

Isaiah 9:8-21 **Against the Northern Kingdom of Israel**

The Punishment of Samaria

8 The Lord sent a word against Jacob, And it has fallen on Israel.

9 All the people will know — Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria — Who say in pride and arrogance of heart: 10 "The bricks have fallen down, But we will rebuild with hewn stones; The sycamores are cut down, But we will replace them with cedars."

11 Therefore the Lord shall set up The adversaries of Rezin against him, And spur his enemies on,
12 The Syrians before and the Philistines behind; And they shall devour Israel with an open mouth.
For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still.

13 For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them, Nor do they seek the Lord of hosts.
14 Therefore the Lord will cut off head and tail from Israel, Palm branch and bulrush in one day.
15 The elder and honorable, he is the head; The prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail.
16 For the leaders of this people cause them to err, And those who are led by them are destroyed.
17 Therefore the Lord will have no joy in their young men, Nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows; For everyone is a hypocrite and an evildoer, And every mouth speaks folly.
For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still.

18 For wickedness burns as the fire; It shall devour the briars and thorns, And kindle in the thickets of the forest; They shall mount up like rising smoke.

19 Through the wrath of the Lord of hosts The land is burned up, And the people shall be as fuel for the fire; No man shall spare his brother.

20 And he shall snatch on the right hand And be hungry; He shall devour on the left hand And not be satisfied; Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm.

21 Manasseh shall devour Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh; Together they shall be against Judah.
For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

The Punishment of Samaria

- ✧ The Northern kingdom is known as the kingdom of Israel and the Southern kingdom as the kingdom of Judah.
- ✧ The northern kingdom is often spoken of as Ephraim and Samaria is the capital city as is the case of this message.
- ✧ The problem is pride and arrogance on the part of the people who have turned away from dependence on God, thinking they are able to defend themselves by human means without God.
- ✧ The message from Yahweh is to both Northern and southern kingdoms, with the focus aimed at the Northern kingdom of Israel which has never turned to their God from the time the kingdom was divided into two kingdoms after the death of Solomon. [\[Isaiah 9:8-10\]](#)
- ✧ God's punishment of the Northern kingdom is meant as an example to the Southern kingdom of Judah which has had seven godly leaders along with a number of ungodly ones with Ahaz being the sixth and worst by the time of this message.
- ✧ Yahweh uses enemy nations to punish His wayward people, in this case it is Rezin king of the Syrians from the north and the Philistines from the south. [\[Isaiah 9:11-12\]](#)

- ✧ This expression of Yahweh's wrath against Israel leads the way for the final destruction of the Northern kingdom by the Assyrians during the sixth year of the reign of Hezekiah the next godly king of Judah the southern kingdom.
- ✧ Yahweh's anger is not turned away at the time of this message, but His hand is stretched out still in Judgment. [\[Isaiah 9:12\]](#)

Israel's continuing rebellion against God

- ✧ Human nature is on display as the punishment Yahweh sends against His people does not cause them to repent of their sins and turn to their God for relief, but they stiffen their necks against the only One Who could save them, just like the failure of mankind to repent during the time of the Great Tribulation at the end of time. [\[Isaiah 9:13, Revelation 9:20-21, 16:9, 11\]](#)
- ✧ This rebellion leads to continuing punishment and Yahweh indicates that the responsibility falls on the leaders of the people who cause the people to err, but the people should know better and are held responsible for their failure in following the ways of the ungodly leaders and lack of discernment of the lies of the false prophets. [\[Isaiah 9:14-17\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh will cut off the leaders and the prophets who teach lies and cause the people to err, and He will also judge the people because they followed their erroneous ways. [\[Isaiah 9:14-17\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh's anger is still not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still. [\[Isaiah 9:17\]](#)
- ✧ Because wickedness continues to burn until it devours the people and the land as the people turn against each-other in hatred and fury. However they will find a common cause as they together turn against Judah. [\[Isaiah 9:18-21\]](#)
- ✧ Even so, the anger of Yahweh is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still. [\[Isaiah 9:21\]](#)