

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 24

Title: BE NOT AFRAID

Scripture: Isaiah 10: 24, 25

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Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

There are particular things that strike fear in the hearts of the Lord's people more than others. Some things terrify me that do not terrify you and some things make you afraid that do not make me afraid. Yet we should fear none but God.

We learn in the context of Isaiah's gospel that multitudes in Israel and Judah claimed to fear the Lord. Yet the Lord declares that very few worshipped him from the heart. But the Lord knows the heart. Therefore he cut off the nation and brought from it only a remnant. This shall prove the case with the inhabitants of the entire world.

Isaiah 10: 24: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. 25: For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction.

Proposition: As God used Assyria to both purge his church and cause his elect remnant in Israel to seek him, so he uses all the events of time for the spiritual and eternal good of his elect. I want to show you why the believer has no reason to fear the events and happenings or enemies of this world.

I. WHO IS SPEAKING? WHO SAID IT?

Isaiah 10: 24: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts...

A. We live in a day when the name of the Lord is used as common slang term.

All the evidence needed to prove that we live in a hypocritical, self-righteous world is found on the lips of both young and old--"o my God!" If you can use his name in such a dishonorable way then you can be assured he is not your God.

The name is Jehovah, the First and the Last. The singular name applied to no other but the Mighty God in three persons. **Isaiah 42:8: I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.** With what reverence and sanctity ought the glorious name to be held. The name, the LORD THY GOD includes all that is great, gracious and glorious in that holy name. His name teaches us he is a God of covenant mercy and will remember his promises.

- JEHOVHAH Jireh--I AM the Lord will provide (Gen 22: 14)--he provided himself a Lamb.
- JEHOVAH Rapha--I AM the Lord that healeth thee (Ex 15: 25-26) God brings us to great thirst, and when we finds the waters bitter we murmur and complain, yet he reveals this great name--I AM the Lord that healeth thee.
- JEHOVHAH Nissi--I AM the Lord your banner (Exo 27: 15)--is he the flag you wave as you go forth to war against sin, death, hell and the grave? if so you have the whole armor of God and are more than conquerors through him that loveth us.
- JEHOVAH Tzidkenu--I AM the Lord your Righteousness (Jer 23: 6; 33: 16) **Jeremiah 23: 6: In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS; Jeremiah 33:16: In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.**
- JEHOVAH Shalom--I AM the Lord your peace (Judg 6: 24) **Judges 6: 23: And the LORD said unto [Gideon], Peace *be* unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.**
- JEHOVAH Shammah--I AM the Lord is there (Eze 48: 35). This was the name which describes the Lord in his church--his guarded city--the Lord is there.
- JEHOVAH Ra-ah--I AM the LORD your Shepherd (Ps 23). In this valley of the shadow of death, only our Jehovah Ra-ah can make us to lie down in green pastures.

AND ALL THESE NAMES OF COVENANT GRACE MEET IN ONE NAME:

JEHOVAH Jesus--I AM the LORD your Savior (Is 43: 3; Mt 1: 21)

In our text he, also says, I AM the Lord GOD...OF HOSTS.

Daniel 4: 34: And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: 35: And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? 36: At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. 37: Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase. SO FIRST, IF YOU TRUST THE LORD GOD, YOU HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR BECAUSE THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS...

II. SECONDLY, WE HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR BECAUSE OF WHAT OUR GREAT I AM SAYS TO US

Isaiah 10: 24: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion,

A. O MY PEOPLE

1. The great Almighty is God over all people--whether you know him or not, whether you submit to him or not, whether you believe him or not--he is your God and you shall confess him to be so--if not now in judgment.

Isaiah 45: 23: I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

2. But here he says, MY PEOPLE. This is not a title that is given to everyone without exception--my people. It is God's grace to give this name to whomsoever he will--o MY people.

Romans 9:15: For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

B. THIS IS HIS PEOPLE THAT DWELLEST IN ZION

1. Zion is Christ's church, the city of King Jesus our great David

Psalm 87: 1: <<A Psalm *or* Song for the sons of Korah.>> His foundation *is* in the holy mountains. 2: The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. 3: Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah. 4: I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this *man* was born there. 5: And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. 6: The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, *that* this *man* was born there. Selah. 7: As well the singers as the players on instruments *shall be there*: all my springs *are* in thee.

Psalm 48: 1: Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, *in* the mountain of his holiness. 2: Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, *is* mount Zion, *on* the sides of the north, the city of the great King. 3: God is known in her palaces for a refuge.

2. The name Zion is derived from TZUN. It means a monument raised up. Christ's church--his Zion--is indeed a monument of his grace and glory. When he says, My people that dwelleth in Zion--he assures us he knows us and that none can be lost. Here is why?

Psalm 65: 1: <<To the chief Musician, A Psalm *and* Song of David.>> Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

Revelation 14: 1: And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. 2: And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 3: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. 4: These are they which were not

defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 5: And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Without fault--because Ephesians 5: 25-27...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,****

Without fault--because by his finished work he shall--27: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

MY PEOPLE WHICH DWELLETH IN ZION IS his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1: 23.)

NOW TO YOU--HIS PEOPLE--HE SAYS:

Isaiah 10:...be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. 25: For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction.

C. BE NOT AFRAID OF THE ASSRIAN

1. What makes us afraid? What are you afraid of?

- **Foreign invasion--**Was the fact that we did not see our nation attacked any reason for us to have peace and security anywhere else but our God? Why not after it is attacked?
- **Economic leanness?** Was the money you lost your security and assurance? Why then would we be afraid if we don't have it?
- **Unemployment?** Job security? I'd say about now we are getting a good understanding of how foolish that term "job security" really is. But why did we feel secure by that job? We see now we had no security from a job.
- **Health?** Why are we secure and assured when we think we are in good health? My health in this flesh is not my security--Christ is my Healer, my Physician, my Life.

Usually those things that make us afraid are the things that we give far too much glory towards. None of those things is more powerful than the Lord GOD of hosts. Therefore he says to us, Be not afraid. God gives us here, an example, in one of the most powerful enemies of God and of his people--the Assyrian empire.

2. At the time of Isaiah's ministry Assyria was the greatest economic and military power in the world. Every nation in that part of the world had been, or in time would be, brought in subjection to the will of the Assyrian empire. In the eyes of the world Assyria was an uncontrollable power that had to be obeyed. No one dared oppose, or stir up the wrath of, Assyria. I suppose the one thing that could make things worse in our nation than they are now is if tonight we beheld our nation invaded by a superpower hell-bent on the

annihilation of every American. But look who the Assyrian was: **THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS:**

3. Isaiah recognized that Assyria was nothing but a tool in the hands of God:

Isaiah 10: 5: O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation....

4. A tool by which the almighty, in sovereignty, accomplished his eternal two-fold purpose: First the purpose of God in bringing the Assyrians upon the nation of Israel was in judgment against those who refused to submit to the Lord GOD of hosts.

Isaiah 10: 6: I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Hypocrites who drew near with their mouths but their hearts were far from him; they had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof; they went about to establish their own righteousness and would not submit themselves to the righteousness of God--Christ the Lord--through faith; the judgments of God in providence are righteous and just.

ILLUSTRATION: David Plotz--The Good Book (what I learned from reading the entire bible.) "After reading about the genocides, the plagues, the murders, the mass enslavements, the ruthless vengeance for minor sins (or none at all), and all that smiting—every bit of it directly performed, authorized, or approved by God—I can only conclude that the God of the Hebrew Bible, if He existed, was awful, cruel, and capricious. He gives us moments of beauty—such sublime beauty and grace!—but taken as a whole, He is no God I want to obey and no God I can love."

Miss the fall and you have missed it all! What do you think judgment--hell--will be? If God can judge righteously in casting men to hell, he can do it now on this earth by simply turning you over to an enemy like the Assyrian. This is a mere foretaste.

Secondly, the purpose in God's just judgment in providence is this: when God sends judgment upon a people, both the believer and the unbeliever is affected. But while God punishes the wicked, he preserves his elect. That is why he says to his people:

Isaiah 10:...be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt.

D. AFTER THE MANNER OF EGYPT--Do you recall why Pharaoh was raised up?

Exodus 9: 13: And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. 14: For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth. 15: For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. 16:

And in very deed for this *cause* have I raised thee up, for to shew *in* thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

Romans 9: 23: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, **24:** Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Now we behold God's great name in power as he deals with the house of Israel. Paul said to the believer: **Romans 11:22:** Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

1. But the object of God's providence is the spiritual, eternal good of his elect.

Isaiah 10: 20: And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. **21:** The remnant shall return, *even* the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. **22:** For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, *yet* a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness. **23:** For the Lord GOD of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land.

Isaiah 10: 24: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian:

Isaiah 10: 25: For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction.

Oh the wicked king of Assyrai did not think so. And as was the case with the wicked king of Assyria so it is with wicked men on this earth in our day.

Isaiah 10: 7: Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but *it is* in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few. **8:** For he saith, *Are* not my princes altogether kings? **9:** *Is* not Calno as Carchemish? *is* not Hamath as Arpad? *is* not Samaria as Damascus? **10:** As my hand hath found the kingdoms of the idols, and whose graven images did excel them of Jerusalem and of Samaria; **11:** Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols?...**13:** For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done *it*, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant *man*: **14:** And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs *that are* left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped. **15:** Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? *or* shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake *itself* against them that lift it up, *or* as if the staff should lift up *itself*, as if it were no wood.

Isaiah 10: 12: Wherefore it shall come to pass, *that* when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.

APPLICATION: Turn to Rom. 5: 1-5--When is this trial going to be over?

- When the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem.
- When his church is purged of his enemies
- When he has edified his saints
- When he has made his name known in all the earth
- When he has drawn in all his elect from the four corners of the world

In every age the Lord GOD of covenant grace has a remnant, according to the election of grace, who must and shall be saved. It was true in Isaiah's day. And it is true today. And everything God does, directly and indirectly, is for the salvation of that elect remnant.

I Corinthians 10: 13: There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

- **James 1: 12: Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**
- **Matthew 10: 30: But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.**

Who is the Way?

I Peter 5: 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. 7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

- **I Thessalonians 5: 16: Rejoice evermore. 17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

Revelation 19: 1: And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2: For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3: And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4: And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. 5: And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6: And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
(Amen!)