

Theme: God rules over the affairs of human history, working all things out for the purity and good of His people.

I. Intro – Erica Monza’s Eyes

- A. My conversation with Lindsey and Erica
- B. “Where did you get pretty blue eyes?”
- C. “God gave them to me!”
- D. Great theology from a young child!
- E. The ultimate - not secondary - cause
- F. A key lesson in Isaiah

II. Assyria - The Rod of God’s Anger

- A. God raised up Assyria
 - 1. Rod of God’s anger; hand - vs 5
 - 2. Sent, dispatched by God - vs 6; 7:17; 7:18
- B. God did this to purify His people
 - 1. God’s anger with godless, ‘a’ people (v6)
 - 2. God had warned them - Torah; Maher (6)
 - 3. The punishment will be severe - v6
 - 4. Judgment begins in God’s people - 1 Pe 4:17
- C. Assyria has her own reasons
 - 1. Assyria does not recognize this - v7
 - 2. Assyria wants to conquer & destroy - v8

- 3. The pride of Assyria - v8, 13-14
- 4. Quote of Ashurnasirpal
- 5. Assyria mocks YHWH - v10-11 (2 Ki 18:32-35)
- 6. God often allows his tools to ignore or mock Him

III. God Will Judge Assyria

- A. God uses Assyria until finished with Zion (v12)
- B. God punishes Assyria for pride (v12)
- C. God’s sovereignty over Assyria the tool (v15)
- D. Assyria is culpable for her own actions!
- E. All of this repeated and true throughout history
- F. God’s judgment of Assyria
 - 1. Sovereign, the LORD of Hosts acts (v16)
 - 2. He will consume Assyria - plague, fire (v17)
 - 3. A growing fire (v17-19) (Is 37:36)
 - 4. Death of Ivan Ilyich - small start; death ensues

IV. God Will Restore His People

- A. God will restore His people (v20-21)
- B. A remnant will return - Shear-Jashub
- C. His people have been His purpose all along!!
- D. God’s purposes, ways different than ours!

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see the sovereignty of God?
 - 1. Do we see God sovereign over all situations?
 - 2. Do we know this includes things we don't like?
 - 3. Do we know we will not always understand?
 - 4. This calls for faith in God's promises
- B. Do we focus on primary or secondary causes?
 - 1. Do we see past secondary causes to God?
 - 2. Science, medicine, economics -> GOD!!!
 - 3. Do we see personal hand of God at work?
 - 4. Do we live in faith - or fatalism?
- C. Do we see God works all things for good of His people?
 - 1. Assyria was exalted - for Israel and Judah!
 - 2. Romans 8:28 - all things for our good
 - 3. True for those who love Him, called by Him
 - 4. Look to Christ - personally - live in faith
- D. Communion

God's Sovereignty Over Human History

Isaiah 10:5-19
Psalm 115
July 5, 2009
Communion

The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah--he will bring the king of Assyria. Isaiah 7:17

In that day the LORD will whistle for flies from the distant streams of Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria. Isaiah 7:18

For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 1 Peter 4:17

Ashurnasirpal, attentive prince, worshipper of the great gods, ferocious dragon, conqueror of cities and the entire highlands, king of lords, encircler of the obstinate, crowned with splendor, fearless in battle, merciless hero, he who stirs up strife, praiseworthy king, shepherd, protection of the (four) quarters, the king whose command disintegrates mountains and seas, the one who by his lordly conflict has brought under one authority ferocious (and) merciless kings from east to west:

The Light of Israel will become a fire, their Holy One a flame; in a single day it will burn and consume his thorns and his briars. 18 The splendor of his forests and fertile fields it will completely destroy, as when a sick man wastes away. 19 And the remaining trees of his forests will be so few that a child could write them down. Isaiah 10:17-19

In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. 21A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God. Isaiah 10:20-21