

The Relentless Wrath of God Aggravated by the Nation's Pride and Sinful Lifestyle

Text: Isaiah 9:8-17

Date: 10-18-20 @ 10:30 am

Main Truth: The coming judgment on Israel would be both deserved and sudden despite all the attempts to ignore God and His truthful word.

I. Stanza One – The Pride of the People Invites God's Anger (Isa. 9:8-12).

While Isaiah's main message was directed to the Southern kingdom of Judah, he often used Israel as an example of the truth that God judges those who disobey Him and His words. Judah should have learned from this and awakened to the truth that God would judge their sins just as He had done in Israel.

The nation's pride led them to think that the judgment would be short and sweet. "Let the judgment come, and afterwards we will make everything good again."

The nations' pride caused them to trust themselves and think they were immune from God's judgment. We are never immune nor should we think we are exempt from the consequences to our sin. Just as they did not behave like they believed God would keep His word and punish them for their sins, we also sometimes act like God is sleeping and ignoring our actions. But God is all seeing and all-knowing, and nothing escapes His attention

The coming judgment will be completely deserved. The proud will be humbled by the onrushing foreign power of Assyria.

II. Stanza Two - The Leadership of the Nation will be Destroyed (Isa. 9:13-17).

The people fail to repent.

What these people chose to do was to openly sin, which is a clear departure from His law. Had they repented, they would have returned to following His defined law and will. They would have completely converted and come back to Him in a humble manner.

The people did not seek the Lord.

What does it mean to seek God? Seeking God involves prayer, learning and reading about His character, coming to Him for help and guidance, and showing a continual desire to follow His ways. Instead of seeking God, Israel had sought false objects and superstitions.

A continued lack of obedience meant God's hand would remain outstretched and His wrath exhibited in their lives. This chastening seemed to be of no avail as God continued to be ignored.

These expressions thus referred to young and old, wise and foolish, superior and inferior people. No one would be left unaffected. The phrase *in one day* may refer to a *short period of time*. The phrase means that surely the judgment and destruction will come and will happen quickly.

The leaders were the political movers of the day while the false prophets were the tail or really acting as no leaders at all. They were unofficially acting as leaders but ultimately were just popular false teachers full of lies. "No leaders were they but, following where the leaders led, they simply flattered and fawned, a wagging tail of a dog" (Young 351).

The false prophet's hypocritical lies approve of the ungodly decisions and actions of the leaders. The lying prophet approved of the seducing, blind leaders. In other words this was the blind leading the blind. The prophets approved hypocritically of the ungodly decisions of the leaders. Jesus spoke of this in Matt. 15:14 as "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." This is a case study for Judah, but this also is a case study for the church. The people who follow false teachers end up being led astray themselves.

Instead of being grounded in God's Word, they follow like sheep being led away to the slaughter.

What are the results?

The Lord's judgment work will befall the young men. These were the strong men and the up and coming leaders. They had failed God by not following His word and He refused to rejoice in them.

While the elders, the prophets, and the young men are all under judgment, but surely the poor and widows are following God, for these were the people for whom God desired concern and mercy. But they too will no longer be shown mercy. They are also guilty.

Application: In the end all the nation would be guilty before God. Jehovah gives three specific reasons for this:

- 1) **Everyone is a hypocrite.** The word means *godless, profane, and refers to someone who forgets God*. This person *lived in opposition to all that was right* (Job 17:8; Isa. 10:6). There is also a connection to the idea of *flatterer, people like the false prophet and lying leaders who told them things they wanted to hear, not what they needed to hear about their sin* (like Isaiah).
- 2) **Everyone is an evil-doer.** They forsook Jehovah and did evil to all their fellow men.
- 3) **Every mouth speaks folly.** They spoke *disgraceful, senseless, and sinful things*.

The judgment of God is deserving and sudden.

Personal Application from Isaiah 9:8-17

1. God's judgment is always deserved and serves a specific purpose. Let us never think that God punishes unfairly or without good reasons.
2. Playing the fool all the while besmirching the name of God is never a safe place to be.

What does this passage reveal about the character and nature of God?

1. God's justice
2. While the people were not seeking after God, God continued to seek His people.
3. While being underneath the judgment hand of God is clearly a bad place to be, the offer to repent is often left open for a long time. That is God's patience and longsuffering for the sinner on display.

Community application from Isaiah 9:8-17

1. We must not be slow learners in the chastening hand of God.
2. We truly do not have to live in such a way that we would invite God's wrath upon our lives. How are you living today?