therefore the Lord, the Lord of hosts, Will send leanness among his **fat ones**; And under his glory He will **kindle a burning** Like the burning of a fire. So **the Light of Israel will be for a fire**, And his **Holy One for a flame**; It will **burn and devour His thorns and his briars in one day**. And it will **consume the glory of his forest and of his fruitful field, Both soul and body**; And they will be as when a sick man wastes away. Then the rest of the trees of his forest Will be **so few in number That a child may write them.** (**10:16-19**)*

- Reoccurring Theme: Those destroying Zion will be destroyed:
  - Considered Jerusalem like any other city, and God like any other “god”.
  - God has chosen Zion and promised redemption through it.
- Like a forest, Assyria will be burned entirely starting with underbrush, culminating in great trees and fruitful fields (**Oba. 18; Jdg. 9:8-20**).

A dramatic, painterly landscape. The sky is filled with swirling, textured clouds in shades of teal, green, and yellow. A bright sunburst breaks through the clouds in the center-right, casting a golden glow. Below the sky, a valley is visible, with dark, textured hillsides on either side. The overall style is reminiscent of a classical painting or a digital artwork with a textured, brush-stroke effect.

22) In contrast to Israel, how would this outpouring of indignation differ for Jerusalem (**10:20-27**)?

# Only a Remnant, But a Remnant

And it shall come to pass in that day That **the remnant of Israel**, And such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, <sup>1</sup>Will never again depend on him who defeated them, But will depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, **To the Mighty God**. <sup>2</sup>For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, A remnant of them will return; <sup>3</sup>The destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord GOD of hosts Will **make a determined end** In the midst of all the land. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: <sup>4</sup>“O My people, who dwell in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrian. He shall strike you with a rod and lift up his staff against you, in the manner of Egypt. For yet a **very little while and the indignation will cease**, as will My anger in their destruction.” And the LORD of hosts will **stir up a scourge for him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb**; as **His rod was on the sea, so will He lift it up in the manner of Egypt**. It shall come to pass in that day That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And **the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil**.  
(10:20-27)



# Only a Remnant, But a Remnant

22) In contrast to Assyria, how would this outpouring of indignation differ for Jerusalem (**10:20-27**)?


- Judah's kings would never depend on Assyria again or similar nations.
- Although a great number, only small remnant of Israel would return.
- However, unlike both the northern kingdom and Assyria, there would at least be a remnant of Judah, which provides hope to the faithful.
- Eventually, God's wrath would stop toward Judah, and Assyria would be justly punished with sudden overflowing destruction, just as they overflowed their boundaries of those of other nations.
- Would be miraculous judgment as Egypt was destroyed in the Red Sea and Midian was destroyed by Gideon and his 300 (**Exo. 14; Jdg. 7**).
- God's choice and promise would stand.

# Role Reversal

23) How is Assyria figuratively depicted, and what confrontation between Assyria and Zion is foretold in **10:28-34**?

*He has come to Aiath, He has passed Migron; At Michmash he has attended to his equipment. They have gone along the ridge, They have taken up lodging at Geba. Ramah is **afraid**, Gibeah of Saul has **fled**. **Lift up your voice**, O daughter of Gallim! Cause it to be heard as far as Laish – **O poor Anathoth!** Madmenah has **fled**, The inhabitants of Gebim **seek refuge**. As yet he will remain at Nob that day; He will **shake his fist at the mount of the daughter of Zion**, The hill of Jerusalem. **Behold, the Lord, The LORD of hosts**, Will **lop off the bough with terror**; Those of **high stature will be hewn down**, And the **haughty will be humbled**. He will **cut down the thickets of the forest with iron**, And **Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One**. **(10:28-34)***

- Figure of approaching terror, emphasizing reality of anguish, doom.
- Dramatically, the Lord reverses the terror. The axe becomes the tree!

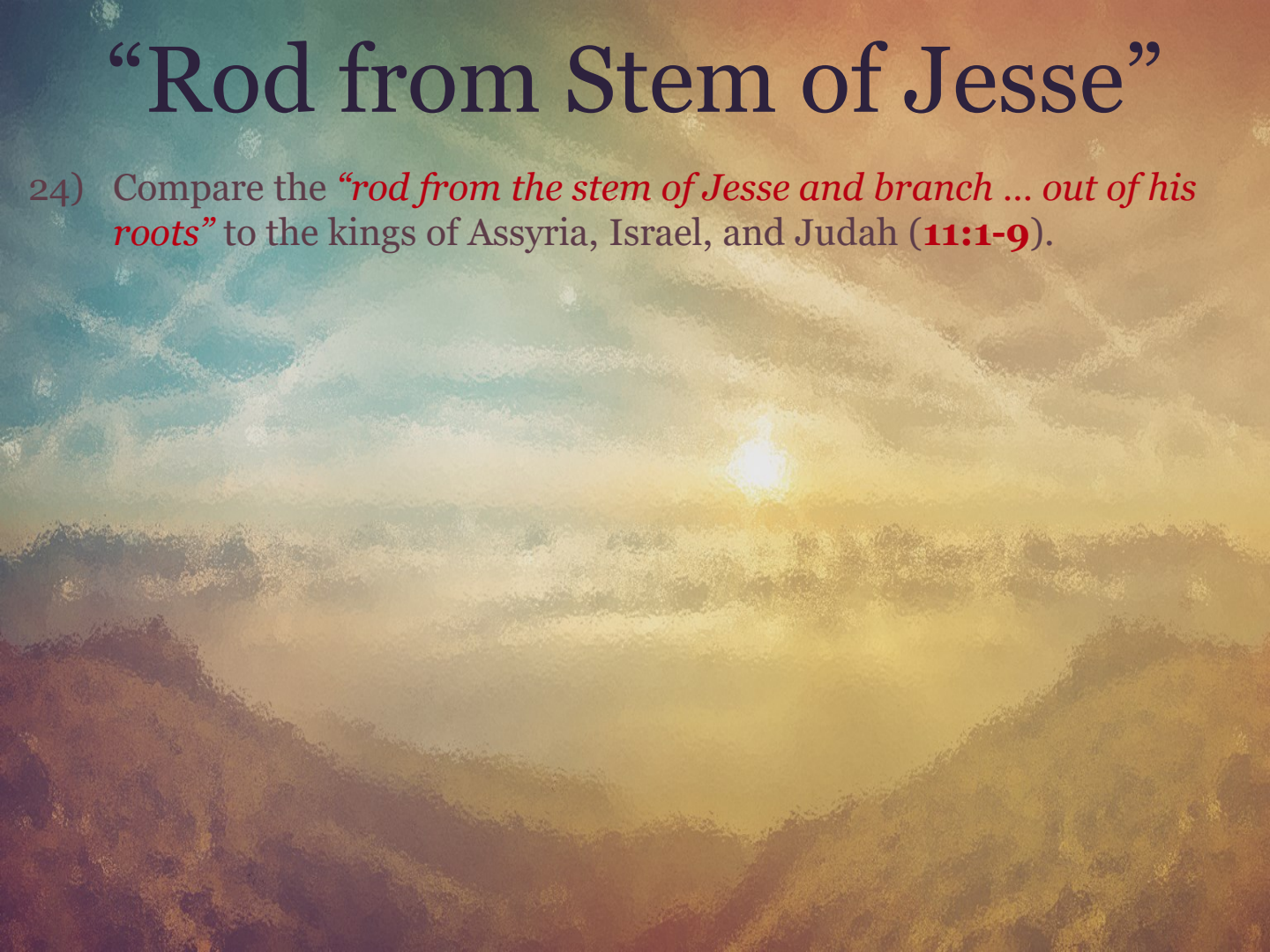


A SECOND  
RESTORATION OF  
ISRAEL'S REMNANT

**Isaiah 11:1-12:6**

# “Rod from Stem of Jesse”

- 24) Compare the *“rod from the stem of Jesse and branch ... out of his roots”* to the kings of Assyria, Israel, and Judah (**11:1-9**).



# “Rod from Stem of Jesse”

There shall come forth a **Rod from the stem of Jesse**, And a **Branch shall grow out of his roots**. The **Spirit of the LORD** shall rest upon Him, The **Spirit of wisdom and understanding**, The **Spirit of counsel and might**, The **Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD**. **His delight is in the fear of the LORD**, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But **with righteousness He shall judge** the poor, And decide with **equity for the meek of the earth**; He shall **strike the earth with the rod of His mouth**, And with the **breath of His lips** He shall slay the wicked. **Righteousness** shall be the belt of His loins, And **faithfulness** the belt of His waist. The **wolf** also shall dwell with the **lamb**, The **leopard** shall lie down with the young **goat**, The **calf** and the young **lion** and the **fatling** together; And a **little child shall lead** them. The **cow** and the **bear** shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the **lion** shall **eat straw like the ox**. The **nursing child** shall play by the **cobra's hole**, And the **weaned child** shall put his hand in the **viper's den**. They shall **not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain**, For the **earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD** As the waters cover the sea.

(11:1-9)

# “Rod from Stem of Jesse”

- 24) Compare the “*rod from the stem of Jesse and branch ... out of his roots*” to the kings of Assyria, Israel, and Judah (**11:1-9**).
- *Different End*: Other kings are lost, forgotten, destroyed (**Am. 9:11**).
  - *Different Attitude and Mind*: The mind of God, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge (**Luk. 3:22; Jn. 3:34**).
  - *Different Weapons*: powerful word (**Rev. 1:16; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12; Gen. 1**)
  - *Different Will*: Desires to please God (**Ps. 69:9; Jn. 2:17**).
  - *Different Standard*: Righteousness & Equity (**John 7:24**)
  - *Different Beneficiaries*: Poor & Meek (**Mat. 5:3-12**)
  - *Different Constituents*: Peaceful, Meek & Knowledgeable (**Mat. 18:3; 2 Cor. 5:7; Zec. 8:3-5; Isa. 2:2-4; Heb. 12:18-28**)
  - Different kind of King, kingdom (**Psa. 110:1-3; John 8:23; 18:36**).
  - To interpret this literally, physically is to miss the point (**Jn. 18:36**).