

Isaiah 9:8-10:4 **Living in the Ruins**

The bricks have fallen down . . . the sycamores have been cut down . . . Yet the people do not turn back to Him who struck them, or seek the Lord of hosts.

- **The text**
 - Notice that Chapter 9 transitions from the sublimely good to the horrifically bad, from the promise of a coming king, with eternal peace and light, to the judgment of Israel (the northern kingdom) for their refusal to turn back to God.
 - Throughout the first 12 chapters the text alternates from blessings to judgments.
 - Antiphonal: _____.
 - Like “couplets:” _____.
 - Elements of this “dual” emphasis:
 - Israel and Judah: _____.
 - Ephraim and Manasseh: _____.
 - Deliverer and judge: _____.
- **God’s Purpose in this “dual” emphasis.**
 - At first glance, the appearance of equivocation. Some readers interpret this as God being:
 - Wishy-washy.
 - Overly demanding.
 - Impossible to please.
 - But, in fact, this is an element of God’s sovereignty.
 - **Is. 45: 5-7**
 - *I am the Lord, there is no other.*
 - *The one forming light, and creating darkness.*
 - *Causing well being and creating calamity.*
 - *I am the Lord who does all these.*
 - If we interpret this characteristic correctly, we see that God uses all resources as means of accomplishing His goal, which is:

Shofa, return, or turn back.

- **Man’s characteristic responses to:**
 - **God’s judgments:**

_____.
 - **God’s blessings:**

_____.
- **Two approaches to living in the ruins:**
 - Rebuild or do not rebuild.
 - Do we see this in human behavior today?

_____.
- **Two approaches to rebuilding:**
 - Take the Frank Sinatra approach: “I did it my way.”
 - Take the “Loved by God” approach:
 - Romans 8:27-28.
 - Recognize God’s hand in all elements of our lives.
 - Return to him.
 - Respond to God’s loving discipline: Hebrews 12:6.

For this I bless you as the ruin falls. The pains you give me are more precious than all other gains.

C.S. Lewis

I saiah 9:8-10:4

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