

## Garments Rolled in Blood

Isaiah Chapter Nine

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~ Anyone familiar with Handel's "Messiah" will immediately recognize verse six of this chapter in Isaiah. Most Christians know this verse; but they don't always understand precisely where it fits into prophecy — because the nation Israel never called Jesus "Wonderful" or "Counselor" — and they rejected Him as the True and Living God — and still do. Also, Jesus said, *"think not that I have come to bring peace but the sword of division."* So, was Isaiah wrong in his prophecy? No, he wasn't wrong; and that means we have something to learn. Verse six is the central theme of this report from our Spiritual Safari because it is critical to understanding the entirety of Holy Writ.

We are in a section of a particular set of prophecies Isaiah gave; and which run from chapter seven through chapter twelve. This is the series of announcements God proclaimed through Isaiah to King Ahaz during Ahaz's rule and reign over the northern kingdom of Israel. Remember, Ahaz was an extremely bad egg. His record is horrendous. That was the ilk Isaiah was sent to by God. Ahaz offered his own son as a human sacrifice; and that shook the entire nation — both the northern and southern kingdoms — to the core. If you have not read our first several reports from Isaiah, I suggest you go back and do so now. Ahaz was a pseudo-ruler; a total fake and phony as far as religion is concerned. So, these prophecies of the Messiah come out of this particular period in Israel's history. It's a dark and depressing time in the land, you may be sure of that....

***1 Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.***

~ This is a prophecy of a child that will assume King David's throne *in that day*. While the church has a familiarity with this chapter, there is no other section of Scripture more enigmatic or misunderstood. It is the belief of

many Bible teachers that there are two valid viewpoints that can be accepted. I find only one. This has to do with Galilee; which was a despised area of Israel — where Gentiles had congregated. Remember, the Lord Jesus passed by and rejected Jerusalem as His headquarters during His earthly ministry, even though Jerusalem was the religious center of that day. Jesus was neither born in Jerusalem nor was He raised there; and He never even spent the night in Jerusalem, according to the record, either.

No, Jesus made His headquarters on the despised periphery of Jewish culture. Even His Own hometown could not accept Him; they, likewise, rejected Him, and that prompted Jesus to go to Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee. In the fourth chapter of Matthew we're told, *"... now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up."*

So, compare Matthew's statement against verse one in the ninth chapter from Isaiah. The clause omitted in Matthew says, *"... and afterward did more grievously afflict her..."* Some have translated it as, *"...hath made it more glorious..."* Well, if that were correct, it would refer to the second coming of Christ to the earth. However, the correct translation — as we have it here — conjoins it with the *first* advent of Christ to this earth. I'm sure most of you had no earthly idea Isaiah contained such a difficult and technical theological lesson. Well, it does; and these things are code-red critical to understanding the Bible properly, correctly and completely. Many people say they understand the Bible, but what I am writing here makes no sense whatsoever to them. Others say they want to understand the Bible, but never study it! Those two scenarios make for hopelessly confused Christians with shabby theology.

So, Matthew was referring to Christ's first coming to this earth in the fourth chapter of his Gospel account, and Isaiah is referring to Christ's second coming in this ninth chapter of his prophecy; but *ONLY AFTER* verse two!

Zebulun and Naphtali were both located in the rejected area of the northern kingdom; with Naphtali on the west bank of the Sea of Galilee, and Zebulun further west. Nazareth was in the tribe of Zebulun — and Capernaum was in Naphtali. As far as I can tell from the Scriptural record, the Lord Jesus never changed His headquarters from Capernaum. Remember, Jesus pronounced the most severe of judgments upon Capernaum; because they had access to light as no other place in the nation had. Again, these are keys of prophecy that we are simply going to have to get right in our thinking before we can ever even hope to correctly comprehend eschatology....

***2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.***

~ Alright, moving along now; irrespective of the translation or the interpretation of verse one, it is obvious that the people in this area of the world that we are studying were in a great darkness of paganism and religious tradition. This is where the outside pagan world mingled and mixed with Israel. That's why Jesus began and established His earthly ministry in this area. The light they saw was Christ Who said, *"I am the way, the truth and the light."* Jesus also said, *"I am the light of the world, and he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

Interestingly, even though the first two verses of Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled at the first advent of Christ, the remainder of this chapter refers to His second advent. That makes for some technically difficult Bible study; and I think it brought many questions for God by Isaiah, and the other prophets. So, please read ALL of this safari report very carefully AFTER praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment. Many reputable, conservative theologians including Dr. F.C. Jennings and H.A. Ironside believe there is a hiatus with a LONG interval between verses two and three. That's where my theology is derived from; because it is sound doctrine. An interval makes more sense than any other conclusion I have read on this subject....

***3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.***

~ In Isaiah's day, Israel multiplied tremendously, and had adopted an outward manifestation of ritual that had become more religiously pious than ever; but they had less joy than they *EVER* had. In fact, their joy was altogether non-existent in that day. Many Christians go to church more, but enjoy it less today. There's a lot of religion in this world, but so precious little true and genuine Christianity. Isaiah was unable to fill in this parenthesis between verse two and three — which has already been two thousand years plus now — because Isaiah knew nothing about the church. Paul said, "... now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith...."

That which the prophets could not see — the church — was passed over; just as Isaiah does. We'll come to other portions of Scripture in Isaiah — and in the other prophets — that are similar. The prophets had no revelation concerning the church; and that caused their prophecies concerning the first and second advent to become inextricably intertwined. Today, naturally, the church is revealed; and this interval has been filled in. That also, by de facto, demands that the remainder of this chapter refers specifically to the nation Israel. When Isaiah said, "... thou hast multiplied the nation" — he means the nation of which Ahaz was king. Paul said, "... these things were made known to ALL nations for the obedience of faith." That means we have two different congregations for revelation. Oh, dear readers, I *KNOW* this is extremely difficult to understand, but it is all-important to see....

***4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.***

~ The yoke of the burden will only be broken when Christ Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom on earth. Today, Israel cannot, and does not, have joy, peace, or safety. They are plagued by hatred on every border — and within the city of Jerusalem — by the Arab that despises them because they have rejected the One Who is peace! That's quite a statement. Israel rejects the True and Living God — the Lord Jesus Christ — as their Savior and Messiah and they worship science and education collectively. That means their present day return to that land can *IN NO WAY* be a fulfillment of Scriptural prophecy. We've been over this before in Isaiah. If you haven't been with us from the beginning, it may not be possible for you to catch up now; unless you take the time to go back and read these Isaiah reports from the beginning. See, friends, prophecy is not something we dream up; and God doesn't reveal it to us in a vision. No, we learn prophecy in the Word of God — through a proper, correct and complete Bible study — or we don't learn it at all; it simply cannot be otherwise....

***5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.***

***6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.***

***7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.***

***8 The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel.***

***9 And all the people shall know, even Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria, that say in the pride and stoutness of heart,***

***10 The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones: the sycomores are cut down, but we will change them into cedars.***

***11 Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and join his enemies together;***

***12 The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.***

***13 For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.***

***14 Therefore the LORD will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day.***

***15 The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail.***

***16 For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.***

***17 Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.***

***18 For wickedness burneth as the fire: it shall devour the briers and thorns, and shall kindle in the thickets of the forest, and they shall mount up like the lifting up of smoke.***

~ The average church will utterly disagree with my teaching of this chapter. I teach that this is a complete prophecy of the second coming of Christ after verse two; but the modern day church ALWAYS uses this in connection with His first advent. Well, my dear readers, you may be absolutely sure we're talking about the Great Tribulation period. At Jesus' first coming, they didn't receive Him; oh, no, He was born unto His own, but His own received Him not! That's John chapter one verse eleven. Now, I realize a few shepherds were there in Bethlehem, and a couple wise men came from the east – but those were ALL Gentiles. When Christ returns to establish His

earthly Kingdom, Israel will be born as a nation *at once*. When we get to the last chapter of Isaiah, he will make it perfectly clear as he says, “... *before she travailed she brought forth. Before her pain came she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Shall a nation be born at once? - For as soon as Zion travailed – meaning the Great Tribulation period – she brought forth her children...*” When Israel is delivered by the birth of a man child, Isaiah means by *THEIR* birth – not God’s.

The government of this world will be placed on the shoulders of the Lord Jesus Christ in that day – at His second advent. That never occurred at His first coming, either. Therefore, there is literally *NO WAY* anyone could sustain this prophecy to refer to anything but the second advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. The record is of the same Jesus Who was here two thousand years ago, too, by the way. So, don’t even waste your time writing me back and trying to straighten me out on this; I can promise you my theology and teaching will never change. If you don’t like it, then go find a teacher that will pander to your desire for soft-peddling and sensationalism. You’re not going to get it from me.

**Judges 13:** *18 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after My Name, seeing it is Wonderful? ~*

They never called Jesus “*Wonderful*” when He was here two thousand years ago. They never called Him “*Counselor*,” either; and Jesus never asked anyone for advice. Those aren’t adjectives in this connection – it’s His Name! God has no counselor. Jesus never gathered the disciples and asked them, “*now, fellows, what do you think I ought to do?*” Jesus told them what He was going to do – and He always did exactly that thing – the Father’s will! The preincarnate Christ had already appeared to the captain of the hosts in the Book of Judges; as we have already studied. When Jesus was here with the apostles, He said, “*none knoweth the Son but the Father.*” Israel didn’t know Him. Many Christians today still don’t know Him. They may trust God on some level but, my friends, they don’t know how wonderful Jesus is. Wonderful is His Name! When Jesus crushes the rebellion and reigns on this earth – trust me – all will call Him Wonderful *IN THAT DAY!*

Christ is made to us wisdom today; and thank God for that — because most of us aren't very smart. We're to go to Him for understanding, spiritual discernment, and sound judgment. El Gibbor is the Hebrew word for our Mighty God. All power is given unto the Lord Jesus Christ! All things were made by Him and for Him. Without Christ was not anything made that was made. That means all things in Heaven and on earth — both visible and invisible. Christ Jesus is the omnipotent God. Christ is the glue that holds all of the atoms of this universe together. Christ Jesus is the One Whom our Spiritual Safari seeks on every page of Scripture. He is One with the everlasting Father, too. Christ is the Father of eternity. This same Jesus also made all the ages, my beloved readers.

Lastly, God will continue to chastise Israel, and punish them as a nation — and any and *ALL* nations that turn their back on Him. If we, the United States, were to escape judgment, we would be the only nation in the history of the world that ever did so. Frankly, I just happen to *know* we won't. That goes for individuals, too. Most people don't like to hear these things — at all — and they're not reading this report, you may be sure. Well, you might want to write it all down somewhere....

***19 Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts is the land darkened, and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire: no man shall spare his brother.***

***20 And he shall snatch on the right hand, and be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand, and they shall not be satisfied: they shall eat every man the flesh of his own arm:***

***21 Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still ~***

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