

Isaiah 10

Up to the present point in the book of Isaiah two main thoughts have constantly been stressed: (1) rebuke to Israel for its sin and rebellion against God; (2) consolation for those who are true to the Lord, and assurance that in the end God will establish His perfect will upon the earth.

In the book of Immanuel, the first of these themes has centered largely around the unbelieving plan of Ahaz to secure help from the Assyrians against the two kingdoms to the north. He has been told that his plan will not give him safety at all; its result will be the removal of the barrier states and this will bring the dreaded Assyrian force right next to his own nation. He has even been told that the Assyrian army will actually overrun, not merely the kingdoms to the north, but also large portions of Judah itself. Although there have also been passages of rebuke to the people as a whole for their sin and unbelief, the great stress has been upon the wicked alliance entered into by King Ahaz. There have also been a number of passages in which God has brought comfort to the true believers among the people of Judah by assuring them that in the end He will replace Ahaz with a king who will be absolutely true to Him and who will fulfill the glorious Messianic promises -- one who will put an end to war and oppression and establish peace throughout the earth.

It is possible that the passage beginning at Isaiah 10:5 was written some time after the earlier portion of the book of Immanuel, since in verse 11 we find the king of Assyria boastfully declaring that he will treat Jerusalem the same way in which he has already treated Samaria. This suggests that when this chapter was written Ahaz' conspiracy has already produced the predicted result, and the Assyrian army is actually threatening Judah.

In verse 5 a new thought is introduced and discussed, along with a number of recurrences of the two main themes already mentioned. This new thought is the question of the relation of the great wicked heathen power to the Lord. Isaiah lived in a day when evil appeared to be triumphing. In the whole history of the world no greater or more wicked aggressor has ever appeared than the Assyrian Empire. A