

ISAIAH 9 vs 1

¹ Nevertheless the dimness /...the gloomy darkness

will not be such as was in her vexation /...her anguish,

when at the first when He lightly afflicted the land of Zebulon

and the land of Naphtali /...Isaiah is telling about the earlier Assyrian invasion; when the 10 northern tribes of Israel... possessing all the birthright promises of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... were taken into captivity,

and afterward did more grievously afflict her /...this describes the invasion of king Hazael... all the way up to Jerusalem's doorstep,

by the way of the sea, in Galilee of the nations...

beyond Jordan /...from history we know, the area west of the Jordan River.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen **a great light:**

they who dwell in the land of the shadow of death,

upon them has the light shined /...here, the Lord is promising... the ones who first endured the afflictions... would be honored by God to first receive the Light of the world

Verse ³ You multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy /...or better... and more clearly

and hasn't the joy increased also?

they joy before You /...like farmers and workers of the field

according to the joy in harvest /...you know, most people now days, don't know that joy! We shop... well complain at the local market, right?

Isaiah says...

they joy before You

according to the joy in harvest /...you know, after the sweat and toil and long hours since the early planting. You know, right?

they joy before You *as soldiers rejoice* /...what?

when they divide the spoil /...in victory! Oh, of course... after the battle is fought. That joy!

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⁴ For You have broken the yoke of his burden,

and the *beam on his shoulder,*

the club of his oppressor,

as in the day of Midian /...recalling when Gideon and his 300 were victorious in the Lord.

Verse ⁵ For every *gory battle of the warrior is with confused noise* /...with frenzy and clamor...
and mistakes being made,

and *with garments rolled in blood;*

but *all that...* will be with burning and fuel of fire /...more clearly

but *all that...* will be done away with... and burned in the fire.

Why? Because God has something better in mind; listen:

Verse ⁶ For to us a **Child is born,**

to us a **Son is given:**

and the government

will be upon... His shoulder /...to govern is His honor; it is His burden... His alone!

and His name will be called:

Wonderful Counselor /...after all, He is the Wisdom of God,

He is...

The God almighty,

He is...

The Father of eternity,

He is...

The Prince of Peace /...which Child, whose Son... is this gift?

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So unlike all the worthless rulers -- civil or religious of the world... whose kingdom began in gold and splendor... but will end in the iron and clay trash heap of history...

Verse ⁷ **Of the increase of His government...**

and peace...

there will be no end! /...wow! Can you imagine? This Son... actually knows how to govern and manage... and peace not like the world gives... but real peace... comes from Him,

set upon the throne of David,

and set upon His kingdom,

to order it,

and to establish it

with judgment /...the Hebrew word is: *mishpat*... literally it means:

the One with authority... to shut the serpent's mouth.

and with righteousness /...His right way of doing things; always in truth

from henceforth even forever.

The zeal /...the jealous care

of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

He will accomplish it. He's going to make it happen.