

### **Recapitulation**

We have now reached verse 27 and all the teaching of the chapter has been given. From verse 28 on, the teaching is repeated in such a form as to drive home its main outline. Verses 28-32 give a vivid picture of the possible coming of an Assyrian army. Town after town north of Jerusalem is described and one imagines the Assyrian army coming closer and closer, and the inhabitants fleeing for safety. It reaches its climax in verse 32, where this army comes right to the very edge of Jerusalem, and the city's capture seems absolutely certain to follow.

Some writers have said that this proved to be a false guess on Isaiah's part, since Sennacherib's army did not actually follow this route but came down the seacoast and, as a result the messengers who brought threats of an Assyrian attack came from the west instead of from the north. It is not necessary, however, to consider that Isaiah is here predicting the route of an army. He is merely picturing vividly the fear which is aroused among the people by the fact that the Assyrian horde is right next to them and may attack at any time.

Just when the Assyrian army is pictured as if about to take Jerusalem and utterly destroy it, we find in verse 32 the declaration of God's sudden and miraculous interposition. The Assyrian is again likened to a forest, as has already been done in verses 17-19. Here he is compared to the great forest of Lebanon, which was outside the domain of Israel. Assurance is given that the Lord "shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon shall fall by a mighty one."

The tenth chapter of Isaiah ends with a description of the downfall of the mighty Assyrian Empire. It is compared to the forest of Lebanon, and described as falling utterly to the ground. Thus all the worldly forces which oppose the will of God are eventually to be humbled.

The chapter contained a vivid picture of the true meaning of the rise of the Assyrian Empire and of its ultimate fate. All this was literally fulfilled in history. An inspired account of the terrible downfall of Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, is presented in the three chapters of the book of Nahum.