God's Discipline and Judgment

"I 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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." (Isaiah 9:1-21 KJV)

One day I was asked by one of our Sisters to explain to her the meaning of *Isaiah 9*. She told me that the Lord had spoken to her repeatedly about this chapter, *Isaiah 9*, but she was not able to understand it.

When I read *Isaiah 9*, I understood of how God dealing with His people and how He is disciplining them.

- "I 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." (Isaiah 9: KJV) There is vexation, dimness and darkness to the people who are away from the Lord, who left His church and His sanctuary and went ahead with their own ways. "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 the region of the ten tribes that had separated themselves from the leadership of Judah in Jerusalem. For this reason they were afflicted and troubled by different kinds of trials as punishment for their sins and as a way for God to force them to return to Him and to His church. The same will be the situation of those who went away from God and left His church. Take heed of the warning and come back and return to God and to His church that you left.
- "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." (Isaiah 9:2 KJV) While people in darkness and under the bad effects of sin and trespass and the work of demons, the Lord would reveal Himself to them, as in the days when He revealed Himself to us. In the New Testament the first region that Jesus started His ministry of preaching was in the region of Galilee from which most of his disciples He took, "13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: 14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; 16 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. 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:13-17 KJV) Jesus started His ministry from the region of the tribes of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, being the farthest from the city of Jerusalem and was the most affected area with the foreign invasions of the surrounding nations. As Jesus entering the life of the people there will be light coming into their lives that removing darkness, pain, suffering and death due to sin and the works of the devil. As people repent in response to the preaching of Jesus, then light will enter their lives and they will be able to see light and the plan of God in their lives and the path that God wants them to go through. Repent today of your sins, and accept the Word of Jesus and allow Him in your life so you will have the light and will be able to see the good plan that God has for you and the way that you need to go through.
- "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." (Isaiah 9:3 KJV) As Jesus entering the people lives then they will have increase and they will be multiplied. They will have joy and will have joyful life. The joy that Jesus give does not depend on how much increase that you have but it depend on how much Jesus is in your life.
- "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." (Isaiah 9:4 KJV) When Jesus entering people's life He will

break the yoke of the slavery that Satan had put them in. Gideon broke the yoke of slavery that Israel was undergone by Midian. As God used Gideon to deliver His people, Jesus delivers us from the yoke of slavery that devil put people under heavy burden.

"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." (Isaiah 9:5 KJV) People in this world they will use worldly ways and weapons to solve their problems. But with Jesus we have weapons of divine origin, "4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (2Corinthians 10:4-5 KJV) Your weapons to fight the enemy is prayer to God, fasting, standing on the promises of God and obedience to His Word.

"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." (Isaiah 9:6 KJV) This is the prophecy about Jesus' birth and His coming on earth to redeem us from sin and death. The government shall be upon his shoulder: Christ is responsible to the government that God entrusted to Him. Christ also wants His followers to be responsible to the duties that He entrusted to them. As you are a disciple of Jesus you are called to be responsible to your duties and responsibilities toward Christ.

"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 forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:7 KJV) Christ's government will have no end, and it will be expanding, and those who follow Christ will have peace in their hearts even turmoil is going outside. Justice and sound judgment will be there in the decision making. The Lord will accomplish all that in Christ' Kingdom. When people would come at first to Christ they will experience all those things and they will enjoy them and will enjoy life living in the peace and the joy of God. Don't miss such a kind of life, give your life right now to Jesus, surrender your will to Him, and enjoy the abundant joy and the peace of God.

"8 The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel." (Isaiah 9:8 KJV) After receiving Christ, the Lord shall send His Word to His people who received Him as Lord for their lives. This Word of God will come and reach His people who should respond appropriately to it. As a disciple of Jesus He will send His Word to you, and so you need to obey and follow what Jesus is saying to you.

"9 And all the people shall know, even Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria, that say in the pride and stoutness of heart," (Isaiah 9:9 KJV) What is happening here is that Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria were the ten tribes that divided, defied the Word of God and behaved in pride against God's Word and will. The people who received Christ they should be humble to receive His will and do what He wants them to do. Be

humble, take your pride away and see the great things that Jesus did to you and don't resist, but instead willingly follow Him.

"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." (Isaiah 9:10 KJV) God when His people are proud, He will send calamities on them to restrain them from doing evil. But instead that they will humble down and repent, they will retaliate and fight against God. God will oppose them by letting the bricks that they use to build to fall down, and so in their arrogance they will say but we will build with hewn stones. God also in disciplining them will cause the sycomores trees to fall down, and so in their arrogance they will say, but we will change them into cedars. Many are the people of God who will not hearken to the discipline and the action of God and they will insist to continue to do their own. Humble down before Christ, and do not be arrogant and defy the discipline and the correction of God.

"11 Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and join his enemies together;" (Isaiah 9:11 KJV) Rezin was the king of Syria who was hired by the Northern Kingdom to invade Judah. But God used the adversary of Rezin, the king of Assyria to destroy him and to destroy those who hired him, the Northern Kingdom who conspired against Judah. God joined the army of the Assyrians to destroy Rezin and the rebellious Northern Kingdom of Israel. Heed now the lesson; that when you use worldly resources to go against God's will and do your own, God will destroy those resources to humble you that you may realize and repent.

"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." (Isaiah 9:12 KJV) In addition to the above enemy, the Assyrians who came and attacked the Syrians the allies of Northern Kingdom, the Lord sent another enemy, the Philistines, who attacked the Northern Kingdom from behind, and so both those enemies would devour them with wide open mouth and no remedy from such. The fierce anger of God toward Israel would not turned out and His hand remained stretched in His attack toward them because they defied God and were non willing to humble down and repent, therefore He continued His campaign against them, against His non repented people. Being called the people of God, He shall continue in His campaign against you until you will repent and surrender your will to Him.

"13 For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts." (Isaiah 9:13 KJV) They were still stiffed neck and would not turn toward God in spite that He smote them. Don't be hard headed as such because God may do more valiantly against you to subdue you. As you receive the discipline of God then start to seek Him and walk in His ways and the plan that He had for you.

"14 Therefore the LORD will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day."
(Isaiah 9:14 KJV) Therefore because of their hard headedness the Lord decided to cut the head and the tail from among them. He explained here who was the head and the tail, "15 The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail."
(Isaiah 9:15 KJV) The elders and the leaders who lead the people are the head but they were leading the people in the wrong way, and the prophets because they were teaching lies and not

the truth to the people were considered the tail, and so both the head and the tail needed to be cut down and removed by the Lord, "16 For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed." (Isaiah 9:16 KJV) The leaders and the prophets should discipline the people, correct them, and lead them in the right way. But when they will refuse to do that then God shall cut them and remove them because they are misleading His people. As a leader, prophet or workers for God you need to declare God's will to the people and not to go along with them, compromising and condoning their wrong doings, because if you do such God shall cut you in order to remove you.

"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." (Isaiah 9:17 KJV) After the Lord would be dealing with their men, the Lord will not be happy and will not have the delight with their children, youth, and young men; the children, youth, and young men of His people who are unfaithful to Him. God will neither support their orphans nor widows. People may say 'Why God is doing that?' The answer is because, "every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly." In spite of all the discipline of God they did not repent but continued in their cheating, hypocrisy, doing evil, speaking lies, making slurs, slandering people, etc. Therefore God further disciplined them by rejecting their children, youth, and young men, having no joy nor delight in them and by not having mercy on their orphans and widows. But with all that discipline the they did not repent, hearkened to Him and responded, therefore, For all this His anger was not turned away, but His hand was stretched out still. That God would continue to deal with the sins and the wickedness of His people, "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." (Isaiah 9:18 KJV) You see very clearly here God is escalating His wrath and discipline on you as He sees you stubborn and reluctant to respond to His will. God will not stop escalating unless you repent.

"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." (Isaiah 9:19 KJV) With the anger of God life is becoming more difficult; the same fire of the Holy Spirit who will deliver you and free you from your enemies, the same Holy Spirit will be causing you pain and trouble you as long as you are not repenting. "No man shall spare his brother", which means the people will be more aggressive against one another when they are not repenting, and out of their frustration they will abuse one another because of the need and the scarcity that they are in.

"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:" (Isaiah 9:20 KJV) They will snatch more, they will get more, steal more, collect more in corrupt ways and they will eat more but they will still unsatisfied. Therefore the people will ultimately start to eat their own flesh, "they shall eat every man the flesh of

his own arm:" The people of God if they will not repent they will eat their own children, as it is written in the Word of God as in the following examples:.

A. "29 And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat." (Leviticus 26:29 KJV)

B. "20 Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord?" (Lamentations 2;20 KJV)

C. "53 And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee: 54 So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave: 55 So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates. 56 The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, 57 And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates." (Deuteronomy 28:53-57 KJV)

D. "24 And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. 25 And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung* for five pieces of silver. 26 And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. 27 And he said, If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress? 28 And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow. 29 So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son." (2Kings 6:24-29 KJV)

It is apparent now, children are sold by their parents, as you can hear about human trafficking, children pornography, children sold for organs transplant, and children who are sent abroad by their parents to work and earn living and give to their parents, exactly as God's Word says, "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." (Isaiah 9:21 KJV) The troubles and the famine will continue as long as the people are non repenting, "Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh:" Manasseh and Ephraim, were brothers but they will be fighting against one another because of their dire needs and ultimately shall fight with Judah, the church, that they are separated from. Today, the backslider instead of they will repent and go back to God and His sanctuary they will gather together and fight against the church that teach them and correct them with God's Word. "For all this his anger is not turned

away, but his hand is stretched out still." Three times this statement is repeated, because people are not willing to repent and God will continue to discipline them in order to return to Him.

My dear and beloved: * Instead of fighting with the church that teaches you the Word of God you need to repent, humble down, surrender your will to God and allow the church to teach you and guide you by God's Word so light will come once again in your life, and you will be able to hear and see the good plan of God for you and the way you need to go through. * Heed this warning message and commit your life and your ways to God. Repent of all your sins. Turn again toward God and take heed of all the discipline that God is inflicting on you. Do not retaliate and do not defy God, but instead surrender fully to Him and be willing to be guided by Him and by His church. Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your Word that makes things clear to me. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly my sins and what I need to do to repent and to start to do your will. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the rebukes and the corrections and the admonishments we received in this message.

Lord I commit myself to humble down before you and abide with your Word and your teaching that you gave to me. Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned from this message. Lord I commit myself to come back to you and to the church that had taught me your Word. I commit myself to the very plan that you ordained for me to walk through until you come and take me. Lord have mercy on me and those who are with me. Lord I commit myself to serve you and to do your will. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and give me the spiritual gifts to go to evangelize and make new disciple.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and came back to your church. Lord have mercy on them and restore them back to you and their ministries and let them enjoy your love and grace. Lord I pray that you reveal your good plan for them and show them the way that they need to take to follow you. Lord protect them and provide all their needs to continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to walk in your ways and take us away from all temptations and protect us from the evil ones. Lord we commit ourselves to declare the truth and your will to our family members, our workers and members. Lord as we come back to you, have mercy on us, restore us and provide us all our needs. Lord refill us once again with your Holy Spirit, and lead us to evangelize and reach new people and serve them, to make new disciples and train new workers, planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord deliver us from our troubles and deal with our enemies. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God', Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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