



**Sovereign means
Isaiah 10: 5 – 34**

The Gordian knot?

God's sovereignty: Assyria is God's instrument v5-11

Human responsibility: Assyria accountable to God v12-19

The will of the Lord

Divine Sovereignty and Human responsibility

Rely on the LORD – v20

Don't fear the future – v24



Reflection Questions

1. When have you been conscious of God's sovereignty over your life?

Context

2. The first five chapters of Isaiah reveal the spiritual condition of God's people. What do we learn about them? You may find the following helpful reminders: 1:2, 4, 13-17; 2:6-8; 3: 8-9, 14-15; 5:7, 8-10, 11-12, 18-19, 20, 21, 22-23; 6:5; 9:13, 16-17; 10:1-2.
3. Over the same section, Isaiah has some wonderful pictures of the future for God's people and the nations (1:18, 26-27; 2:2-6; 4:2-6; 9:2-7). How do these pictures provide hope?
4. What is the disaster facing God's people (Isaiah 7:17)?

Observation

5. What connection does Isaiah make between God and Assyria (7:17-18; 8:7; 9:11; 10:5-6)?
6. What awareness does Assyria have of its role in God's purposes (v7-11)?
7. Read 10: 12-19. What does the image in v15 of the axe boasting over the one who swings it teach us about pride and power? How will God respond?
8. What reasons are given for Israel to neither rely on nor fear Assyria (v20,24)?
9. Read Acts 2:22-24. Who is responsible for the death of Jesus?

Meaning

10. How does the experience of Assyria in this passage demonstrate both God's sovereignty and human responsibility?
11. Does it surprise you that God works through normal historical / political processes? Why / why not?
12. Divine sovereignty and human responsibility have been compared to the nature of light being both particle and wave. How helpful is this analogy? Are there other ways to think about this mystery?
13. How can the idea that God is working through both prosperity and affliction shape how we respond to suffering? What is God's desired response from his people?

Application

14. What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by his providence? How does it fuel thankfulness, patience, confidence?