

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 20

Title: The LORD Shall Perform This

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 1-7

Date: 1-11-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Toward the end of the eighth chapter, Isaiah delivers the prophecy of God's wrath and judgment against apostate Israel and Judah.

- Verses 19 and 20: foretell of false prophets who would speak with a double-mind, teaching sinners to seek God, but at the same time, instructing them to look to their dead sinful flesh and to false prophets—the LORD says, there is no light in them.
- Verse 21, 22: foretell of the result—famine, rebellion, and blasphemy throughout the land; a constant looking to the earth where they would behold only trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and thus the Lord says, "*they shall be driven to darkness.*"

Isaiah 9: 1: 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.

In those days when the LORD moved enemy nations to afflict Zebulun and Naphtali and Galilee of the Gentiles, we read in: **2 Chronicles 15:3: Now for a long season Israel *hath been* without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law...5: And in those times *there was* no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations *were* upon all the inhabitants of the countries.**

Nevertheless the LORD promises that the dimness shall not be as such as during that affliction...for in the dark days to come the LORD that forms the light and creates the darkness—promises a great blessing upon his elect throughout all the nations of the earth.

Proposal: This is the prophecy of the great blessings brought by Christ through the truth of the gospel. Matthew tells us this prophecy of Isaiah's declares that very thing.

Matthew 4: 12: Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; 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.

We see here in Matthew the power Christ works effectually in those in whom he teaches the truth. He makes them forsake all and follow him in faith.

Matthew 4: 18: And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 19: And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. 20: And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him. 21: And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. 22: And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

When Christ exercises his power in spirit and truth within us, he heals the sinner: **Matthew 4: 23: And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.**

And Christ continues to teach his disciples from heavens Mt. Zion.

Matthew 5: 1: And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying...

Our text in Isaiah declares that what Christ did here in Matthew, is just as much a reality as what Christ Jesus now performs as he teaches sinners in power and grace, in spirit and in truth through the gospel.

TITLE: The LORD Shall Perform This

DIVISIONS: This passage show us 5 things that Christ, through the Holy Spirit, does as he frees his people through the gospel.

1. Gives Light To Those Who Sit In Darkness (v. 2).
2. Multiplies the Holy Nation of God's Elect (v. 3).
3. Brings Joy To Those Whom God Has Broken (v. 3).
4. Gives Liberty To Those Who Have Been In Bondage (v. 4).
5. Brings Victory Through Grace To Every Believer (v. 5).

I. Through the word of the gospel, Christ the Light comes to those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 9: 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.

Here we have the gospel in a verse. We walked in darkness in the shadow of death. But Christ the Great Light of our salvation revealed himself to us.

A. All men without exception, by nature, walk in darkness.

1. The Jews did not know Christ. The scriptures declare Christ throughout—the law and the prophets set him forth, the whole history recorded throughout the book is of Christ, everything God has done since the dawn of creation glorifies the Son of God, Christ Jesus the Lord—the Jews had all these advantages.

They knew the scriptures and the power of God in the same way men learn doctrine, argue theological arguments, and regurgitate the word of truth—yet have never experienced the power of God which causes sinners to KNOW CHRIST. Therefore, **Matthew 22: 29: Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.**

Illustration: Nicodemus.

John 3: 1: There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3: Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4: Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5: Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6: That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7: Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8: The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. 9: Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? 10: Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? 11: Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. 12: If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

2. Every Gentile, by nature, walks in the same darkness. Men do not KNOW Christ the Light by coming to the 5 points of Calvinism any more than they KNOW the darkness of their hearts by memorizing the 10 commandments. This Light is not obtained because you were raised by believing parents or grandparents. **THIS LIGHT COMES IN POWER BY THE DIVINE REVELATION THAT GOD IS!** The POWER—POWER--POWER of God which triumphantly broke the yoke of sin, of death, and of hell which held his people in captivity on the cross is this power exercised by the Spirit of Christ himself which brings his elect to the knowledge of the truth, victoriously bringing each one to forsake every vain confidence and to put all their hope in the Lord our Righteousness.

Our Lord's work on the cross and his work in the hearts of his people are each so vitally necessary that without his work in us we will never believe on him and what he performed for us.

John 1: 11: He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12: But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: 13: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

3. THIS LIGHT CREATES THE OPPOSITE OF THE DEATH AND DARKNESS WE WERE.

1 Corinthian 15: 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Ephesians 5: 8: For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: 2 Corinthians 4: 6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Illustration: The coals in the fireplace this morning.

Ezekiel 37: 1: The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which *was* full of bones, 2: And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and, lo, *they were* very dry. 3: And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. 4: Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5: Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: 6: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD. 7: So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. 8: And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them. 9: Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. 10: So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. 11: Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. 12: Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13: And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, 14: And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

II. This is how God multiplies his holy nation.

Isaiah 9: 3: Thou hast multiplied the nation, *and* not increased the joy:

1. This work of God multiplied God's holy nation. The LORD purged the nation of Israel—there was a great casting off of the rebellious—so much so that it appeared as if the LORD was decreasing his holy nation, but that could never be. Instead, it was the day when the LORD opened the door to his elect Gentiles and actually increased the nation.

Isaiah 26: 15: Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou hast increased the nation: thou art glorified: thou hadst removed *it* far *unto* all the ends of the earth.

Zechariah 2: 10: Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. 11: And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

2. Likewise, every time Christ works a work of power and truth in the heart of one of his elect, he multiplies his holy nation. Every name of God's elect were written in the Lamb's book of life before the foundation of the world. None shall be added or decreased from that number.

All God's elect were blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: **Ephesians 1: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:...****BUT 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,...**when he calls one of his elect in power then his holy nation increases—it becomes “one believing saint” closer to having every last name which was in the Lamb's book of life brought into the kingdom.

1 Peter 2: 9: But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Colossians 1: 12: Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

3. But notice, when the Lord multiplies his nation, he does not increase the joy. In the affliction pronounced here, in the righteous judgment of God, he revealed to his elect that their physical nation Israel was completely turned over to spiritual blindness and hardness of heart. It was time of much sorrow for God's elect. Yet, it was the time when God bestowed his greatest blessing of grace upon his elect. It was the time when Christ first appeared. It

was the beginning of the gospel age that we live in today introducing them to a host of brethren from other nations that they never knew they had.

Spiritually, that is what the Lord does whenever he works his power and grace in a sinner. He does not increase our joy, at first, but causes great sorrow.

- He makes those things in which we placed great confidence to appear to us what they are—great darkness.
- Before he covers us in his spotless robe of righteousness—he strips us of our self-made fig leaves
- Paul said, I was alive without the law once, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. Oh, but it had to be so for Christ to turn him to himself that he might be married to another.
- The self-attained wisdom we walked in has to be made utter darkness to us—like Paul on the road to Damascus—he had to be blinded to the natural works of his flesh before he could be made to see him who is spirit and truth and who is worshipped in spirit and in truth.

III. Then, thirdly, when Christ gives us great joy.

Isaiah 9: 3:...they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

HAVING CHRIST THE LIGHT GIVEN TO US is the very gift of faith and the very granting of repentance.

- When THE LIGHT shines the darkness ceases
- CHRIST THE LIGHT is indescribably better than the lie we once called sweet so that we joyfully renounce the darkness we wrestled to call light.
- It marks the beginning of our gospel age for the new born believer.
- We walk from that day forward, not under the yoke of sin, of the oppressor, no longer laboring to twist the pure doctrine of God so we can hold on to some religious experience, but when he removes the tormenting fear of death by revealing himself—we happily drop everything and take his hand forevermore.

Illustration: Planting the gardens in sweat in south Arkansas. The harvest under the cool air conditioner around the table with our family.

The sorrow when he does not increase the joy is the breaking up of the hard dirt at the time the seed is planted in the ground he has made good. But the joy is the harvest of fruit which he brings forth by the Holy Spirit.

Illustration: Sorrow of going off to war. The joy of coming home victorious. The sorrow is the awful bloodshed of the battle. The joy is when he divides to us the spoils of the victory—complete acceptance with God, forgiveness of sin, righteousness, eternal security and rest.

OH THE JOY OF BEING WASHED CLEAN BY THE SAVIOR; TO HAVE INIQUITIES PURGED; A CLEAN HEART—WHAT JOY AND WHAT REST.

Psalm 51: 7: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8: Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice. 9: Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11: Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12: Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit. 13: *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

IV. Fourthly, when Christ declares himself in truth and in spirit in the heart he sets us free in perfect liberty.

Isaiah 9: 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.

When Christ applies the gospel, he breaks the yoke of liar and their lies and frees the believer from:

1. The dominion of sin—

- **Romans 5: 17:...by one man's offence death REIGNED...21: sin hath reigned unto death**
- **But listen to the gospel of the broken yoke—Romans 5; 21: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace REIGN through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord;**
- **Romans 6: 6: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7: For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8: Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10: For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

2. Christ frees us from the bondage of Satan

Mark 3:27: No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

3. Christ frees us from the fear of death - (Heb. 2:15).

Hebrews 2: 15: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

4. Christ frees us from the curse and dominion of the law (Rom. 7:4; 8:1; 10:4).

Romans 7: 1: Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? 2: For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband. 3: So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. 4: Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. 5: For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. 6: But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

I Corinthian 9: 21: being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ

Galatians 2:19: For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

5. Christ frees us from the love for this world.

I John 4: 3: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5: They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6: We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Thursday night I showed you that much of the tribulation we must suffer in this world is due this world's rejection of the God we believe. But he has overcome this world. Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. He prayed to the Father saying, the world hath hated you because he hath given you his word—but through that same truth shall you be kept from this world. That truth is Christ.

V. Which brings us to the fifth point. This victory is won forever through the truth of the gospel of Christ.

Isaiah 9: 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.

A. Every battle of the warrior—means that man's gospel results in many ongoing battles with no end of victory in sight.

- The gospel of the world is a confused noise like the noise on a battlefield
- Garments rolled in blood—their warriors fight and wound and wrestle continually

B. But this shall be with burning and fuel of fire...(look back up to v4)...as in the days of Midian.

- Do you remember how Gideon won the victory over the Midianites?

Judges 7: 16: And he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. 17: And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be *that*, as I do, so shall ye do. 8: When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that *are* with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, *The sword* of the LORD, and of Gideon. 19: So Gideon, and the hundred men that *were* with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that *were* in their hands. 20: And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow *withal*: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. 21: And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

The pitchers with a lamp inside are typical of the messengers the Lord sends. The pitchers did not do the work—they were broken. **2 Corinthians 4: 7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**

God's messenger's simply look to Christ...they do as Christ did—they preach the gospel as Christ did and they preach WHAT Christ did and is doing.

- God's messengers blow the trumpet of truth holding forth the lamp—Christ the Light, crying, “The sword of the LORD—Christ Jesus the Lord of glory.”
- **Zec 4:6:....This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

This is not like the never ending battles of false prophets...

Isaiah 9: 5:...but *this* shall be with burning *and* fuel of fire.

In one day Christ wins the victory in the heart of sinners—he burns up all their vain hopes like a burning fire. Through the Truth, Christ effectually frees his children from the lie.

I John 2: 21: I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22: Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

2 Peter 1:16: For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

Romans 10: 14: How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher 15: And how shall they preach, except they be sent?

1 Peter 1:23: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever...25: And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Ephesians 4: 21:...the truth is in Jesus:

John 8: 32: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Illustration: It is hard, soul-wearing, bondage for a religious man or woman to try to find rest in a lie.

When religious men and women try to create a loop hole so they can hold on to whatever lie they are trusting, they create some of the most astounding perversions of the pure doctrine of Christ. Yet, they never even realize it. The Lord says, **Isaiah 44: 20: He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, *Is there not a lie in my right hand?***

Yet, Christ's work of grace is so sovereign and powerful and victorious in the heart, that when he makes us to behold HIM—the Lord says, **Isaiah 30: 22: Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.** (You will not call that menstuous cloth truth any longer, nor hold on to it any longer)

AND when the Lord Jesus Christ EMPTIES our right hand, he always fills it. **Isaiah 41: 13:...they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. 13: For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.**

Brethren, the lie was begun by the father of lies in the garden. But the God of All Truth delivers us from the rulers of lies and the great lie...and he does it in sovereign, irresistible grace through the TRUTH? **Isaiah 14:3: And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, 4: That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! 5: The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, *and* the sceptre of the rulers.**

Isaiah 9: 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 (the word means jealousy for my name's sake—I will not share my glory with another) of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

This whole work of salvation which the triune God performs is sure and certain—the comfort of the believer—because it is performed by the Lord alone and the whole work—the whole work—on the cross and in the heart--is performed in truth. **THE ZEAL OF THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL PERFORM THIS!**

Oh, may the truth set you free this hour!