

## Isaiah 9 Israel's choice: Hope or Hurt

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The prophet looks beyond the Assyrian invasion during the wicked reign of king Ahaz and sees the first coming of the Messiah. The northern tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun were living in the darkness of religion and facing the dark hour of the invasion; yet light awaited them in the prophetic word.

### I. The Hope of Israel

v 1 - 7

v 1-2 hx: Isaiah describes the recent attack of *Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria* in the northern and eastern regions (~ 20 years earlier). see 2 Kings 15:29  
 Jesus grew up and ministered in this region, Mt 4:12-17  
 Nazareth was in Zebulun and Capernaum was in Naphtali  
 Matthew 4:15-16 quotes Isa 9:1-2

v 3 not increased the joy

hx: The nation had grown materially, but not spiritually. They had set their affections on earthly things: they loved a good harvest and a good spoil, but not a good worship service.

note: modern perversions remove the word not !!!

So the verse reads the exact opposite of what God says.

Lesson: You cannot have faithful Bible studies when you use modern versions !

v 4-5 Prophetic application of the second coming of the Messiah

v 6 a. The Messiah is both human (*a child is born*) and Divine (*a son is given*).  
 The *child* was born on earth, but the *son* was *given* from heaven.

b. Five names are revealed in this verse:

*Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace*

Five is the Bible number of grace : *grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*, John 1:17.

He received five wounds (one for each name) from which his cleansing blood flowed to pour forth his grace of salvation.

note: modern perversions combine *wonderful* and *counsellor* into one name (wonderful counselor) effectually reducing the number of his names from five to four (the number of the world !).

### II. The Hurt of Israel

v 8 - 21

v 8 Willful ignorance of God's word brings chastisement. And that hurts.

God sent his *word* into *Jacob*. [ note: in English, Jacob = James (av 1611) ]

v 9-12 Our proud defiance of God's judgments, followed by our feeble attempts at rebuilding our lives in our own power, results in additional punishment.

### English Lesson

Observe that the pronoun *him* (v 11) is followed by it's noun *Israel* in verse 12.

In English, this is called a cataphoric (i.e. a forward-looking) pronoun.

Most pronouns are anaphoric (backward-looking): they look back to their noun.

Note: *the Lord* (v 11) and *his hand* (end of v 12)

God uses both styles of pronoun writing in the Bible.

We must read carefully and *study to shew ourself approved*.

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v 13-17 Isaiah addresses the perennial problem of corrupt leadership.  
We see this in our day. Jer 50:6 Eze 34:2

then

now

v 15 *the ancient...the head* ~ scholars, scribes, seminary professors  
... *the tail* ~ pastors, teachers

v 16 *For the leaders of this people cause them to err ;  
and they that are led of them are destroyed .*

hx: False prophets and false shepherds plagued old testament Israel.

2 Peter 2:1 ...*there were false prophets also among the people,  
even as there shall false teachers among you,  
who privily shall bring in damnable heresies,  
even denying the Lord that bought them,  
and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

spir: The New Testament church has been plagued by false teaching. *Beware !*

v 17 *an hypocrite* = one who makes a profession (outward) without possession (inward).  
[e.g. look back at verse 13 : *turneth not ... neither seek* ]

v 18-21 *Evil burneth as the fire* : first in the bosom; and then spreads as a wildfire among the brethren. It pits brother against brother, which eventually kindles *the wrath of the Lord*.

scientific fact: v 19 is geologically correct - fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) are carbon-based;

The human body is also carbon based.

prophecy: This verse may also be a sad, veiled reference to the German WW2 holocaust.

see also - Eze 21:32

v 6

## 1. Wonderful

**Isaiah 28:29** This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, *which* is wonderful in counsel, *and* excellent in working.

**Acts 2:11** Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

## 2. Counsellor (14x HB) - human examples are wise, honourable, good, just

**Isaiah 40:13** Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *being* his counsellor hath taught him?

## 3. The mighty God

**Gen 49:24** ..the mighty *God* of Jacob; (from thence *is* the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)

**Psalms 50:1** The mighty God, *even* the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.

**Jeremiah 32:18** Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, *is* his name,

## 4. The everlasting Father

**Psalms 68:5** A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, *is* God in his holy habitation.

**Isaiah 63:16** Doubtless thou *art* our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, *art* our father, our redeemer; thy name *is* from everlasting.

**Isaiah 64:8** But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father;  
we *are* the clay, and thou our potter; and we all *are* the work of thy hand.

cf **Heb 2:13**

## 5. The Prince of Peace

**Ezekiel 37:26** Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

**Ezekiel 37:27** My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

cf **Zech 9:9-10**