

**Study 53: Isaiah, Part 9 Isaiah 9**

**Isaiah 9** Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor **Galilee of the nations**, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

2 The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

**Matt 4** quotes from these verses:

12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— 14 to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

15 “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,  
**Galilee of the Gentiles**—  
16 the people living in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned.”

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

The territory of Zebulun was west of the Sea of Galilee,<sup>1</sup> and Naphtali was north of Zebulun.<sup>2</sup> These two areas were the first to fall when the Assyrian’s attacked Israel. Notice that Isaiah calls this area, “Galilee of the nations [Gentiles].” He was referring to the practice of the Assyrians relocating conquered peoples. Thus, the land that had once been inhabited by two tribes of Israel would become a land inhabited by Gentiles.

**Isaiah 9** 3 You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.  
4 For as in the day of Midian’s defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

Hundreds of years before, Israel had been enslaved by the Midianites, but was delivered when God used Gideon as a judge (Judges 7:15-25).

5 Every warrior’s boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.  
6 For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

<sup>1</sup> Joshua 19:10-16

<sup>2</sup> Joshua 19:32-39

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.

**He will reign on David's throne**

and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this.

8 The Lord has sent a message against Jacob;  
it will fall on Israel.

9 All the people will know it—  
Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria—  
who say with pride

and arrogance of heart,  
10 “The bricks have fallen down,  
but we will rebuild with dressed stone;  
the fig trees have been felled,  
but we will replace them with cedars.”

11 But the Lord has strengthened Rezin's foes against them  
and has spurred their enemies on.

12 Arameans from the east and Philistines from the west  
have devoured Israel with open mouth.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away,  
his hand is still upraised.

13 But the people have not returned to him who struck them,  
nor have they sought the Lord Almighty.

14 So the Lord will cut off from Israel both head and tail,  
both palm branch and reed in a single day;

15 the elders and dignitaries are the head,  
the prophets who teach lies are the tail.

16 Those who guide this people mislead them,  
and those who are guided are led astray.

17 Therefore the Lord will take no pleasure in the young men,  
nor will he pity the fatherless and widows,  
for everyone is ungodly and wicked,  
every mouth speaks folly.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away,  
his hand is still upraised.

18 Surely wickedness burns like a fire;  
it consumes briars and thorns,  
it sets the forest thickets ablaze,  
so that it rolls upward in a column of smoke.

19 By the wrath of the Lord Almighty  
the land will be scorched  
and the people will be fuel for the fire;  
they will not spare one another.

20 On the right they will devour,  
but still be hungry;  
on the left they will eat,  
but not be satisfied.

Each will feed on the flesh of their own offspring [or *arm*]:

21 Manasseh will feed on Ephraim, and Ephraim on Manasseh;  
together they will turn against Judah.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away,  
his hand is still upraised.

**Isaiah 10** Woe to those who make unjust laws,  
to those who issue oppressive decrees,  
2 to deprive the poor of their rights  
and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people,  
making widows their prey  
and robbing the fatherless.  
3 What will you do on the day of reckoning,  
when disaster comes from afar?  
To whom will you run for help?  
Where will you leave your riches?  
4 Nothing will remain but to cringe among the captives  
or fall among the slain.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away,  
his hand is still upraised.

5 “Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger,  
in whose hand is the club of my wrath!  
6 I send him against a godless nation,  
I dispatch him against a people who anger me,  
to seize loot and snatch plunder,  
and to trample them down like mud in the streets.  
7 But this is not what he intends,  
this is not what he has in mind;  
his purpose is to destroy,  
to put an end to many nations.  
8 ‘Are not my commanders all kings?’ he says.  
9 ‘Has not Kalno fared like Carchemish?  
Is not Hamath like Arpad,  
and Samaria like Damascus?  
10 As my hand seized the kingdoms of the idols,  
kingdoms whose images excelled those of Jerusalem and Samaria—  
11 shall I not deal with Jerusalem and her images  
as I dealt with Samaria and her idols?’”

12 When the Lord has finished all his work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, he will say, “I will punish the king of Assyria for the willful pride of his heart and the haughty look in his eyes. 13 For he says:

“‘By the strength of my hand I have done this,  
and by my wisdom, because I have understanding.  
I removed the boundaries of nations,  
I plundered their treasures;  
like a mighty one I subdued their kings.  
14 As one reaches into a nest,  
so my hand reached for the wealth of the nations;  
as people gather abandoned eggs,  
so I gathered all the countries;  
not one flapped a wing,  
or opened its mouth to chirp.’”

15 Does the ax raise itself above the person who swings it,  
or the saw boast against the one who uses it?  
As if a rod were to wield the person who lifts it up,

or a club brandish the one who is not wood!  
16 Therefore, the Lord, the Lord Almighty,  
will send a wasting disease upon his sturdy warriors;  
under his pomp a fire will be kindled  
like a blazing flame.  
17 The Light of Israel will become a fire,  
their Holy One a flame;  
in a single day it will burn and consume  
his thorns and his briars.  
18 The splendor of his forests and fertile fields  
it will completely destroy,  
as when a sick person wastes away.  
19 And the remaining trees of his forests will be so few  
that a child could write them down.  
20 In that day the remnant of Israel,  
the survivors of Jacob,  
will no longer rely on him  
who struck them down  
but will truly rely on the Lord,  
the Holy One of Israel.  
21 A remnant will return [Hebrew *shear-jashub*], a remnant of Jacob  
will return to the Mighty God.  
22 Though your people be like the sand by the sea, Israel,  
only a remnant will return.  
Destruction has been decreed,  
overwhelming and righteous.  
23 The Lord, the Lord Almighty, will carry out  
the destruction decreed upon the whole land.  
24 Therefore this is what the Lord, the Lord Almighty, says:  
“My people who live in Zion,  
do not be afraid of the Assyrians,  
who beat you with a rod  
and lift up a club against you, as Egypt did.  
25 Very soon my anger against you will end  
and my wrath will be directed to their destruction.”  
26 The Lord Almighty will lash them with a whip,  
as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb;  
and he will raise his staff over the waters,  
as he did in Egypt.  
27 In that day their burden will be lifted from your shoulders,  
their yoke from your neck;  
the yoke will be broken  
because you have grown so fat.  
28 They enter Aiath;  
they pass through Migron;  
they store supplies at Mikmash.  
29 They go over the pass, and say,  
“We will camp overnight at Geba.”  
Ramah trembles;  
Gibeah of Saul flees.  
30 Cry out, Daughter Gallim!  
Listen, Laishah!  
Poor Anathoth!  
31 Madmenah is in flight;

the people of Gebim take cover.

32 This day they will halt at Nob;  
they will shake their fist  
at the mount of Daughter Zion,  
at the hill of Jerusalem.

33 See, the Lord, the Lord Almighty,  
will lop off the boughs with great power.  
The lofty trees will be felled,  
the tall ones will be brought low.

34 He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax;  
Lebanon will fall before the Mighty One.