

July 24 Su Reading 205 — Isaiah 9:1-7 — The Promised Messiah

¹ ^[fn] *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 has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.* ^[fn]

² ^[fn] *The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwell 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.*

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 is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon^[fn] his shoulder,
and his name shall be called^[fn]
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

⁷ *Of the increase of his government and of peace
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 of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

ESV Footnotes

(9:1) Ch 8:23 in Hebrew

(9:1) Or *of the Gentiles*

(9:2) Ch 9:1 in Hebrew

(9:6) Or *is upon*

(9:6) Or *is called*

Good from Galilee — We will come back to this passage in next year's study of Knowing Jesus, but let's look at it today from the prophetic perspective of Yahweh, who orchestrated the coming of the Messiah. Do you remember when Jesus went to Galilee and called Philip to follow Him? After that, Philip told Nathanael that Jesus was the one "*of whom Moses ... and the prophets wrote*" (John 1:45). Nathanael's amazed response was, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" (v. 46). He reflected the common understanding of the Jews, based on Micah 5:2, that the Messiah was to come from Bethlehem in Judah. It is true that He would be born there, but He would grow up later in Galilee and make His center there as an adult teacher. Our passage for today predicted that second

location. Although the northern lands of Zebulun and Naphtali had been looked at with “*contempt*” in time past (Isa. 9:1a), God would later make it “*glorious*” under its future name, Galilee (v. 1b). The people of that land would be the ones who “*have seen a great light*” (v. 2). God had it planned from the beginning.

[For Unto Us a Child Is Born - YouTube](#)

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, Counselor, the Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

— from Handel’s Messiah (1742)

***** [For Unto Us a Child Is Born - YouTube](#)

July 25 M Reading 206 — Isaiah 11:1-9 — The Spirit-led Messiah

- ¹ *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*
- ² *And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*
- ³ *And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,*
- ⁴ *but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*
- ⁵ *Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*
- ⁶ *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.*
- ⁷ *The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*
- ⁸ *The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den.*
- ⁹ *They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.*

The Trinity — This chapter also has much to say about the coming, divine Messiah. He would be “a shoot from the stump of Jesse” (v. 1), that is, a descendant of David’s father. He would be the last

king in that royal line. The next verse shows the involvement of the third Person of the Trinity, when *“the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him”* (v. 2). This was visually and dramatically fulfilled when Jesus was baptized by John and *“he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased’”* (Matt. 3:16-17). This King was both royal and divine. God’s Spirit would provide the Messiah with *“wisdom and understanding ... counsel and might ... knowledge and the fear of the LORD”* (Isa. 11:2). What a beautiful picture of the Trinity! God the Father plans, predicts, and executes the giving of the Son to be the Messiah, while the Spirit fills Him for ministry.

[Come, Thou Almighty King - YouTube](#)

To the great One in Three,
Eternal praises be hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty,
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

— Anonymous (1757)

July 26 Tu Reading 207 — Isaiah 12:1-6 — My Strength, My Song, My Salvation

¹ You^[fn] will say in that day:

*“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.*

² *“Behold, God is my salvation;*

*I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD^[fn] is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”*

³ With joy you^[fn] will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day:

*“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.*

⁵ *“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known^[fn] in all the earth.*

⁶ *Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your^[fn] midst is the Holy One of Israel.”*

ESV Footnotes

(12:1) The Hebrew for *you* is singular in verse 1

(12:2) Hebrew for *Yah, the LORD*

(12:3) The Hebrew for *you* is plural in verses 3, 4

(12:5) Or *this is made known*

(12:6) The Hebrew for *your* in verse 6 is singular, referring to the *inhabitant of Zion*

From Anger to Comfort — Of the many things this chapter says about God, the one thing that stood out to me today was the contrast between God's anger and His comfort in verse 1: "... *for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.*" God's "anger" is not like ours, which is selfish, and sinfully desires revenge. The anger of God certainly involves displeasure, but for those who belong to Him, its focus is on our good. God's anger is the calculated response of His holiness to man's sin. Its purpose is to apply pain as a motivator for us to turn away from our sin. It is called "discipline." That purpose is emphasized in the expression, "...*your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.*" God's love for us is behind His anger toward us.

[O Love That Will Not Let Me Go - YouTube](#)

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

— George Matheson (1882)

July 27 W Reading 208 — Micah 5:1-5a — He Shall Be Great

^{1[fn]} *Now muster your troops, O daughter^[fn] of troops;
siege is laid against us;
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel
on the cheek.*

^{2[fn]} *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one 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.*

⁴ *And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.*

⁵ *And he shall be their peace.*

ESV Footnotes

(5:1) Ch 4:14 in Hebrew

(5:1) That is, *city*

(5:2) Ch 5:1 in Hebrew

Too Little — It is amazing how often God intentionally chose something insignificant in man's eyes to do something great, something beyond man's ability. Bethlehem was a small town, not too far from giant Jerusalem. It was "*too little to be among the clans of Judah*" (v. 2). Yet, it was from Bethlehem that God chose a king that would establish a dynasty that extended for hundreds of years. That king was David, not the expected choice of Jesse's many sons, but the young, insignificant shepherd boy

who wasn't important enough to even show up for the meeting with God's prophet, Samuel (1 Sam. 16:11). But God chose David. Then, it was out of that same tiny town that God would cause His Son, the Messiah, to be born a thousand years later. That final King wasn't even born in a house, but in an animal enclosure. His cradle was a feeding manger for cattle. Too little?! Not for God; He specializes in making great things come out of what seems to be small. Do you sometimes feel insignificant? "I am only a ...!" Remember Bethlehem! God intentionally chooses what is little. Let's give ourselves to God completely and trust Him to do with us and through us that which will amaze us! Nothing is too little for God.

[Little Is Much When God Is in It - YouTube](#)

Does the place you're called to labor
Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own.

Little is much when God is in it,
Labor not for wealth or fame;
There's a crown, and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' name.

— Kittie L. Suffield (1924)

July 28 Th Reading 209 — Micah 6:1-8 — What Pleases God

- 1 *Hear what the LORD says:
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.*
- 2 *Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.*
- 3 *"O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!*
- 4 *For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.*
- 5 *O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD."*
- 6 *"With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?*
- 7 *Will the LORD be pleased with^[fn] thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,*

- the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”*
- 8 *He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,^[fn]
and to walk humbly with your God?*

ESV Footnotes

(6:7) Or *Will the LORD accept*

(6:8) Or *steadfast love*

Listen Up! — We could have mentioned this many times already, but this passage reminds us that God speaks to us. The chapter begins with this challenge: “*Hear what the LORD says...*” (v. 1). He tells us much about who He is and what He does throughout His Word. Here, He clearly tells us what good things please Him, and interestingly, it has little to do with our acts of worship. Israel’s worship could be done mechanically and even sacrificially (v. 7), but what pleases God has more to do with attitudes than actions. This is “*what is good*” and what God requires of us: “*...to do justice ... to love kindness, and to walk humbly...*” (v. 8). Do right! Be kind! Be humble! God has just spoken to you through His Word. Did you hear it? It is a command ... a requirement.

[What Does the Lord Require - YouTube](#)

What does the Lord require
for praise and offering?
What sacrifice desire,
or tribute bid you bring?
Do justly; love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.

— Albert F. Bayly (1949)

July 29 F Reading 210 — Micah 7:18-20 — Who God Is

- 18 *Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.*
- 19 *He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.
You will cast all our^[fn] sins
into the depths of the sea.*
- 20 *You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and steadfast love to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our fathers
from the days of old.*

ESV Footnote

(7:19) Hebrew *their*

Forgiving and Faithful — What a great list of God’s attributes and actions! No one else is like Yahweh; He is absolutely unique. Two main characteristics of God are emphasized here: forgiveness and faithfulness. The reason for both is His “*steadfast love*” (vv. 18, 20; Hebrew: *chesed*). Although

He becomes angry with us because of our sins and He applies painful discipline, it is temporary, and His love prompts Him to forgive us (vv. 18-19). Aren't you glad that God loves us that much? The last verse stresses His faithfulness, and looks back on the history of Israel "*from the days of old*" (v. 20). We have a history of God's faithfulness, too. Think about how God has provided for you and protected you in the past! What is one way God has shown His faithfulness to you since you have become a Christian? How about something more recent, like in the past year? How about last week? It is good to rehearse the faithfulness of a forgiving God.

[Great Is Thy Faithfulness - YouTube](#)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

—Thomas Chisholm (1923)

ACCOUNTABILITY TIME! If you are up to date in your reading as of July 29, please let me know today at <mailto:accbiblead@gmail.com>.

July 30 Sa Reading 211 — Isaiah 14:24-27 — God Has Purposed

- ²⁴ *The LORD of hosts has sworn:
"As I have planned,
so shall it be,
and as I have purposed,
so shall it stand,*
- ²⁵ *that 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."*
- ²⁶ *This is the purpose that is purposed
concerning the whole earth,
and this is the hand that is stretched out
over all the nations.*
- ²⁷ *For the LORD of hosts has purposed,
and who will annul it?
His hand is stretched out,
and who will turn it back?*

Good Control — God's sovereign omnipotence is the emphasis of this passage. He "*has sworn ... planned ... and ... purposed*" (v. 24). Whatever He wants to do, He can and will do. God promised to demonstrate His power by removing Assyria's oppression of His people (v. 25), but His ability to control is not limited to one place; it extends over "*the whole earth ... and ... all the nations*" (v. 26). That's broad enough to include us. The problem, however, is that we do not know the details or the

timing of His plans. It may include suffering before rescue. We need to trust in God's goodness as He exercises His sovereign power. He cares for us.

God Is Working His Purpose Out - YouTube

God is working His purpose out,
as year succeeds to year;
God is working His purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be:
When the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God,
as the waters cover the sea.

— Arthur C. Ainger (1894)

ACCOUNTABILITY REMINDER! If you are up to date in your reading as of June 30, and did not report yesterday, please let me know today at <mailto:accbibleread@gmail.com>.
