

ISAIAH 9 | *A Child Is Born/Four God Smacks*

Galilee from Gloom to Glory

1 But 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 [Yahweh] has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations (גּוֹיִם).¹

A Child Is Born

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.² 3 You have multiplied³ 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. 4 For the yoke⁴ of his burden and the staff⁵ for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot⁶ of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child (יָלֵד) is born,⁷ to us a son (בֶּן) is given,⁸ and the government (מְשָׁרָה)⁹ shall be on his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor (פְּלֵא יוֹעֵץ),¹⁰ Mighty God (אֵל גִּבּוֹר),¹¹ Everlasting Father (אָבִי עֶד), Prince of Peace (שֶׁר־שָׁלוֹם). 7 Of the increase of his

¹ In 733 bc, Tiglath-pileser conquered Galilee. **2 Ki 15:29** 29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried the people captive to Assyria.

² **Mt 4:15-16** 15 The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— 16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.

³ **Is 26:15** 15 You have increased the nation, O Yahweh, you have increased the nation. You are glorified. You have enlarged all the borders of the land.

⁴ **Is 10:27** 27 In that day his burden will depart from your shoulder and his yoke from your neck. And the yoke will be broken because of the fat. **Is 14:25** 25 I will break the Assyrian in my land and on my mountains trample him underfoot. And his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder. **Nah 1:13** 13 I will break his yoke from off you and will burst your bonds apart.

⁵ **Is 10:5** 5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger. The staff in their hands is my fury! **Is 10:24** 24 O my people who dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrians when they strike with the rod and lift up their staff against you as the Egyptians did. **Is 14:5** 5 Yahweh has broken the staff of the wicked, the sceptre of rulers.

⁶ **Eze 39:9** 9 Those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bow and arrows, clubs and spears. And they will make fires of them for seven years.

⁷ **Lk 2:11** 11 Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord.

⁸ **Is 7:14** 14 Yahweh himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

⁹ **Mt 28:18** 18 Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁰ **Is 28:29** 29 This also comes from Yahweh of hosts. He is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.

¹¹ **Dt 10:17** 17 Yahweh your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God. **Is 10:21** 21 A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.

government (מְשָׁרָה) and of peace (שָׁלוֹם) there will be no end,¹² on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness¹³ from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal (קִנְיָה) of Yahweh of hosts will do this.

Four God Smacks

8 The Lord (אֲדֹנָי) 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 (גָּאֹן) and in arrogance (גָּדָל) 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 Yahweh 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.¹⁵

13 The people did not turn to him who struck them, nor inquire of Yahweh of hosts. 14 So Yahweh cut off from Israel head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day. 15 The elder and honoured man is the head,¹⁶ 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 Yahweh does not rejoice over their young men and has no compassion on their fatherless and widows. For everyone is godless (תִּירָן) and an evildoer, and every mouth speaks folly. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

18 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 Yahweh of hosts the land is scorched, and the people are like fuel for the fire.¹⁷ No one spares another.¹⁸ 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

¹² **Ps 89:4** 4 I will establish your seed forever and build your throne for all generations. **Lk 1:32-33** 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David. 33 And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

¹³ **Jer 23:5** 5 I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

¹⁴ **Is 37:32** 32 Out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this. **Zec 1:14** 14 Thus says Yahweh of hosts: I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion.

¹⁵ **Is 5:25** 25 The anger of Yahweh was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them. And the mountains quaked, and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

¹⁶ **Is 3:1-3** 1 Lord Yahweh of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah... 2 the mighty man and the soldier, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder, 3 the captain of fifty and the man of rank, the counselor, the skillful magician, and the expert in charms.

¹⁷ **Is 24:6** 6 A curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.

¹⁸ **Mic 7:2** 2 The godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind. They all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts the other with a net.

Ephraim devours Manasseh. Together they are against Judah. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

10:1 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,¹⁹ 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.

¹⁹ **Hos 9:7** 7 The days of punishment have come. The days of recompense have come. Israel shall know it. The prophet is a fool. The man of the spirit is mad, because of your great iniquity and great hatred.

Commentary

1. Galilee from Gloom to Glory (Is 9:1).

- a. **Is 9:1** 1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he [God] 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 (גַּלִּילַת הַגּוֹיִם).
- b. Israel will experience gloom/anguish because of her rebellion (Is 8:20-22; v. 1).
 - (1) **Is 8:20-22** 20 To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. ...22 And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.
- c. In Isaiah's day, God shamed Galilee (v. 1).
 - (1) In 733 bc, Galilee became an Assyrian province. It was the first area of Israel to fall under permanent Gentile domination. The "way of the sea" was a major international highway running through the Jezreel valley.
 - (2) **2 Ki 15:29** 29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried the people captive to Assyria.
- d. But when Messiah comes, however, God will make Galilee glorious (v. 1).
 - (1) **Mt 4:13-25** 13 Leaving Nazareth [Jesus] went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.... 23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.
 - (2) **Mt 21:11** 11 The crowds said, This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.
 - (3) **Mt 28:16** 16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.
 - (4) **Jn 7:41-42** 41 Others said, This is the Messiah. But some said, Is the Messiah to come from Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Messiah comes from the seed of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?
 - (5) **Jn 7:52** 52 They replied, Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee.
 - (6) Seven time in *Acts*, Jesus is called "Jesus of Nazareth."

2. A Child Is Born (Is 9:2-7).

- a. **Is 9:2-7** 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light (אֹרֶךְ גָּדוֹל). Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You 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 (שָׁלַל). 4 For 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. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child (יָלֵד) is born, to us a son (בֵּן) is given, and the government (מְשָׁרָה) shall be on his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor (פֶּלֶא יוֹעֵץ), Mighty God (אֵל גִּבּוֹר), Everlasting Father (אָבִי עֶד), Prince of Peace (שֵׁרֵשֶׁת שָׁלוֹם). 7 Of the increase of his government (מְשָׁרָה) and of peace (שָׁלוֹם) 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 (קִנְיָה) of Yahweh of hosts will do this.

b. Isaiah prophesies a great light will shine upon Israel (v. 2).

- (1) **Is 42:16** 16 And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.
- (2) **Is 49:6** 6 ...It is too light a thing that you [Messiah] should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel. I [Yahweh] will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.
- (3) **Is 60:1-3** 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen upon you. 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples. But Yahweh will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. 3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.
- (4) **Mt 4:16** 16 ...The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light [Jesus], and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.
- (5) **Lk 1:78-79** 78 ...Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
- (6) **Jn 1:4-5** 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- (7) **Jn 1:9** 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
- (8) **Jn 8:12** 12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
- (9) **Jn 9:5** 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.
- (10) **Eph 5:8** 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.... 14 Therefore it says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Messiah will shine on you.
- (11) **1 Jn 2:8** 8 ...The darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

c. Israel will multiply, and her joy will overthrow (v. 3).

d. The nations who dominated Israel will be broken up (vv. 4-5).

- (1) **Is 10:27** 27 In that day his burden will depart from your shoulder and his yoke from your neck. And the yoke will be broken because of the fat.

- (2) **Is 14:25** 25 I will break the Assyrian in my land and on my mountains trample him underfoot. And his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder.
- (3) **Ps 46:9** 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear. He burns the chariots with fire.
- (4) **Eze 39:9** 9 Those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and make fires of the weapons and burn them, shields and bucklers, bow and arrows, clubs and spears. And they will make fires of them for seven years.
- (5) **Mt 11:29** 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
 - 1) This is the good yoke, as opposed to the bad yoke of v. 4.
 - 2) “Here Isaiah looks off to a day when One mightier than the Assyrians of this world will break those yokes to pieces. He, too, will impose a yoke, but, paradoxically it will be easy....”²⁰
- (6) Gideon is an appropriate reference (v. 4) because he was a deliverer of Galilee.
 - (a) **Jdg 6:35** 35 [Gideon] sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they too were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.
 - (b) History is important. What has happened in the past gives us certainty about the future.
- e. This will happen because God will give a child, a son, to Israel (v. 6).
 - (1) **Is 7:14** 14 The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
 - (2) **Mic 5:2-5** 2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one [Messiah] who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth. Then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.
 - (3) **Ge 3:16** 16 To the woman [Eve] [God] said, I will surely multiply your sorrow in conception. In sadness you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your man [Messiah], and he shall rule over you.
 - (4) “In place of an unfaithful monarch [Ahaz] whose shortsighted defensive policies will actually plunge the nation into more desperate straits, there is lifted up the ideal monarch who, though a child, will bring an end to all wars and establish an eternal kingdom based upon justice and righteousness. As a child, he is the culmination of Isaiah’s use of children to indicate God’s providential mastery of history.”²¹
- f. The Messianic son is divine.
 - (1) Wonderful Counselor.
 - (a) **Is 25:1** 1 O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²⁰ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1–39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 244.

²¹ John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1–39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 241.

- (b) **Is 28:29** 29 This also comes from Yahweh of hosts. He is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.
 - (c) **Jdg 13:19-22** 19 So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to Yahweh, to the one who works wonders, and Manoah and his wife were watching. ...22 And Manoah said to his wife, We shall surely die, for we have seen God.
 - (d) **Ps 139:6** 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is high. I cannot attain it.
 - (e) **Col 2:2-3** 2 ... To reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Messiah, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- (2) Mighty God.
- (a) **Mt 28:18** 18 Jesus came and said to [the eleven], All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
 - (b) "Wherever *'el gibbôr* occurs elsewhere in the Bible there is no doubt that the term refers to God (10:21; cf. also Deut. 10:17; Jer. 32:18)."²²
- (3) Everlasting Father.
- (a) Jesus is not God the Father; he is a "fatherly" Ruler (Martin, *BKC*, 1:1053). His fatherliness emphasises his concern for the helpless, his care and discipline of the people, and their loyal, reverential respect for him (Motyer, 102).
 - (b) **2 Sa 7:16** 16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.
- (4) Prince of Peace.
- (a) **Is 32:17** 17 The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.
 - (b) **Is 53:5** 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
 - (c) **Is 57:19** 19 Peace, peace, to the far and to the near, says Yahweh, and I will heal him.
 - (d) **Eph 2:14-16** 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.
- g. The Messianic son is also human.
- (1) He will sit on the throne of David and over David's kingdom (v. 7).
 - (a) **Ps 89:4** 4 I will establish your seed forever and build your throne for all generations.
 - (b) **Lk 1:32-33** 32 He [Jesus] will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David. 33

²² John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986), 247.

And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

- (2) Jesus currently sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven, but he doesn't yet sit on the throne of David. This is very important!
- h. Messiah's kingdom will be characterised by:
 - (1) Sovereignty (v. 6-7).
 - (2) Peace (v. 7).
 - (3) Justice and righteousness (v. 7).
 - (a) **Jer 23:5** 5 I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
 - (4) Permanence.
- i. All of this will happen because of Yahweh's zeal for Israel and the nations (v. 7).
 - (1) Only God is able to remedy Israel's situation.
 - (2) **Zec 8:2** 2 Thus says Yahweh of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath.
- j. This paragraph is the heart of the gospel message. See *Gospel Diagram*.

3. First God Smack: Military Invasion (Is 9:8-12).

- a. **Is 9:8-12** 8 The Lord (יְהוָה) 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 (תִּבְחָנָה) and in arrogance (גִּבּוֹרָה) 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 Yahweh 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.
- b. Is 9:8-10:4 is a four stanza poem. All stanzas end with God's out-stretched hand.
 - (1) **Is 5:25** 25 The anger of Yahweh was kindled against his people, and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them. And the mountains quaked, and their corpses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.
- c. The Lord has pronounced discipline upon Israel (vv. 8-9). However, in her arrogance, Israel tells herself she will rebuild even stronger after her present setbacks (v. 10). God, however, informs Israel she will be devoured from all sides by her neighbours (vv. 11-12).
- d. Isaiah delivers these words around 733 bc. Assyria will conquer Israel in 722 bc.

4. Second God Smack: Sudden Leadership Removal (Is 9:13-17).

- a. **Is 9:13-17** 13 The people did not turn to him who struck them, nor inquire of Yahweh of hosts. 14 So Yahweh cut off from Israel head and tail, palm branch and reed in one day. 15 The elder and honoured 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 Yahweh does not rejoice over their young men and has no compassion on their fatherless and widows. For everyone is godless (אֵלֹהִים) and an evildoer, and every mouth speaks folly. For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.

- b. Despite the God's round one discipline, Israel does not turn back to God (v. 13). God therefore responds with round two discipline. He cuts off Israel's leaders who had led them astray (vv. 14-16).
- (1) **Is 3:1-3** 1 Lord Yahweh of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah... 2 the mighty man and the soldier, the judge and the prophet, the diviner and the elder, 3 the captain of fifty and the man of rank, the counselor, the skillful magician, and the expert in charms.
 - (2) "A people who will not respond to the initial judgment which falls upon them (cf. 1:5; Hos. 6:5; Amos 4:6-11) and seek from God both the diagnosis and the cure (cf. 8:19; Hos. 5:15-6:3) will shortly find their foolish rulers leading them into a situation where they will have no leadership at all" (Oswalt, *NICOT*, 1:254).
- c. Yahweh does not rejoice over Israel's youth and has no compassion for Israel's orphans and widows. The reason is everyone in Israel, rich and poor, is an evildoer and speaking foolishness (v. 17).

5. Third God Smack: Hunger and Civil Strife (Is 9:18-21).

- a. **Is 9:18-21** 18 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 Yahweh 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.
- b. As a basic truth, wickedness burns like a fire. It consumes everything (v. 18).
- c. God's round three discipline upon Israel involves famine (v. 19), extreme hunger (v. 20), and civil strife (v. 19, 21).
- (1) **Mic 7:2** 2 The godly has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind. They all lie in wait for blood, and each hunts the other with a net.

6. Fourth God Smack (Is 10:1-4).

- a. **Is 10:1-4** 10:1 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.
- b. Finally, Isaiah pronounces a woe upon Israel's corrupt leaders and judges who decree evil laws and twist judicial decisions in favour of the rich (vv. 1-2).
- (1) **Is 1:17** 17 Learn to do good. Seek justice. Correct oppression. Bring justice to the fatherless. Plead the widow's cause.
 - (2) **Ex 22:22** 22 You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child.
 - (3) **Ex 23:6** 6 You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit.

- (4) **Dt 24:17** 17 You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in pledge....
- c. These corrupt leaders will lose all their wealth and be imprisoned or die (vv. 3-4).
 - d. After all this, God's discipline upon Israel is still not complete (see the rest of ch. 10).