



Prophecies, Promises, Warnings

Isaiah 9:1-21

Verse-by-verse

Verses 1, 2 – (The First Coming of Jesus)

- **Nevertheless** marks an immediate connection with the end of chapter 8 (8:22). It ends with the nation driven into darkness in need of light.
- **Gloom will not be upon her...**a light would be provided if the rebellious nation would receive it.
- **Zubulun and Naphtali** are two of the twelve tribes of Israel. They were located in the Galilee area. At first, God **lightly esteemed** (meaning didn't esteem them very much).
- Later the Assyrians (under Tiglath-Pileser III) would be used by God to **heavily oppress** Israel...in **Galilee of the Gentiles**.
- Is this all foreshadowing of The Light that will come from that area? Jesus' upbringing and early ministry was mostly in that very area near the Sea of Galilee.
- The effect of the Messiah is Light. (John 1:5)
- Jesus Christ always brings Light. Matthew applies this passage to Jesus, who began His preaching and healing ministry in that region (Matthew 4:15-16).
- Jesus even took the Light of the gospel to the dead before His resurrection (1 Peter 3:18,19).

Map
5



The Twelve Tribes of Israel

Verses 3, 4, 5 – (The Second Coming of Jesus)

- **You have multiplied the nation...**(Ezekiel 37:11-12, 21-22)
- **Joy and Rejoice.** Mentioned over 24 times in Isaiah. (Isaiah 35:1-2, 10)
- **Burden, staff, rod.** When Messiah comes as King it will be like a burden removed, no more oppression.
- **As in the day of Midian.** (Judges 7:1-25)
- **Burning and fuel for fire** (Isaiah 2:4: 66:15,16)

Verses 6, 7 – Five things about the First and Second Coming of the Messiah

1. **For unto us a Child is born.** He was to be born a Child (Isaiah 7:14).
2. **The government will be upon His shoulder.** He will rule over God's people (Micah 5:2). His shoulder. Kings wear royal robes. John describes the awesome King of kings in Revelation 1:10-18. He will truly be King of kings and Lord of lords.
3. His name will be called... five descriptive names
 - A. **Wonderful** (could be translated "exceptional" or "distinguished.")
 - B. **Counselor** (Isaiah 2:3).
 - C. **Mighty God**
 - D. **Everlasting Father** (John 1:18; 6:46; 10:30; 14:9, "I and My Father are one." "He who has seen me has seen the Father." etc.
 - E. **Prince of Peace.** (The ultimate peacemaker. Doing what no other person could do. (Isaiah 9:2-5).
4. **Upon the throne of David...**(Luke 1:32-33). His rule will never end. No term limits! It will go on forever (Daniel 7:14, everlasting dominion; Daniel 7:27, everlasting kingdom; Micah 4:7, reign over them...even forever; Luke 1:33, reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."
5. **Zeal of the LORD of hosts** (armies) will accomplish all of the above. The coming millennial kingdom depends on God's zeal, not man's and not Israel's. The Messiah will rule the kingdom because God promised it and He will zealously see that the Kingdom comes!

Without God's sovereign intervention there would be no kingdom for Israel. How arrogant for man today to think we as the Church can bring in the Kingdom!

Isaiah's prophecy shifts from the future to the nation in his day.

Throughout his prophecy, Isaiah alternates the message of judgment with the message of blessing and hope. So in contrast with the Messiah's future reign of justice and righteousness, the nation in Isaiah's day was ruled by leaders who did not care about the people under them (see Isaiah 5:7).¹

Verse 8 –

- **The Lord sent word against Jacob...Israel.** Isaiah's prophecy is specifically addressed to Judah and Jerusalem (Isaiah 1:1), but he uses the Northern Kingdom of Israel (Jacob) as an example that God judges His sinful people.

Verses 9, 10, 11, 12

- **Pride and arrogance of heart.**
- **The bricks have fallen down...but we will rebuild/replace.** Ephraim, one of Israel's largest tribes often represented the entire Northern Kingdom. Samaria was the Northern Kingdom's capital city. Did they feel they were only experiencing temporary setbacks? Did they think they could make their nation better? With pride and arrogance we can never accomplish the work of God.
- **Rezin.** They were going to be squeezed between Rezin's enemies (Rezin was the king of Syria, and an ally of Israel), and the Philistines from the west.
- **Devour Israel.** The Lord was prompting all of this, but His judgment and God's wrath didn't stop the people from refusing to deal with their sin. So God would continue to cut them down to size.
- **But his hand is stretched out still.** Meaning "in judgment."

Verses 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 –

¹Martin, John A. "Isaiah." *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985.

- **Will cut off head and tail from Israel.** The whole nation would be judged. The people do not turn to the Lord and they do not seek Him. Sort of like a child who stubbornly refuses to obey his parents and therefore is punished more severely.
- **Elder** (the head), **honorable, false prophets** (the tail), **leaders, followers, young men, fatherless, widows**; all judged.
- **Hypocrite and evildoer.**
- **But his hand is stretched out still.**

Verses 18 - 21 –

- **Wickedness.** The judgment would come not only from God and enemies, it would come from within. The nation would destroy itself by its own wicked deeds.
- **No man shall spare his brother.**
- **Manasseh shall devour Ephraim and Ephraim Manasseh.** And they together will go against **Judah**.
- **But his hand is stretched out still.**