

Isaiah 9

Isaiah 1 points out that this book is concerning the tribe of Judah and primarily the city of Jerusalem. The entire country is lacking faith and integrity. The poor are being abused. Bribes are rampant. People are living in sin.

Isaiah 5 states that God has done everything to cultivate the faith of his people; but there were no results (fruit). The southern kingdom (Judah and Benjamin) otherwise known as Judah are being threatened.

Isaiah 6 is the commissioning of Isaiah to a spiritually-seared people. The message would predictably not be well received or have a transforming effect.

Isaiah 7 presents Judah's first test. There are reports of a pending invasion of the combined forces of the northern 10 tribes of Israel confederate with Syria. Fishers of men know that a crisis is usually required to set the hook of faith.

Isaiah 8 foretells Assyria coming in and running over Judah's two enemies. God is telling his people to sit tight and trust him.

Isaiah 9

VV 1-5: Judah; the object of God's chastisement is being told that the nations sent to discipline her will be hammered. We cannot look at those who take advantage of us. They serve a purpose for a time. God is so perfect that there is no situation that is not beyond God's overall plan for us. The northern 10 tribes of Israel are going to be squeezed from the Syrians on one side and the Philistines on the other. The Bible says that people receive the same kind of treatment that they place upon others. God delivers Jerusalem just as he said. Syria and the 10 northern Israeli tribes were invaded before they could wipe out Jerusalem. Much of world history is about the nations used to chastise or free God's people. There were forty-six fortified cities of Judah that the Assyrians did take. The closer to the center of worship we live: the safer we are ultimately. The furthest-away tribes were influenced by the world and fell first.

God delivers the people of Jerusalem in the end; but her sister up north is gone forever. Many good men will fall by our side to this world. We are not anymore worthy than them. That is just God's sovereign grace.

VV. 6-7: The theme of immediate deliverance is a good place to carry out the messiah's eternal deliverance that would come someday. THE Old Testament speaks a lot about physical deliverance from death. The New Testament speaks more about spiritual deliverance. King Jotham ruled over Judah at that time. He and his successor son Ahaz were both evil kings. After them came King Hezekiah; who was righteous. He was one of Judah's best kings.

VV. 8-11: God himself is sending enemies to tear down the northern 10 tribes. The tribes vow to rebuild and get stronger. God is offering them forgiveness at every step of destruction. Pride and a strong-will to fight back will not help if you are living in sin.

12-21: God is going to take the northern 10 tribes apart since they refuse to repent. Judah was just as bad; but repented.