

Covenant College Chapel Message #2

October 3, 1972

### THE FUTURE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

Today we shall examine the 11th chapter of Isaiah, but first we shall look at the preceding context.

As originally written, the Bible contained no chapter or verse divisions. The verse divisions were put in at quite an ancient time, but not by the original writers. The chapter divisions were not put in until the 13th century A. D. when they were made by an English archbishop. It is said that as he went about on horseback on his pastoral calls he made marks in his Latin Bible at the places where he thought chapter divisions should stand. Sometimes it is suggested that when the horse would stumble he would make a chapter division in the wrong place.

I once heard Dr. G. Campbell Morgan say that nine out of ten chapter divisions are wrong. In my opinion this is far too extreme. Many of them are very well placed, but in this particular section of Isaiah some are poorly chosen.

Chapter 9 contains a marvelous picture of the coming of Christ, including those great verses, 6 and 7: "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. 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 of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Right here the chapter should have ended. A new section begins with Isaiah 9:8. It is an account of the coming of Israel's enemies and the terrible judgment that God is going to perform. There is a refrain at the end of verse 12: "For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still."