

# The Promised Son

Isaiah 9:1-10-4

By Scott Huckaby

8/28/2022

**BIG BEND  
BIBLE  
FELLOWSHIP**

## **Isaiah 9:1-7 – The Government of the Promised Son**

*Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.*

<sup>2</sup> *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.*

<sup>3</sup> *You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.*

<sup>4</sup> *For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.* <sup>5</sup> *For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire.*

<sup>6</sup> *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

<sup>7</sup> *Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

### **v1 – What is the gloom mentioned here?**

The gloom carries over from Isaiah 8, where Isaiah warned Judah about the coming invasion from Assyria. Isaiah 8:22 said, *then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and they will be driven into darkness.* The invasion of the Assyrians would be terrible for the Jewish people, especially for the northern regions of the Promised Land, *the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali.*

### **What is the precious promise for Israel here?**

*The gloom will not be upon her who is distressed.* The northern regions of the Promised Land - around the Sea of Galilee (*Galilee of the Gentiles*) - were most severely ravaged when the Assyrians invaded from the north.

- The promise is that this land, once seemingly lightly esteemed by the LORD, will one day have a special blessing.

### **v2 – What is the great light that will be seen around the Sea of Galilee?**

Jesus... The northern tribes were the first to suffer from the Assyrian invasions, so in God's mercy, they will be the first to see the light of the Messiah.

- Matthew 4:13-16 quotes this passage as being fulfilled in the Galilean ministry of Jesus. Since the majority of Jesus' ministry took place around the Sea of Galilee, God certainly did have a special blessing for this once lightly esteemed land!

### **v3 – What would God do for Israel?**

*You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy:* The ministry of the Messiah would bring joy and gladness to Israel. Jesus said His ministry was like having a wedding party...

Matthew 9:14-15 – *Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.*

*They will rejoice according to the time of harvest,* the time when the hard work has paid off and the bounty comes in. *They will rejoice as men rejoice when they divide the spoil,* with a celebration of victory, as in the locker room of a championship team.

### **v4 – How would the rod of the oppressor be broken as in the day of Midian?**

This refers to Gideon's great victory over Midian in Judges 7. As wonderfully complete, joyous, and victorious as Gideon's victory over Midian was, this is the same kind of victory the Messiah will have.

**v5 – To what does the warrior's sandal and garments rolled in blood used for fuel of fire refer?**

This means that the battle is over. This is what you did when the battle was finished and you had won!

**What is the application of this promised victory to us in the here and now?**

These promises, the reference to great joy, the breaking of the yoke of burden and the rod of his oppressor, and the complete victory over all enemies has spiritual application to Jesus' work in our lives. These things are ours in Jesus!

Romans 8:37 – *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

**v9 – Of whom does this speak?**

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given:* Jesus... Isaiah is using the Hebrew literary tool of repetition to emphasize the point. The Child is born, the Son is given.

**What does this tell us about the Messiah?**

*For unto us a Child is born:* This glorious prophecy of the birth of Messiah reminds Israel that the victory-bringing Messiah would be a man.

**Could the Messiah have been an angel or God Himself without being a man?**

Theoretically that could have been the case but neither of those options would have qualified the Messiah to be our Savior and High Priest as Jesus was. The Child had to be born.

**Why didn't the Messiah come as a fully grown man as Adam was created?**

There is nothing more weak, more helpless, more dependent than a child. Jesus came that way to fully identify with humanity and to display His servant nature, He... *made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men* (Philippians 2:7).

**What does it tell us that the Messiah is a Son?**

This Child would be a man, but more than a man. He is also the eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Godhead. Theoretically, the Messiah didn't have to be God. He might have been a sinless angel, or merely a perfect man like Adam was created. But neither of those options would have qualified the Messiah to be our Savior and High Priest as Jesus was. The Son had to be given.

- We needed Immanuel, God is with us (Isaiah 7:14).

**How could eternal God be also a created man?**

Jesus, the Messiah, is fully God and fully man. There was a time when the eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, added humanity to His deity. He never

became less God, but He added a human nature to His divine nature, and so became one person with two distinct natures, functioning together in perfect harmony.

**What insight does Jesus being both God and man give to our being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26)?**

Perfect humanity is more compatible with deity than we imagine. It says that our problem is not our humanity, but our fallenness. To say "I'm only human" is wrong, because Jesus was fully human yet perfect.

It is more accurate to say, "I'm only fallen."

- The humanity Jesus added to His Divine nature was not the sinful humanity we know, but the perfect humanity of Adam and Eve before the fall.

**Did Jesus relinquish His humanity when He ascended to heaven?**

v. Jesus remains a man eternally...

1 Tim 2:5 – *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus*

He was the first-fruits of the resurrection and thus has a body like we will one day have...

1 John 3:2 – *we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is*

**Why did our Savior need to be both fully God & man?**

If Jesus were not fully man, He could not be a valid substitute to pay our sin penalty. If He were not fully God, His sacrifice would be insufficient.

- If Jesus is not fully God and fully man, we are lost in sin.

**What does it mean that *the government will be upon His shoulder*?**

Ultimately, this will be fulfilled in the Millennium, when Jesus Christ will rule the earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 20:4-6, Psalm 72, Isaiah 2:1-4, Isaiah 11, Isaiah 65:17-25, Zechariah 14:6-21).

**What does the name *Wonderful* tell us about the Messiah?**

The glory of who He is and what He has done for us should fill us with wonder. You can never really look at Jesus, really know Him, and be bored. He is Wonderful, and will fill your heart and mind with amazement!

**What does the name *Counselor* tell us about the Messiah?**

Jesus is the One fit to guide our lives, and should be the Christian's immediate resource as a counselor. Jesus can help you with your problems. He may use the presence and the words of another Christian to do it, but Jesus is our Counselor.

### **What does the name *Mighty God* tell us about the Messiah?**

The God of all creation and glory, the LORD who reigns in heaven is the One worthy of our worship.

- Can there be a more straightforward declaration of the deity of the Messiah? Yet some groups (such as Jehovah's Witnesses) try to make a distinction between Mighty God and Almighty God.

### **What does the name *Everlasting Father* tell us about the Messiah?**

The idea in these Hebrew words is that Jesus is the source or author of all eternity, that He is the Creator Himself. It does not mean that Jesus Himself is the Person of the Father in the Trinity.

### **What does the name *Prince of Peace* tell us about the Messiah?**

He is the One who makes peace, especially between God and man and during the Millennial kingdom, the peace between nations.

### **v7 – What does it mean that, *of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end*?**

The reign of the Messiah will not last merely 1,000 years, though the millennium is a special aspect of His reign. There will be no end to the reign of the Messiah, and He will rule for all eternity.

- The Millennial Kingdom is the “front porch” of the Eternal State

It is interesting to contemplate why the word *increase* is here... it sounds like the creative expansion of God's kingdom will continue into the Eternal State.

### **Why is there a reference to *the throne of David* here?**

Jesus will rule on David's throne, and over his kingdom (that is, David's kingdom - Israel). This is a fulfillment of God's great covenant with David in 2 Samuel 7.

### **How do we know that this amazing prophecy will come to fruition?**

*the zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.* God, the LORD of all heavenly armies, has promised to fulfill this Word, and part of it has been accomplished already.

This following section (Isaiah 9:8-10:4) is in four parts, each part concluding with *"For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand (of judgment) is stretched out still."* Some have called this section, "The Speech of the Outstretched Hand."

### **Isaiah 9:8-21 – The Punishment of Samaria**

<sup>8</sup> *The Lord sent a word against Jacob, and it has fallen on Israel.*

<sup>9</sup> *All the people will know— Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria— Who say in pride and arrogance of heart:*

<sup>10</sup> *"The bricks have fallen down, But we will rebuild with hewn stones; The sycamores are cut down, But we will replace them with cedars."*

<sup>11</sup> *Therefore the Lord shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and spur his enemies on,*

<sup>12</sup> *The Syrians before and the Philistines behind; And they shall devour Israel with an open mouth.*

***For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still.***

<sup>13</sup> *For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them, Nor do they seek the Lord of hosts.*

<sup>14</sup> *Therefore the Lord will cut off head and tail from Israel, palm branch and bulrush in one day.*

<sup>15</sup> *The elder and honorable, he is the head; The prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail.*

<sup>16</sup> *For the leaders of this people cause them to err, And those who are led by them are destroyed.*

<sup>17</sup> *Therefore the Lord will have no joy in their young men, nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows;*

*For everyone is a hypocrite and an evildoer, And every mouth speaks folly. **For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still.***

<sup>18</sup> *For wickedness burns as the fire; It shall devour the briars and thorns, and kindle in the thickets of the forest; They shall mount up like rising smoke.*

<sup>19</sup> *Through the wrath of the Lord of hosts The land is burned up, and the people shall be as fuel for the fire; No man shall spare his brother.*

<sup>20</sup> *And he shall snatch on the right hand and be hungry; He shall devour on the left hand and not be satisfied; Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm.*

<sup>21</sup> *Manasseh shall devour Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh; Together they shall be against Judah.*

***For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still.***

### **v8 – Whom is the Lord prophesying against here?**

*The LORD sent a word against Jacob, and it has fallen on Israel:* The idea is that the LORD brought a word against all His people (against Jacob) and the word was directed against the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

### **v9 – Why was there no doubt to whom this prophecy is directed?**

*Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria:* The tribe of Ephraim was the largest and most influential tribe in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. So, often the LORD refers to the Kingdom of Israel by the name Ephraim. Samaria was the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

**v9-10 – What was Israel attitude about God’s judgment on them?**

They were unrepentant and would say out of *pride and arrogance of heart*: "*The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with hewn stones; the sycamores are cut down, but we will replace them with cedars.*" In their pride, the leaders and the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel said, "Who cares if God judges us? Whatever is torn down, we will rebuild with something better (**Build Back Better**). We have nothing to fear from what God can bring against us."

**v11-12 – How would God respond to Israel’s unrepentant attitude?**

*Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries*: Because they believed they would be able to weather the storm of attack and then rebuild, God would send successive waves of enemies against Israel (*The Syrians before and the Philistines behind*). The destruction of Israel would be complete, and their proud promise to rebuild would be unfulfilled.

**v12 – What is the chorus of this judgment?**

*For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still*. The judgment against Israel's pride was not enough. There was other sin to judge, and God wasn't ready to stop His work of judgment.

**v13 – How would Israel compound their judgment?**

*For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them*: Each episode of judgment was followed by Israel's refusal to turn to the LORD. They were like dumb animals that resist even more when they are beaten.

**v14-17 – How would God escalate Israel’s judgment?**

*The LORD will cut off the head and tail from Israel*: Those who lead in Israel (*the elder and honorable ... the prophet who teaches lies ... the leaders of this people*) will be cut off, which often means to be killed.

**To what does the expression *branch and rush* refer?**

It indicates the same thing as head and tail. A branch grows upward and hence refers to the high and important people of the population; the rush grows in muddy marshes and refers to the lowest element of the population, the "bottom feeders" (*the prophet who teaches lies*).

**v17 – Who will see mercy from the Lord?**

No one... young men, the fatherless and widows are among the hypocrites and evildoers who speak folly (foolishness).

**What is the chorus of this judgment?**

The judgment against Israel's impenitence was not enough. There was still sin to judge, and God wasn't ready to stop His work of judgment.

**v18 – How is Judah’s wickedness described?**

*For wickedness burns as the fire*: The prophet sees the wickedness of Israel as a raging wildfire, unstoppable, swift, uncontrolled, and devouring everything it touches.

**v19 – How is the wildfire of God's judgment is fueled by the people?**

First, their wickedness supplies fuel to the fire of God's judgment. If the wickedness was taken away, the fire would have no more fuel. Second, they are burnt up and destroyed by the fire.

**How is it that *no man shall spare his brother*?**

The prophet speaks of the carnage that one Israelite will inflict on another. The wildfire of God's judgment burns, but God merely lets the evil, hateful passions of men burn wild among themselves. God did not need to start the fire, or fan the flames; He simply took away the "fire retardant" that had held the evil, hate-filled passions of men in check.

**v20 – How is it men would eat the flesh of his own arm?**

There would be such a famine that they would pull one another to pieces and be cannibals. They even preyed upon their close relations that was as their own flesh.

**v21 – What kind of eating their own flesh is described here?**

The tribes of Israel that were united against Judah could not even unite with one another. And this weakening would make them all very easy prey to the common enemy of Assyria.

**What is the chorus of this judgment?**

The judgment against Israel's wickedness was not enough. There was still sin to judge, and God wasn't ready to stop His work of judgment.

### **Isaiah 10:1-4 – Assyria Shall Be Broken**

*“Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees,*

*Who write misfortune, which they have prescribed*

*<sup>2</sup> To rob the needy of justice, and to take what is right from the poor of My people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless.*

*<sup>3</sup> What will you do in the day of punishment, and in the desolation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your glory?*

*<sup>4</sup> Without Me they shall bow down among the prisoners, And they shall fall among the slain.”*

***For all this His anger is not turned away,  
But His hand is stretched out still.***

### **v10:1-2 – How were the leaders of Judah treating their people?**

*Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees ... rob the needy of justice ... take what is right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey:* The leaders and people of Israel were simply unfair to others, and preyed on the weak.

### **v3 – What would the oppressors do when God punished them?**

This is a rhetorical question: *What will you do in the day of punishment ... To whom will you flee for help?* The idea is, "When you have forsaken others in their time of need, who will you go to for help when you are in need?"

### **v4 – What would become of the oppressors?**

*Without Me they shall bow down among the prisoners, and they shall fall among the slain:* All God needs to do to bring extreme judgment on Israel is to withdraw His protection. The LORD declared that "Without Me you have no hope before your enemies."

### **How is it the conquered people of Isaiah would bow down?**

When the Assyrians conquered other nations, it wasn't enough for them to just win a military victory. They had a perverse pleasure in humiliating and subjugating their conquered foes. They would do everything they could to bring them low.

- One of the Hebrew words commonly translated worship in the Old Testament is *shachah*. It means to bow down, to reverently bow or stoop, to pay homage. But this is another word for bow down, the Hebrew word *kara*. It isn't a good word; it means to sink, to drop, to bring low, or to subdue.

### **What is the chorus of this judgment?**

The judgment against Israel's injustice was not enough. There was still sin to judge, and God wasn't ready to stop His work of judgment.

### **What judgment would there be for Judah after Assyria invaded them?**

Babylon would destroy Jerusalem, the temple, and carry off captives. The Greek successors to Alexander would oppress them. Rome would destroy the second temple initiating the Jewish Diaspora. The Antichrist will commit the Abomination of Desolation in the future third temple causing the Jews to flee Jerusalem.

### **Why the repetition of the chorus of God's judgment?**

This reminds us that God's judgment is persistent. It moves from phase to phase until it finds repentance. This means that it makes sense for us to repent now, because God's judgment is persistent for all eternity.

### **What applications stand out from our discussion today?**

- God promises victory for His children, we should rejoice as we see the stage being set for the Lord's return.
- The Messiah was foretold to be the unique God-man, He is God's provision for eternal life.
- When God is chastening you, it is best to repent and make the necessary corrections to avoid escalation.
- God's chastening is to just allow the natural consequences of our ungodly actions to occur.
- Pride begs for God's judgment; we should humble ourselves before Him or He will force us to be humble.