

Thursday, April 20th, 2023

Consolation of Immanuel during the Assyrian Oppressions—Ch. 7–12

To Us a Child Is Born—Isaiah 9:1–10:4

Open It

1. What positive associations do you have with light?
2. What are some of the injustices in our society that you have noticed and care about?

Isaiah 9:1–10:4 (ESV)

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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. 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.

¹Woe 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.

Explore It

3. Although he had been preaching God's judgment (particularly on the kingdom of Israel), what total reversal did Isaiah foresee in the future? (9:1)
4. What contrasting images did Isaiah use to set the scene of his prophecy? (9:2)
5. To what situations did Isaiah compare the joy that will be Israel's? (9:3)
6. What did Isaiah predict God would do for Israel, causing her to rejoice? (9:4–5)
7. How does Isaiah describe the Ruler who will be provided by God for His people? (9:6–7)
8. When God judged Israel, what erroneous thinking prevailed among the people? (9:8–10)
9. What foreign powers did God use to ensure that Israel would not quickly be rebuilt? (9:11–12)
10. What refrain did Isaiah use to emphasize the seriousness of God's wrath? (9:12)
11. What choice did the people make about their response to the God-provoked suffering? (9:13)
12. How did Isaiah portray the cross-section of society that would come under God's judgment? (9:14–17)
13. How did Isaiah portray the depths to which Israel would sink when God abandoned them to their own devices? (9:18–21)
14. What sins of the powerful did God single out in His list of judgments? (10:1–2)
15. What rhetorical (showy, pompous) question did God ask the oppressors of His people? (10:3)

Get It

16. How is God's promise of the coming child an answer to His anger over our sin?
17. Why might it be dangerous to downplay the seriousness of our situation whenever we encounter hardship?
18. How much of the injustice Isaiah condemned in his time do you see in our own time?

Apply It

19. What specific injustice in your area of influence can you challenge in the name of God? How?
20. What person do you know who is still "walking in darkness" for whom God would have you pray?