

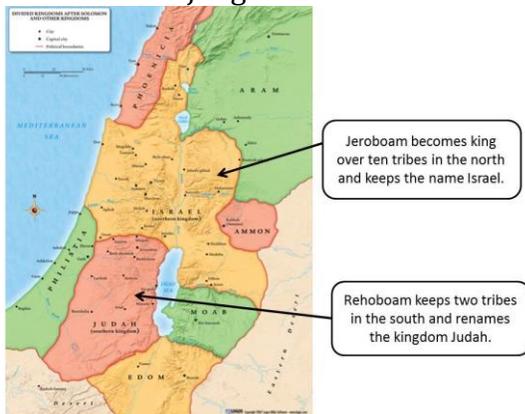


This violated the very first of the ten commandments that God gave to the prophet Moses. If they rejected the first commandment, they would soon reject the other nine.

God sent prophets to call the people away from idolatry. God called their idolatry adultery because they forsook the covenant that they had made with Him through Moses. These prophets warned Israel that God would judge them if they did not repent. Beginning with the generation that God delivered from Egypt, God judged Israel many times for their idolatry.

After their third king named Solomon led the nation to worship idols, the judgment of God became more severe.

- Israel's judgment



1. God divided the nation.

He did this in 930BC through a civil war. The nation of Israel was split into a northern kingdom and a southern Kingdom. Through this civil war, God weakened the nation.

God is long suffering and he sent prophets to call the nation to repentance. When there was no repentance, the nation experienced God's second severe judgment.



2. God destroyed the sovereignty of the nation.

This destruction culminated in the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC when the nation of Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom and enslaved the people. Those that survived the war were stripped of their families, land, and their possessions. They became servants to the Assyrians.

We have all been witnesses to the devastation caused by war, murder, natural disasters, disease, accidents, mental illness, and bankruptcy. Some of us have personally experienced great loss from one or more of these. We have all suffered to some degree due to the consequences of our sin. But none of us have experienced what the Northern Kingdom of Israel experienced in 722 BC. There are no words to describe the devastation and the loss. It was the kind of loss that left any survivors without hope.

Is there anything worse than being without hope?

- Israel's hope

To provide hope God sent the people prophecies. He gave them a future hope to help them endure a life time of suffering. One of those prophecies was given by a prophet named Isaiah. It is recorded for us in a book that he wrote called Isaiah. That book is found in the bible.

Isaiah 9:1-7

1 But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.

3 You shall multiply the nation, you shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

5 For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

NASU

This prophecy is one of over 2500 prophecies to the nation of Israel about their future. It is one of over 300 prophecies about a future ruler that would fulfill all the promises that God made to Israel.

- I. This ruler would make the land glorious.

- II. This ruler would be from Galilee
- III. This ruler would be a great light
- IV. This ruler would increase the size of their nation
- V. This ruler would bring them great joy
- VI. This ruler would free them from oppression
- VII. This ruler would destroy their enemies
- VIII. This ruler would be a man.
- IX. This ruler would be a Jew.
- X. This ruler would be a king.
- XI. This ruler would be God.
- XII. This ruler would restore the throne of David.
- XIII. This ruler would rule with justice and righteousness forever.

In about 3 BC, Jesus was born to a virgin named Mary who was engaged to man named Joseph.

- Before His birth, his parents were told separately by angels that their son was the ruler in Isaiah 9.
- On the night of Jesus's birth, shepherds were told by God that Jesus was the ruler in Isaiah 9.
- 40 days after Jesus's birth Simeon and Anna were told by God that Jesus was the ruler in Isaiah 9.
- Wise men from the east were told by God that Jesus was the ruler in Isaiah 9.
- When Jesus was 30 years old, He started telling people that He was the ruler in Isaiah 9.

But Jesus also started telling people that the ruler in Isaiah 9 was also the suffering servant in Isaiah 53.

Isaiah 53:5-6

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

NKJV

This was difficult to understand. Few believed it until Jesus was executed on a cross and rose from the dead.

It was only then that men could understand Isaiah 53. It was only then that men could understand that before Jesus could be the Prince of Peace that ruled the world, He had to

first be the Prince of Peace that redeemed the world. For men to know the peace of God, they had to first experience peace with God.

The death of Jesus...

- Paid the debt that mankind owes God
- Satisfied the wrath of God
- Removed the barrier that separated mankind from God

### Applications

- To be at peace with God, you must receive Jesus as the prince of peace. (John 14:27)

If you receive Jesus, you become a member of the church of Jesus.

- The church of Jesus is empowered by God, elected by God, and empowered by God (Matthew 16:18)

The church is elected by God to be...

- His manifestation of His power to the world
- His messenger to the world
- His means of world redemption
  
- The greatest threat to the church is idolatry (Col. 3:5)

The images we are tempted to worship are no longer images of mythological figures but images of ourselves!

The consequence of idolatry is the same for the church as they were for Israel. When we worship images of ourselves we suffer the loss of...

- Peace
- Prosperity
- People

### Invitation

- Receive Jesus
- Repent of Idolatry