

A Trek Through Isaiah 15 - Is 9:8 - 10:4

Bruce Pike

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Prayer

Introduction (to 9:35)

For today

- Message to Israel 1: Choice and Consequences 9:8 - 10:4

The righteous shall live by faith. (To 9:40)

Ro 1:17 ...“The righteous shall live by faith.”

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that **he exists** and that he rewards those who seek him.

- He exists: God is good.
 - God is good
 - 1Jn 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
 - All good gifts come from Him
 - Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights ...
 - He says that His word is profitable for us
 - 2Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - Bible truths are not harmful.
 - Not accepted in our culture
 - Only one way to God.
 - Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
 - The practice of homosexuality is a sin.
 - 1Co 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,
 - Bible truths are not useless. They are useful
 - for teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness.
 - For equipping us for every good work.
 - Do we believe Him?

Message to Israel: Choice and Consequences 9:8 - 10:4

Context (to 9:42)

- Ch 7 - 11 are matching addresses to Judah and Israel
- 9:8 - 11:16 Address to Israel
 - 9:8 - 10:4 Israel's Choice and Its Consequences
 - 10:5-19 Interlude: Woe to Assyria (Isaiah's view of history)
 - 10:20-34 A Believing Remnant Preserved
 - 11:1-16 The Coming King
- In this section (9:8 - 10:4)
 - Four parts, each ended by the same phrase in 9:12,17,21; 10:4
For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

9:8-12 Self-reliance > Strong adversaries

Isa 9:11-12 The Lord has sent a word against Jacob, and it will fall on Israel; 9 and 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." 11 But the Lord raises the adversaries of Rezin against him, and stirs up his enemies. 12 The 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.

- Word.
 - Israel chose to disobey the word they had received from the LORD. Now a word is coming they cannot escape.
- Ephraim.
 - Referring to the northern kingdom.
- Bricks...stones...sycamores...cedars.
 - Response to the LORD's judgment: rebuild with better quality replacement.
 - Reliance on self.
 - As Isa 7:12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."
 - Ahaz had decided not to trust in the LORD.
 - Confidence in self.
 - As Gen 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."
 - No repentance
 - As 2 Cor 10:7 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.
 - No repentance, only sorrow over consequences.
- Raises.
 - Consequence: strong enemies raised up.
 - As Is 30:16 and you said, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.
 - God is a jealous God. He insists that we depend on Him rather than on ourselves.
 - As Is 48:11 My glory I will not give to another.

9:13-17 Not turning to God > Leaders and prophets **removed**

The people did not turn to him who struck them, nor inquire of the Lord of hosts. 14 So the Lord cut off from Israel head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day— 15 the elder and honored man is the head, and the prophet who teaches lies is the tail; 16 for those who guide this people have been leading them astray, and those who are guided by them are swallowed up. 17 Therefore 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. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

- did not turn to him who struck them.
 - The wrong response to trials
 - As Isaiah 1:5, 7 Why will you still be struck down?...Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire...
 - A better choice is to turn to the LORD
 - As Is 1:18-20 Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; 20 but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
 - God disciplines His children as sons. But Israel would not respond.
 - Pr 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.
- cut off from Israel.
 - Consequence: All leaders and prophets removed.
 - Illustrated with two metaphors
 - Head and tail: the complete body.
 - Palm branch and reed: Top to bottom of a forest.
- Those who guide...those who are guided
 - Leaders and those led.
- does not rejoice ... and has no compassion.
 - Rejected by God: (1) No delight (2) No compassion
 - Contrast Pro 3:12 for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.
 - Contrast Ps 103:13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.
- everyone is godless.
 - The root cause: practical atheism
 - Godless. Thoughts.
 - Evildoer. Deeds.
 - Speaks folly. Words.
 - As Isa 29:13 And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me...

9:18-21 Wickedness > **Strife** between people and nations

For 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. 19 Through the wrath of the Lord of hosts the land is scorched, and the people are like fuel for the fire; no one spares another. 20 They 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, 21 Manasseh 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.

- The effect of wickedness illustrated by the simile of a forest fire.
 - Both the low growth and the tall trees are burned. All goes up in smoke.
 - Intense heat, blinding, choking smoke, complete destruction.
- The fire is the wrath of the LORD.
- The fuel is the people.
- The burning is strife.
- Each person seeks their own at the expense of others. They are hungry but never satisfied.
- The tribes, which came from brothers, fight each other.
- As Rom 1:28-29 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. (29) They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice...envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness.

10:1-4 Injustice > Day of **punishment**

Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression, 2 to 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!

3 What 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? 4 Nothing 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.

- Those who decree...writers who keep writing.
 - An unscrupulous ruling clique
- Iniquitous decrees...writing oppression
 - Their purpose is iniquity and oppression.
- Widows...fatherless
 - Preying on the poor and helples
- What will you do?
 - You plural: Spoken to the nation.
 - Three questions for those who would not repent.
 - What will you do?
 - To whom will you turn? Only the LORD can save you but you refuse to turn to Him.
 - Where will you leave those things that you value so much?
- crouch...fall.
 - Consequence: prison or death
 - As in 9:4. The word falls on them and they fall among the slain.

Worship (to 10:15)

We will break into four groups to discuss today's passage. Here are the topics:

- 1. 9:8-12 Self-reliance > Strong adversaries**
- 2. 9:13-17 Not turning to God > Leaders and prophets removed**
- 3. 9:18-21 Wickedness > Strife between people and nations**
- 4. 10:1-4 Injustice > Day of punishment**

Join the group with the topic that seems most significant. Must be at least three people in each group. Select one person to scribe. Each group will report to the class what they found.

In your group, discuss

- **See:** Something about God that you see in the passage
- **Know:** The effect that this view of God has upon you.
- **Respond:** A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.

Caution: Please focus on personal effects and responses.

- 2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves....

For next week: Is 10:5-19

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