Isaiah 9-10

- Fall of Assyria…
  - God told Isaiah to take a LARGE [גָּדוֹל] [huge banner] scroll and write these words on it…
    - QUICK [מַהֵר] plunder [שָׁלָל] [חוּשׁ] rob [בַּז] hurry
  - The message was CLEAR - King Ahaz was looking to ASSYRIA to save JUDAH…
  - But ASSYRIA would NOT save them - they would instead come and ROB them…
  - God would bring the King of ASSYRIA like a FLOOD over ALL JUDAH…
  - And having filled the LAND - they would reach up the NECK [Jerusalem]
  - But ASSYRIA would NOT take Jerusalem - because IMMANUEL [God with us]! is
- Reason for Assyria…
  - God warned Isaiah NOT to follow the other people [join in their fear]
    - Instead - Isaiah was to warn the people to FEAR the LORD…
  - The Lord is a REFUGE to those who FEAR Him - but a STUMBLING block to everyone else…

- ASSYRIA was a TEST for the people of God - to see who they would TRUST…
- God was NOT silent - He was speaking - if the people would LISTEN…
- Therefore - STOP going to MEDIUMS [asking the dead advice for the living]
- Because if the people did NOT turn back - they would be driven into DARKNESS!

- **1st - The Light… vs. 1-5**
  - 1st – The Hope… vs. 1-2
    - Oppressed… vs. 1
      - Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed.
      - As when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali.
      - And afterward more heavily oppressed her by the way of the sea.
      - Beyond the Jordan in Galilee of the Gentiles!
      - In LIGHT of the DARKNESS that was going to come upon the LAND…
      - The ASSYRIAN army that would rush over them like a mighty FLOOD…
      - God gave a RAY of hope - the DARKNESS [gloom] would NOT [לֹא] stay!
      - The TRIBES of Zebulun and Naphtali - NEVER got much attention [lightly esteemed]
      - If there are TRIBES of Israel people forget to mention - they are at the top of the list…
      - Yet they were HEAVILY [כָּבוֹד] oppressed when ASSYRIA attacked [Northern most tribes]
      - attacked came in by the GALILEE - and moved down the Jordan river [valley]
      - They followed the Via Maris [way of the sea] as they conquered Israel…
      - So that the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali became filled with GENTILES!
    - Darkness… vs. 2
      - The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
      - Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death - upon them a light has shined!
      - But in the place where it was DARKEST [Zebulun and Naphtali]
      - Those same people saw [perfect] a GREAT [גָּדוֹל] light [אוֹר]
      - The people in the shadow of DEATH [almost wiped out] - had a light SHINE on them!
      - **Matthew 4:13-15** - "[Jesus] dwelt in Capernaum… in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali."
      - Did you ever wonder WHY did Jesus start His ministry in Capernaum…
      - It would seem to have made more sense to begin in Jerusalem [Temple]
      - But God did NOT bring the light to the BRIGHTEST place…
      - He instead chose to come to the DARKEST - a place where few faithful Jews remained!
      - Our God will let things get very DARK - the shadow of DEATH - **Psalms 23:4**
      - Not that He has abandoned us - but so that we can see Jesus…
      - Because when things are the DARKEST - the light shines the BRIGHTEST…
      - And we learn NOT to depend on ourselves - but on our God who raises the dead!
      - **II Corinthians 1:9** - "We had the sentence of death in ourselves - that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead."
  - 2nd - The Victory… vs. 3-5
    - Rejoicing… vs. 3
      - You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy.
      - They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest.
      - As men rejoice when they divide the spoil!
      - God would INCREASE [רָבָה] the [הַ] nation of Israel again [restoration]
      - And in that day - God would bring GREAT joy upon His people…
      - LIKE [כַּ] when the people were HARVESTING their crops…
      - Or LIKE [כַּ] when they had VICTORY in the battle - and got to enjoy the SPOILS!
      - Think PAYDAY - when we get our checks for our hard work…
      - It might be TOUGH putting in the hours - but we are HAPPY when the reward comes!

- Freedom… vs. 4-5
  - For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder.
  - The rod of his oppressor as in the day of Midian.
  - For every warriors sandal from the noisy battle - and garments rolled in blood.
  - Will be used for burning and fuel of fire!
  - BECAUSE [כִּי] the YOKE that was burdening them…
  - The STAFF across their shoulders - the ROD that struck their back…
  - God would cause [hiphil] to BREAK - just as [כַּ] He did in MIDIAN…
  - Therefore [כִּי] - in that day ALL of the clothes of war [boots and bloodstained coats]
  - Will NO longer be needed - but shall be [sequential] thrown into the FIRE!
  - When the 135 THOUSAND Midianites swarmed into the land of Israel - **Judges 8:10**
  - God commanded Gideon to raise up an army to defeat them…
  - But God sent home those who were AFRAID [20 thousand]
  - And reduced their numbers further at En Herod - till only THREE hundred remained…
  - Because the battle was NOT won by men - God fought for them!
  - Whether we admit it or not - we were all in BONDAGE - slaves to SIN - **Romans 6:16**
  - It had us under its YOKE - it was the ROD at our back - but Jesus broke the power of SIN…
  - NOT by our efforts but by His strength - He set us FREE!
  - **John 8:36** - "If the Son makes you free - you shall be free indeed."

- **2ND - THE CHILD… VS. 6-7**
  - 1st -His purpose… vs. 6
    - The son…
      - For unto us a Child is born - unto us a Son is given.
      - Isaiah gives the ORIGIN of the LIGHT what would COME…
      - He would be [prophetic perfect] born [pual] as a CHILD [יֻלַּד] - IMMANUEL - **Isaiah 7:14**
      - Israel would be [prophetic perfect] GIVEN [niphal] - the GIFT of a SON [בֵּן]!
      - Jesus is the SON of God - NOT because He was born to MARY…
      - His title [used 44 times in the NT] - is NOT a reference to His BIRTH…
      - It speaks of His POSITION in the Godhead [Father - SON - Spirit]
    - The Government…
      - And the government will be upon His shoulder!
      - AND [וְ] it will be [imperfect] that the GOVERNMENT will be upon His shoulders…
      - GOVERNMENT [2 - [מִשְׂרָה]x in OT [both here] - from the root word to RULE [שַׂר]
      - This likely has a DUAL fulfillment - PRESENT and FUTURE…
      - PRESENT - Ahaz would have a SON - who would grow up to RULE [Hezekiah]
      - And God would use him to set Judah FREE from the YOKE of ASSYRIA…
      - FUTURE - Jesus would come to set us FREE from the YOKE of SIN!
      - The ONLY way God could save us from our SIN - was for the SON to become a CHILD…
      - He had to HUMBLE Himself - become a MAN - so He could DIE for us…
      - He BORE our sins upon His back - took up His CROSS…
      - ONLY then could He RULE [שָׂרָה] over SIN - and set us FREE!
      - **Philippians 2:8** - "Being found in appearance as a man - He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death - even the death of the cross."
  - 2nd - His name… vs. 6
    - Wonderful…
      - And His name will be called:
      - Isaiah gives the NAME [singular] of the LIGHT what would COME [five titles]
      - FIRST - Wonderful [פֶּלֶא] - the God who can do the IMPOSSIBLE!

- The word was first used to DESCRIBE the parting of the RED Sea - **Exodus 15:11**
- The second time it is used it is a REMINDER to NOT forget what God can do - **Psalms 77:11**
- To a nation that will be FLOODED by the ASSYRIANS…
- It was important to REMEMBER who has the power to PART oceans!

▪ Counselor…
- SECOND - Counselor [יָעַץ] - the God who has the PLAN!
- When Moses was trying to answer ALL of the problems of Israel…
- It caused a line that lasted from morning until night [waiting to see Moses]
- His father in law Jethro came to him and gave him COUNSEL [יָעַץ] - **Exodus 18:19**
- Rather than people standing before him - he needed to stand before God…
- To a people who were looking to a MAN [king] to give them their answers…
- God reminds them He is the one who has the PLAN - stand before Him!

▪ Mighty God…
- THIRD - Mighty God - literally the God [אֵל] who is STRONG [גִּבּוֹר]
- The Assyrian army was MORE powerful than Israel [a lot]
- NO nation had been able to stand up to them - **Isaiah 37:11**
- But as STRONG as they were - they were NOT as strong as GOD…
- Our God is the ALMIGHTY - ALL [πᾶς] POWERFUL [κράτος] - **Revelation 1:8**

▪ Everlasting Father…
- FOURTH - Everlasting [עַד] Father [אָבִי] - this can be interpreted one of TWO ways…
- It could mean - He is the FATHER who is ETERNAL [had no beginning or end]
- It could also mean - He is the one who is ALWAYS fathering [protecting us]
- Because the ROLE of a FATHER is to PROTECT and PROVIDE…
- Either way it is worth noting - that the SON is also called the FATHER!
- How can there be ONE God - but in THREE persons…
- There have been many attempts for people to define the TRINITY…
- Water [solid - liquid - gas] - or an egg [shell - white - yoke]
- But the reality is there is NOTHING in this universe like our God [He is unique]
- We may NOT be able to tell COMPREHEND how three can be one…
- But we can APPREHEND that is how the Bible defines His nature…
- Jesus is the MIGHTY God - He is ONE with the Father!
- **John 10:30** - "The Father and I are one."

▪ Prince of peace…
- PRINCE of peace - literally He has AUTHORITY [שַׂר] over PEACE [שָׁלוֹם]
- Because only when we LOOK to the ONE who can PART oceans [wonderful]
- Only when we LISTEN to the ONE who has the PLAN [counselor]
- Only when we FOLLOW in the ONE who has ALL the power [mighty God]
- Only when we TRUST in the ONE who is ALWAYS protects us [everlasting Father]
- THEN we will have PEACE - because we are have Jesus!
- **Ephesians 2:14** - "For He Himself is our peace."

o 3rd - His Authority… vs. 7

▪ No end…
- Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.
- Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom.
- To order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward - even forever!
- This is where we mark the MESSIANIC nature of this prophecy…
- Although parts of this were no doubt fulfilled by HEZEKIAH [victory over Assyria]
- There was an END to his RULE [מִשְׂרָה] - peace did NOT last [Babylon]
- But the MESSIAH [Jesus] will RULE and bring PEACE [שָׁלוֹם] that will NEVER [אִין] end…

- God will set Jesus upon the Throne of David [kingdom]
- It will start [hiphil] in JUSTICE [מִשְׁפָּט] - and be sustained [hiphil] by RIGHTEOUSNESS [צְדָקָה]
- From NOW [עַתָּה] - until the END of time [עוֹלָם]!
- After the Tribulation - Jesus will come riding out of heaven - **Revelation 19:16**
- He will have the name KING of kings - and LORD of lords…
- He will return with us – ten thousands of His saints – **Jude 1:14**
- With one word he will defeat the Antichrist and his army – **II Thessalonians 2:8**
- 30 days after the Return of Jesus – 1290 days after the Abomination – **Daniel 12:11**
- Jesus will judge the nations – those who survived the Tribulation – **Matthew 25:31-46**
- Then Jesus will establish His Millennial Kingdom - **Revelation 20:1-4**
- And there will be peace – the lion will lay down with the lamb – **Isaiah 11:6-9**

▪ Zeal of the Lord…
- The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this!
- This would NOT be a work of MAN - it was a work of the LORD of heavens armies [צְבָאוֹת]
- He will [future] be the one [imperfect] to do this - [סֶ֑] pause and consider…
- There is NO question - the END is already written - God WINS!
- As important a lesson for us today - as it was in the days of Isaiah…
- We might NOT have an invading army flooding into our country [yet]
- But NO matter what our PROBLEMS might be - the SOLUTION is the same…
- Come to the God whose KINGDOM will NEVER end - and we will find PEACE!

- **3RD - JUDGEMENT OF SAMARIA… VS. 8-21**

o 1st – No Repentance… vs. 8-13

▪ Northern Kingdom… vs. 8
- The Lord sent a word against Jacob and it has fallen on Israel!
- Then the MASTER [אֲדֹנָי] sent a WORD to rebellious JACOB [self-reliant]
- And it also fell upon the faithful people of ISRAEL [governed by God]
- Because when godly people stand with the ungodly - they end up sharing their fate!

▪ Rebuild… vs. 9-10
- All the people will know Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria.
- Who say in pride and arrogance of heart:
- The bricks have fallen down - but we will rebuild with hewn stones.
- The sycamores are cut down - but we will replace them with cedars!
- EVERYONE [כָּל] who was in the NORTHERN Kingdom [Ephraim] would KNOW [יָדַע]
- Especially to those who live in their Capital city of SAMARIA…
- Who always speak [infinitive] in PRIDE [גַּאֲוָה] - thinking [heart] they are GREAT [גָּדוֹל]
- That although the BRICKS had fallen - and SYCAMORE tree were cut down…
- They would REBUILD - and replace them with STONE and CEDAR [something better]
- Their PRIDE convincing them that things would IMPROVE!
- People like to think POSITIVELY - look for the silver lining…
- But unless we put God into the equation - things are more likely to get WORSE…
- And no matter how ENCOURAGING our words might be…
- What we are going to SEE [יָדַע] - is that God is NOT done teaching us HUMILITY!

▪ Destruction… vs. 11-12
- Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him - spur his enemies on.
- The Syrians before and the Philistines behind - they shall devour Israel with an open mouth!
- Because [sequential] of the PRIDE of the NORTHERN Kingdom [Samaria]
- The LORD Himself would raise [hiphil] up the ENEMIES [צַר] of Rezin [King of Syria]
- And STIR up [piel] those who HATE [אֹיֵב] Israel - against them [עַל]

- God would bring SYRIA from the EAST - and the PHILISTINES from the WEST…
- Together would CONSUME the nation like a closing mouth!

▪ Anger of God… vs. 12-13
- For all this His anger is not turned away - but His hand is stretched out still!
- For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them. Nor do they seek the LORD of hosts!
- But their destruction [כָּל] would NOT quench the ANGER of the LORD…
- His hand would still be STRETCHED out to STRIKE harder…
- Because the people still did NOT turn [לֹא־שָׁב] to the one who was DISCIPLINING them…
- Neither did they SEEK the LORD of HOSTS [צְבָאוֹת]!
- A father does NOT spank his child - because he enjoys seeing them in pain…
- The point of a punishment - it to teach a lesson…
- But if that child refuses to LEARN the lesson the father is teaching…
- Then it means for the sake of the child - the father will PUNISH them even harder!
- **Hebrews 12:6** - "Whom the LORD loves He chastens - scourges every son whom He receives."

o 2nd - Bad leadership… vs. 14-17

▪ Head and tail… vs. 14-16
- Therefore the LORD will cut off head and tail from Israel - Palm branch - bulrush in one day.
- The elder and honorable - he is the head. The prophet who teaches lies - he is the tail.
- For the leaders of this people cause them to err - those who are led by them are destroyed!
- He would remove both the MIGHTY [palm branch] - and LOWLY [bulrush] in ONE day…
- A poetic way of saying the whole nation would suffer because of rebellion…
- Why did [sequential] Israel refused to TURN to the LORD…
- Because of their HEAD and TAIL - that the Lord [hiphil] would CUT off…
- The ELDER who was lifted [passive] up - the HEAD…
- And the PROPHET who teaches [hiphil] LIES - the TAIL…
- Both LED [piel] the people away from God - to their DESTRUCTION!
- There are TWO places people look to for answers in times of trouble…
- They look to GOVERNMENT - to give them practical answers…
- And they look to the CHURCH - to give them spiritual answers…
- If NEITHER is pointing the people back to God - then a nation is in real trouble!

▪ Whole nation…
- Therefore the Lord will have no joy in their young men.
- Nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows.
- For everyone is a hypocrite and an evildoer - and every mouth speaks folly!
- THEREFORE [כֵּן] - the MASTER [אֲדֹנָי] is [imperfect] NOT happy with the KIDS [בָּחוּר]
- He is [imperfect] NOT showing ANY mercy [piel] to the fatherless or widow…
- One would assume God would be the more lenient on these THREE categories…
- They represent the INNOCENT [kids] and UNDERPRIVILEGED [widows and orphans]
- But the leaders had led ALL of the people to be HYPOCRITES….
- They were ALL doing EVIL [רָעַע] - yet out of their mouths came PRAISE to God [folly]!

▪ Not done…
- For all this His anger is not turned away - but His hand is stretched out still!
- Even though the MASTER showed NO mercy…
- For the SECOND time we are told - ALL this [כָּל] would NOT quench the ANGER of God…
- His hand would still be STRETCHED out to STRIKE harder Israel even HARDER!

o 3rd - Social breakdown… vs. 18-21

▪ Spreading fire… vs. 18
- For wickedness burns as the fire. It shall devour the briers and thorns.
- And kindle in the thickets of the forest - they shall mount up like rising smoke!

- Because [כִּי] - the WICKEDNESS [רִשְׁעָה] of Judah was like [כָּ] a FIRE…
- It did NOT seem dangerous at FIRST - a spark that started to burn the thorns…
- But that was just the KINDLE - that fed the FIRE - until the whole FOREST was consumed…
- And before long a PILLAR of smoke rose up from the devastation!
- How dangerous can a LIE be - how bad is bending the truth…
- How much trouble can ONE look get me into - surely it CANNOT hurt!
- People tend to have a very LAX view of SIN [not very dangerous]
- What they fail to realize is that it SPREADS - and CONSUMES…
- And if it is NOT dealt with quickly - all that is left is a burned out life…
- With the SMOKE of the devastation being the headstone that marks their grave!

▪ Consuming fire… vs. 19-20
- Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts the land is burned up.
- And the people shall be as fuel for the fire. No man shall spare his brother.
- And he shall snatch on the right hand and be hungry.
- He shall devour on the left hand and not be satisfied.
- Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm!
- In [בְּ] the WRATH the LORD of heavens armies [צְבָאוֹת] poured out…
- The LAND grew [niphal] DARK [because of the smoke]
- As the people became [sequential] the FUEL that fed the FIRESTORM…
- The people CONSUMED each other - not even having pity on their FAMILY [bother]
- They ATTACKED their neighbor on the left - and CONSUMED the one on their right…
- Yet they were still HUNGRY - and ended up eating their own ARM!
- This might be hyperbole - people putting themselves before others…
- But it could also be LITERAL - the result of a severe famine caused by a siege…
- Men reduced to cannibalism in order to survive - **II Kings 6:28-29**
- God had warned Israel what would happen if they turned away from Him!
- **Deuteronomy 28:53** - "You will eat the flesh of your own sons and daughters." [NLT]

▪ Divided… vs. 21
- Manasseh shall devour Ephraim - and Ephraim Manasseh.
- Together they shall be against Judah.
- For all this His anger is not turned away - but His hand is stretched out still!
- Manasseh and Ephraim [sons of Joseph] would be against one another [brothers]
- And they would come together to attack Judah [relative]
- The Northern Kingdom against the Southern Kingdom in a CIVIL war…
- Yet for the THIRD time we read - in ALL this [כָּל] the anger of God was NOT satisfied…
- His hand was still STRETCHED out to STRIKE them even HARDER!

o 4th - Total collapse… vs. 1-4

▪ Chapter break…
- There is a bad chapter break here…
- As the content connects the first FOUR verses to the previous chapter…
- Chapter marks were added to the Bible is 1227 A.D. [Stephen Langton]
- Their purpose was to make it easier to look up particular passages…
- But they are NOT inspired - and sometimes cause confusion!

▪ Woe to you… vs. 1-2
- Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees.
- Who write misfortune which they have prescribed.
- To rob the needy of justice and to take what is right from the poor of My people.
- That widows may be their prey and that they may rob the fatherless!
- WOE [הוֹי] to the LEADERS of Israel who make WICKED [אָוֶן] laws…

- Who write down [piel] rules that only cause TROUBLE [עָמָל]
- Laws used to TURN away [hiphil] those in need - take away JUSTICE from the POOR…
- So that these leaders can take advantage of WIDOWS and ORPHANS!
- The role of a government is to DEFEND and PROTECT the most vulnerable…
- But when it is the government that write the laws to instead ABUSE them…
- That nation does NOT have long before it will collapse!

▪ Back at you… vs. 3
- What will you do in the day of punishment and in the desolation which will come from afar?
- To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your glory?
- Because WHAT will these leaders turn to in their DAY of visitation…
- When DESTRUCTION comes from a faraway place [Assyria]
- WHO will they look to when someone mightier picks on them [reversal of roles]
- WHERE do they think they can hide their MONEY [כָּבוֹד]!
- **Matthew 7:2 -** "With what judgment you judge - you will be judged."
- There is a TRUTH that the way we treat others - is how we will be treated…
- Those who take ADVANTAGE of the needy - will themselves be taken advantage of…
- And since they were not HELPFUL - they will have NO one to HELP them!

▪ Conquered… vs. 4
- Without Me they shall bow down among the prisoners and they shall fall among the slain.
- For all this His anger is not turned away - but His hand is stretched out still!
- God would NOT be there to HELP them [they rejected God]
- Some would be taken PRISONERS - others would FALL in battle…
- For the FOURTH and FINAL time - ALL this [כָּל] did NOT satisfy the anger of God…
- His hand was still STRETCHED out to STRIKE harder them even HARDER!
- Giving us a powerful CONTRAST - two very different roads…
- To those who turn to the LORD - there is a LIGHT - there is PEACE…
- But to those who continue to REBEL - nothing with satisfy the WRATH of God!