

Holy Trinity Bible Study - Isaiah Lesson #9b

Primary Sources:

Webb - [The Message of Isaiah](#), Barry G. Webb

Motyer – [The Prophecy of ISAIAH](#), J. Alec Motyer

Isaiah 9:8 – 10:4

Judgment on Arrogance and Oppression

⁸The Lord has sent a word against Jacob,
and it will fall on Israel;

⁹and all the people will know,
Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria,
who say in pride and in arrogance of
heart:

¹⁰“The bricks have fallen,
but we will build with dressed stones;
the sycamores have been cut down,
but we will put cedars in their place.”

¹¹But the LORD raises the adversaries of
Rezin against him,
and stirs up his enemies.

¹²The Syrians on the east and the Philistines
on the west
devour Israel with open mouth.

For all this his anger has not turned away,
and his hand is stretched out still.

¹³The people did not turn to him who
struck them,
nor inquire of the LORD of hosts.

¹⁴So the LORD cut off from Israel head and
tail,
palm branch and reed in one day—

¹⁵the elder and honored man is the head,
and the prophet who teaches lies is the
tail;

¹⁶for those who guide this people have
been leading them astray,
and those who are guided by them are
swallowed up.

¹⁷Therefore the Lord does not rejoice over
their young men,

and has no compassion on their
fatherless and widows;
for everyone is godless and an evildoer,
and every mouth speaks folly.^[a]

For all this his anger has not turned away,
and his hand is stretched out still.

¹⁸For wickedness burns like a fire;
it consumes briars and thorns;
it kindles the thickets of the forest,
and they roll upward in a column of
smoke.

¹⁹Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts
the land is scorched,
and the people are like fuel for the fire;
no one spares another.

²⁰They slice meat on the right, but are still
hungry,

and they devour on the left, but are not
satisfied;

each devours the flesh of his own arm,

²¹Manasseh devours Ephraim, and Ephraim
devours Manasseh;

together they are against Judah.

For all this his anger has not turned away,
and his hand is stretched out still.

10 Woe to those who decree iniquitous
decrees,

and the writers who keep writing
oppression,

²to turn aside the needy from justice

and to rob the poor of my people of their
right,

that widows may be their spoil,

and that they may make the fatherless

their prey!

³What will you do on the day of
punishment,
in the ruin that will come from afar?
To whom will you flee for help,
and where will you leave your wealth?

⁴Nothing remains but to crouch among the
prisoners

or fall among the slain.
For all this his anger has not turned away,
and his hand is stretched out still.

Reading: The Message of Isaiah pages 68-70

Questions to Consider

1. Why is Isaiah so even-handed in his assessment of the two kingdoms?
2. What progression is discernible in the passage?
3. Can human sins and errors cannot thwart the purposes or rewrite the promises of God?
4. Is the poem a prophetic forecast of events (in which case it belongs to the earliest days of Isaiah's ministry) or a prophetic meditation bringing out the significance of events which have already taken place?
5. Is it the same issue faced that faced Judah as faced Israel? (v8-12)
6. What is the word the Lord has sent a word against Jacob? (v8)
7. What does it mean "all people will know"? (v9)
8. What were the consequence of the Aram-Ephraim alliance? (v11)
9. What is the reference in verse 12 to the Arameans as 'devouring'? (v12)
10. What are the consequences of rejecting the Lord's word? (v13-17)
11. What is the only way to flee from God? (v13)
12. How is the Lord's sovereignty designated? (v14)
13. What is the point of verse 15 relative to Isaiah 3:1-4? (v15)
14. Is "*the prophets . . . are the tail*" a sly chuckle on Isaiah's part? (v15)
15. What is the fault of the young men? (v17)
16. What trait is exposed in these verses? (v18-21)
17. What is happening at the ground level of society? (v18)
18. What is outworking of God's wrath? (v18)
19. In the end, what is it that unites Ephraim and Manasseh? (v21)
20. What is Isaiah railing against in these verses 10:1-4?
21. What is the purpose of the legislation? (v21)