

Isaiah 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

The shift from Messianic hope to immediate judgment is striking. God sends a word against Jacob (northern Israel) which 'lighteth upon' (falls upon) Israel as judgment. This demonstrates the dual nature of God's word—blessing for the obedient, curse for the rebellious. The 'word' here represents prophetic announcement of coming Assyrian conquest. God's word never fails—whether promise or threat, it accomplishes His purposes. This illustrates divine sovereignty over history and the certainty of prophetic fulfillment.

Historical Context

Delivered during the late 730s BC, warning of Assyria's impending conquest of northern Israel. The 'word' was the prophetic announcement through Isaiah and other prophets. Despite warnings, Israel persisted in idolatry and injustice. In 722 BC, Samaria fell to Shalmaneser V/Sargon II, exactly as prophesied. The ten northern tribes were deported and scattered, effectively ending the northern kingdom. God's word proved reliable in both its mercy (Messianic promises) and judgment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's word function as both comfort and warning depending on our response?
2. What does the certainty of prophetic fulfillment teach about taking God's word seriously?
3. How should we respond to God's word when it announces uncomfortable truths or coming judgment?

Interlinear Text

בְּיַשְׁרָאֵל:	וְנִפְגַּע	לְ	בְּיַעַשְׂךָ	בְּ	אֶלְךָ	וְ	שֶׁל	חִזְבָּרֶךָ
a word	sent		The Lord	into Jacob	and it hath lighted		upon Israel	
H1697	H7971		H136	H3290		H5307		H3478

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