**CHAPTER** **9**

*What joy shall come after afflictions by the birth and kingdom of Christ; which shall flourish for ever. Judgments upon Israel for their sins.*

**1** At the first time the land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephtali was lightly touched: and at the last the way of the sea beyond the Jordan of the Galilee of the Gentiles was heavily loaded.

**2** The people that walked in darkness, have seen a great light: to them that dwelt in the region of the shadow of death, light is risen.

**3** Thou hast multiplied the nation, and hast not increased the joy. They shall rejoice before thee, as they that rejoice in the harvest, as conquerors rejoice after taking a prey, when they divide the spoils.

**4** For the yoke of their burden, and the rod of their shoulder, and the sceptre of their oppressor thou hast overcome, as in the day of Madian.

**5** For every violent taking of spoils, with tumult, and garment mingled with blood, shall be burnt, and be fuel for the fire.

**6** For a CHILD IS BORN to us, and a son is given to us, and the government is upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, God the Mighty, the Father of the world to come, the Prince of Peace.

**7** His empire shall be multiplied, and there shall be no end of peace: he shall sit upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom; to establish it and strengthen it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth and for ever: the zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

**8** The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it hath lighted upon Israel.

**9** And all the people of Ephraim shall know, and the inhabitants of Samaria that say in the pride and haughtiness of their heart:

**10** The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with square stones: they have cut down the sycamores, but we will change them for cedars.

**11** And the Lord shall set up the enemies of Rasin over him, and shall bring on his enemies in a crowd:

**12** The Syrians from the east, and the Philistines from the west: and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his indignation is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**13** And the people are not returned to him who hath struck them, and have not sought after the Lord of hosts.

**14** And the Lord shall destroy out of Israel the head and the tail, him that bendeth down, and him that holdeth back, in one day.

**15** The aged and honourable, he is the head: and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail.

**16** And they that call this people blessed, shall cause them to err: and they that are called blessed, shall be thrown down headlong.

**17** Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men: neither shall he have mercy on their fatherless, and widows: for every one is a hypocrite and wicked, and every mouth hath spoken folly. For all this his indignation is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**18** For wickedness is kindled as a fire, it shall devour the brier and the thorn: and shall kindle in the thicket of the forest, and it shall be wrapped up in smoke ascending on high.

**19** By the wrath of the Lord of hosts the land is troubled, and the people shall be as fuel for the fire: no man shall spare his brother.

**20** And he shall turn to the right hand, and shall be hungry: and shall eat on the left hand, and shall not be filled: every one shall eat the flesh of his own arm: Manasses Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasses, and they together shall be against Juda.

**21** After all these things his indignation is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.