

# Isaiah 9:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

## Analysis

Tribal warfare erupts between Manasseh and Ephraim (both sons of Joseph, brother tribes), then they unite against Judah. This intra-family violence shows how sin destroys even closest relationships. Brother fights brother, then both fight their cousins—comprehensive civil war. The refrain returns for the fourth time: despite all this judgment, God's anger isn't satisfied and His hand remains extended in judgment. The repetition emphasizes Israel's hardness—no amount of suffering produces repentance without divine grace enabling it.

## Historical Context

During Israel's collapse, tribal and factional warfare was common (2 Kings 15-17). The split between Ephraim (representing northern kingdom) and Judah (southern kingdom) had existed since Rehoboam (930 BC), but periods of cooperation alternated with conflict. In Israel's final days, internal divisions weakened them before Assyria's final blow. United they might have survived longer; divided, they fell quickly.

## Related Passages

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

1. How does sin divide even the closest relationships and communities?
  2. What does persistent impenitence despite escalating judgment reveal about the need for gracious regeneration?
  3. How can Christians maintain unity in the face of conflicts that threaten to divide us?

## Interlinear Text

## Additional Cross-References

**Isaiah 5:25** (Parallel theme): Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcases were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**Isaiah 9:12** (Parallel theme): The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**Galatians 5:15** (Parallel theme): But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

