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The LORD Is Angry With All Nations

34: 1-4

The LORD is angry with all nations DIG: Why is the Lord angry with all the nations (see 10:5-15 for the example of Assyria)? What modern political and military leaders does that example bring to mind? What is Isaiah's purpose in describing this in such graphic detail?

REFLECT: How would you explain God's justice to someone if there were no prospect of judgment? How is His wrath related to His love? What does it mean to you that God will fight this hard in order to save you? How do you feel about God after reading this passage? How might you feel if you read it from the viewpoint of an oppressed person reflecting on the fact that justice would one day justice would be reversed ?

Isaiah announces the destruction of **all the nations** in **the far eschatological future** at the end of the Great Tribulation (**63:1-6**). Notice in these first four verses the universality of what is happening. Then it will suddenly become localized for reasons we shall see shortly. There is a universal call to **all nations** and to **the** entire **earth**. **He** invites them to hear the announcement **He** is about to make. But **they** are not being called to be witnesses, but to be sentenced.

Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in the world, and all that comes out of it (34:1). The word for **earth** here is not the Hebrew word that means *the globe*, but the word that means *the inhabited earth*. The emphasis is on the humanity of **the earth** gathered together. The reason for the universal call is for **all** these **nations** to gather together for Armageddon. It will not be a battle, but an execution.

For the LORD is angry with all the nations; His wrath is upon all their armies (34:2a). His anger is a righteous anger. If **ADONAI** was not a holy **God** and **He** did not punish sin, there would be no need for salvation (**Romans 1:16-18**). **His** grace must ultimately culminate in a decision. The sinner cannot continue to reject the sacrifice of the cross forever. The blood of the **Messiah** was too great a price. Hence, to reject **the**

Sacrifice, is to *become* the sacrifice.



These verses describe the results of **God's** judgment against **all** the **nations**. First, the emphasis is on the totality of the destruction. **He will totally destroy them (34:2b)**. The Hebrew word **totally destroy** here and **devoted to destruction** in **Joshua 7:12** means *cherem*. Whatever is *cherem* is untouchable, because it is **devoted to destruction**. Whenever **God** pronounces something as *cherem*, no one can touch or save any part of it. The contents of Jericho were to be given **to the Lord** as the firstfruits of the Land. When **Achan** took **a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels**, he became *cherem*. As a result, **he, his** sons and daughters, **his** cattle, donkeys, and sheep were all stoned to death, and then **he** was burned, with **his** tent and all **he** had. Why? When **he** touched that which was *cherem*, then **he himself** became **devoted to destruction**.

All these **nations** that have been gathered together are now under the *cherem* judgment of **God** and **devoted to destruction**. **He will give them over to slaughter. Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will send up a stench**. Added to the shame of defeat and slaughter is the shame of exposure of the dead. **The rotting corpses** will be bobbing up and down in **their** own blood. In fact, there will be so much **blood** in the Valley of Jehoshaphat that it will come up to **the horses' bridle** (see my commentary on **Revelation, to see link click [Ex - The Eight Stage Campaign of Armageddon](#)**) and all **the birds** will gorge **themselves** on **their flesh** (Rev 19:21). The **blood** from this **slaughter** heavily colors **Chapter 34**. **The mountains and the land are soaked or drenched with their blood (34:2c-3)**. Even the sword of **the Lord** is **bathed in blood (35:6)**.¹¹⁸

Secondly, we learn that **all the stars of the heavens will be dissolved**, literally *decayed or rotted*, **and the sky rolled up like a scroll (34:4a)** because sin had also polluted the

heavens (**Job 15:15; Hebrews 9:23; Revelation 6:13**). The catastrophic events in the sky will accompany **Messiah's** return to the earth to establish **His** Millennial reign (**Joel 2:10 and 30-31, 3:15; Zechariah 14:6-7; Matthew 24:29**). **All the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree (34:4b)**. The harvest-time will have come and it will be time for reaping.

As a result, **the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. . . we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness (Second Peter 3: 10 and 13).**

In Chapters 13 to 35 Isaiah sought to answer these questions: Can God deliver Israel from those who would harm her? Can He be trusted? Or is He just one more god, added to all the others? Is God Lord over all the nations? Is God's counsel and wisdom superior to human leaders? But here in Chapters 34-35, the specific question that all of us ultimately have to answer is this, "Do I trust God, or the world (First John 2:15-17)?"