

**ETHAN TEMPLE MINISTRIES TOOLS FOR
LIFE
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**Humbled Again:
Stop Letting Success Get to Your Head**

Scripture: Isaiah 10:5-19

SUMMARY

As you read the Old Testament you notice God's recurring frustration with the people of the earth. Humans have a tendency to overestimate their power and overinflate their success, and frequently many people gradually grow to believe that they can take care of themselves and be their own God. Frequently, God uses a combination of tests and consequences to give us a taste of reality and humble us. Just as iron sharpens iron, sometimes God may use someone to humble you, or He may use you to humble someone else.

We should consider it a serious responsibility when God uses us in any way, but especially when he uses us to humble each other. When we are used by God to keep someone else accountable, we should be careful not to let it get to our heads. God may use you to call someone out, but that doesn't mean you've attained some elevated authority, it simply means God is using His authority through you to speak to someone else. The servant of the king may be acting on behalf of the king, but he should never get it confused in his head that he is the king – he remains merely a servant.

SUMMARY

In Isaiah chapter 10, we read more about the empire of Assyria and how they confused being used by the power of God as equivalent to having the power of God.

v 5-6: Shows us how God used Assyria as a disciplinary measure to humble other nations

v 7-11: Tells us how Assyria did not recognize he was being used by God and instead thought he could extend his campaign of conquest as far as he wanted.

v 12: Serves as a beautiful promise that after making use of Assyria to correct others, God will humble Assyria as well.

v 13-14: Provides the internal monologue Assyria has in his own mind. He presumes his success comes by his own power and that all others are scared chickens who could never stop him.

v 15: Is a humorous rhetorical question. A tool should never think of itself as more than a tool. It doesn't matter how powerful it feels, it's still a tool.

v 16-18: Tells of how God will cause Assyria to wither away like a bushfire of scrap kindle.

v 19: Is a beautiful promise, because while Assyria has been a terrifying problem for so many nations, God says that after he deals with Assyria the problem becomes so simple that even a child could solve it.

All in all, Isaiah 10 should remind us never to let success or authority get to our heads. There are some believers who God uses to keep others accountable and call out others when they are in the wrong. God may have used you to

humble some people, but don't let that get to your head or eventually God is going to have to humble you too!

The Day of the Lord (Isaiah 2:12-17)

For the Lord of hosts has a day

against all that is proud and lofty,

against all that is lifted up and high;

13 against all the cedars of Lebanon,

lofty and lifted up;

and against all the oaks of Bashan;

14 against all the high mountains

and against all the lofty hills;

15 against every high tower

and against every fortified wall;

16 against all the ships of Tarshish

and against all the highly prized vessels.

17 The haughtiness of people shall be humbled,

and the pride of everyone shall be brought low,

and the Lord alone will be exalted on that day.

There is only one who is exalted and that is God!

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