

with the peace and well-being which He establishes, is to increase and to keep on increasing, and nothing will be able to put a stop to it. It will slowly spread through the world with the spread of His Gospel. Later on there will be a sudden tremendous extension of it over the whole earth when He returns in person to set up His wonderful kingdom of righteousness. He will eventually bring to an end everything that is evil and harmful, and will establish judgment and justice throughout the whole world. No hostile power will ever be able to destroy what He will establish. All this is to be the result, not of human effort or human striving, but of a mighty act of God, because "the zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

It is utterly ridiculous to read chapter 9 of Isaiah as a complete unit, leaving out its connections with chapter 8 and with chapter 10. We have here the last part of one passage and the first part of another. Between verse 7 and verse 8 there is a very sharp break. This is made especially clear when we note that a stanza of poetry expressing God's rebuke against the sin of His people begins in verse 8 and that this stanza ends in verse 12 with the refrain "for all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still." Another stanza begins with verse 13, continues to verse 17, and ends with the same refrain. Still another stanza begins in verse 18 and ends with this refrain at verse 21. The fourth stanza begins with verse 1 of chapter 10 and ends with the same refrain in verse 4. It is absurd to have our Bible printed in such a way that one of these four stanzas is separated from the others by the chapter division at the beginning of chapter 10 and that the first three are united with the entirely different portion of the book of Immanuel that ends at 9:7.

This poem is a presentation of God's rebuke against the sin, pride and unbelief of His people, and is a declaration that He is going to bring terrible punishment upon them because of it. It is a wonderful poem of God's judgment, and should certainly be read as a unit.

Isaiah 10:5 begins a new section of the book of Immanuel.