

Isaiah 9

Read Isaiah 9:1-2: The misinterpretation of scripture is rampant. People have motivations to misquote and misdirect to suit their antichrist agenda. We need to know this stuff, literally.

Isaiah is full of prophecy. God reveals how he has tried to save us and inspire us. The prior chapter was about how God sent Assyria to wipe out the ongoing invasion threats from northern Israel and Syria. Israel and Syria joined forces to invade Judah; and God helped Judah. This chapter shows how God protected Judah in an immediate sense, but also how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy.

God is very efficient. He accomplishes good things; while he is judging the disobedient and the cruel. The northern 10 tribes had a history of idolatry and sin; which led to the Assyrian invasion and removal of Israel's 10 northern tribes unto this day. Zebulun and Naphtali were among the regions to suffer from the Assyrian conquest due to their geographical location in the northern part of Israel. The "humbling" refers to the devastation and harsh subjugation they experienced, as the Assyrians drug out those who refused to repent with fishhooks in their faces. This was fitting, since northern Israel had become so cruel and idolatrous.

⁷ Now this came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and they had ^[a]feared other gods. ⁸ They also ^[b]followed the ^[c]customs of the nations whom the Lord had driven out from the sons of Israel, and in the customs of the kings of Israel which they had ^[d]introduced. ⁹ And the sons of Israel ^[e]did things secretly against the Lord their God which were not right. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. ¹⁰ And they set up for themselves memorial stones and ^[f]Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, ¹¹ and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations did that the Lord had taken into exile before them; and they did evil things, provoking the Lord. ¹² They served idols, concerning which the Lord had said to them, "You shall not do this thing." ¹³ Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah ^[g]through all His prophets and every seer, saying, "Turn back from your evil ways and keep My commandments and My statutes in accordance with all the Law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you ^[h]through My servants the prophets." ¹⁴ However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck ^[i]like their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their

God. ¹⁵ They rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings which He ^[i]gave them. And they followed ^[k]idols and became empty, and followed the nations that surrounded them, about which the Lord had commanded them not to do as they did. ¹⁶ And they abandoned all the commandments of the Lord their God and made for themselves cast metal images: two calves. And they made an ^[l]Asherah, and worshiped all the heavenly ^[m]lights, and served Baal. ¹⁷ Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and they practiced divination and interpreting omens, and gave themselves over to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him. ¹⁸ So the Lord was very angry with Israel, and He removed them from His ^[n]sight; no one was left except the tribe of Judah. (2 Kings 17)

This chapter has a prophecy that was fulfilled in the first coming; and will again in the second coming of Christ. Jesus concentrated his ministry around the Sea of Galilee when he began to teach and heal. Note where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali are located, relative to Jesus' ministry. Jesus based his preaching out of Capernaum, which is on the boundary between Naphtali and Zebulun. Capernaum means Nahum's village. It is interesting that Nahum had also long-previously preached against Assyria. That ties into the prior chapters in Isaiah, as God uses a procession of nations to intimidate and correct Israel and Judah and drive them to prayer.





God drove out the northern tribes as an act of tough love and sustainability. Jesus came to that same spot to rebuild. Jesus came as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world in his first visit, and he will return again as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; ¹³ and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This happened so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled: ¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, ^[e]By the way of the sea, on the other side of the

Jordan, Galilee of the ^[f]Gentiles—¹⁶ The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light, And those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, Upon them a Light dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to ^[g]preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matthew 4)

Read Isaiah 9:3-7: The lead up to this prophecy was the notable child of prophecy between Isaiah and his prophetic wife. The child himself would be a sign/omen that the northern 10 Israeli tribes and Syria would be taken down by Assyria at the specified time. The godless Assyrians and Egyptians were tools in God’s hands to remove notorious Israel and Syria from Judah. God can use the clean and the unclean equally to do his work.

Shortly thereafter, Assyria’s purpose would be complete, and then they would be taken out by Babylon. The near-term prophecy was fulfilled exactly as prophesied. Jesus was the ultimate fulfillment by coming as a child of a virgin who would come first to the regions of Zebulon and Naphtali.

Once we get to verse 3 we are talking about the second coming and the millennial kingdom. Jesus was careful to separate the first and second coming. Here is what he said about his first coming when he did the scripture reading in the synagogue from Isaiah 61:

¹⁶ So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me ^[i]to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are ^[j]oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” (Luke 4)

Here is what he did not say in the synagogue, because it will be fulfilled at his second coming. Israel will be revived and dominate their former intimidators. Israel will prosper, and the Gentiles will want to be a part of it.

And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To ^[b]console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for

mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”⁴ And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner Shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.⁶ But you shall be named the priests of the LORD, They shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast.⁷ Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, And instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs. (Isaiah 61)

Read Isaiah 9:8-12: Pride and lust are not logical. Pride is an inflated view of self. Lust is allowing your natural appetites to override societal boundaries, and drive your behavior. Once you commit to pursue sin, it further feeds your drives and towards more exotic and more harmful activities. The normal road signs and telltales of peril are just white noise. Their pursuits for satisfaction transforms their thoughts to becoming more singular. The northern tribes refused advice and would not repent. They doubled down and went further into sin despite the warnings of many prophets and the signs of pending danger coming true as proclaimed. In fact, they carried out character assassination and literal assassinations against the prophets.

Today, again we have people who want certain things to be true so much so, that they are ignoring facts and evidence to the contrary. TDS is a common theme as we compare how ancient societies could be so blind to their dismissiveness to so many contrary facts.

God is sending hardship after hardship to curb their enthusiasm for pleasure, and to turn back to him. Instead, they find any anti-God solution and immoral treaties with pagan nations that can be found. They are essentially plugging their ears and running in the opposite direction.

Read Isaiah 9:13-21: God does not give up on his people. He won't give them satisfaction in anything they are doing without him. They will have repeated failures. They won't find satisfaction. After God sends hardships as postcard

reminders to repent come increasingly serious direct action items. God is saying that the next step is to kill the leaders and elders for not protecting the flock. There is added culpability there. He also kills the false prophets who knowingly mislead for personal acclaim. There is no greater sin than to knowingly misrepresent God.

God compares the judgement of the wicked to a fire of a field of thorns. They are painful to be around. They do burn pretty hot as well. Nobody's life should become firewood for hell. It is just not necessary.