

Isaiah 9:8-10:4

# Gabelein's 2 Characteristics of Civilization in the Church Age

- 1) INCREASING PERSECUTION OF ISRAEL
- 2) INCREASING DEGENERACY

**CREATION**

**GENTILE NATIONS**

**ISRAEL**

**CHURCH**

**CHURCH**

**ISRAEL**

**GENTILE NATIONS**

**CREATION**

The ONLY HOPE of mankind in every  
age....

The Glorious Reappearing of the Lord Jesus  
Christ

This future event will answer every question,  
solve every problem which humanity faces  
today, and all the existing chaotic conditions,  
and bring about that golden age of which  
heathen poets dreamed, which the Bible  
promises is in store for the earth.

# Unrighteousness Punished in a Nation: A Closer Look at Isaiah 9:8-10:4

## 9:8-12: Just Cause for Discipline

- General picture of the cycle of national discipline and the nation's response

## 9:13-17: Anatomy of Decline in a Nation

- Further extension of discipline in the cutting off of rulers
- Cycle of rebellion portrayed by leaders and followers

## 9:18-21: An example of Discipline in Action

- Consequent extension of discipline through CIVIL WAR

## 10:1-4: Punishment of rulers in Judah

- The same leader-follower cycle in evidence in the Southern Kingdom

A close-up photograph of a young child with a frustrated or angry expression. The child's eyes are squinted, and their mouth is set in a frown. They are covering their ears with their hands, suggesting they are trying to block out a sound or are overwhelmed. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

9:8-12

**JUST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

# TWO MESSAGES

<sup>8</sup>The word **He sent**, the Lord (Master) to Jacob

And **it fell** **initiation** on Israel

<sup>9</sup>And so **they knew**, the people, all of them,

Ephraim and the dwellers of Samaria

Chiasm

In arrogance (ga'avah) and in greatness of heart  
(gadol lebab) **they said**,

**response**

<sup>10</sup>“The **bricks have fallen**

but *with* smooth stones we will build.

The shiqemahs **have been cut down**

but *with* cedars we will replace them



# God's Judgment of Man's Response

<sup>11</sup>And so **He increased, YHWH, adversaries of Rezin** against them

Chiasm

And their enemies **He spurred ahead.**

<sup>12</sup>Aram in the East and the Philistines in the West

And **they devoured Israel with the whole mouth!**

**With all this, it has not turned back, His anger**

**And still His hand is stretched out**

# The Poetry of Cascading Focus

Structure A: Chiastic Structure, with a focus of  
“agent 2”

Structure B: “agent 2” becomes the subject or agent  
that performs some action or is further defined

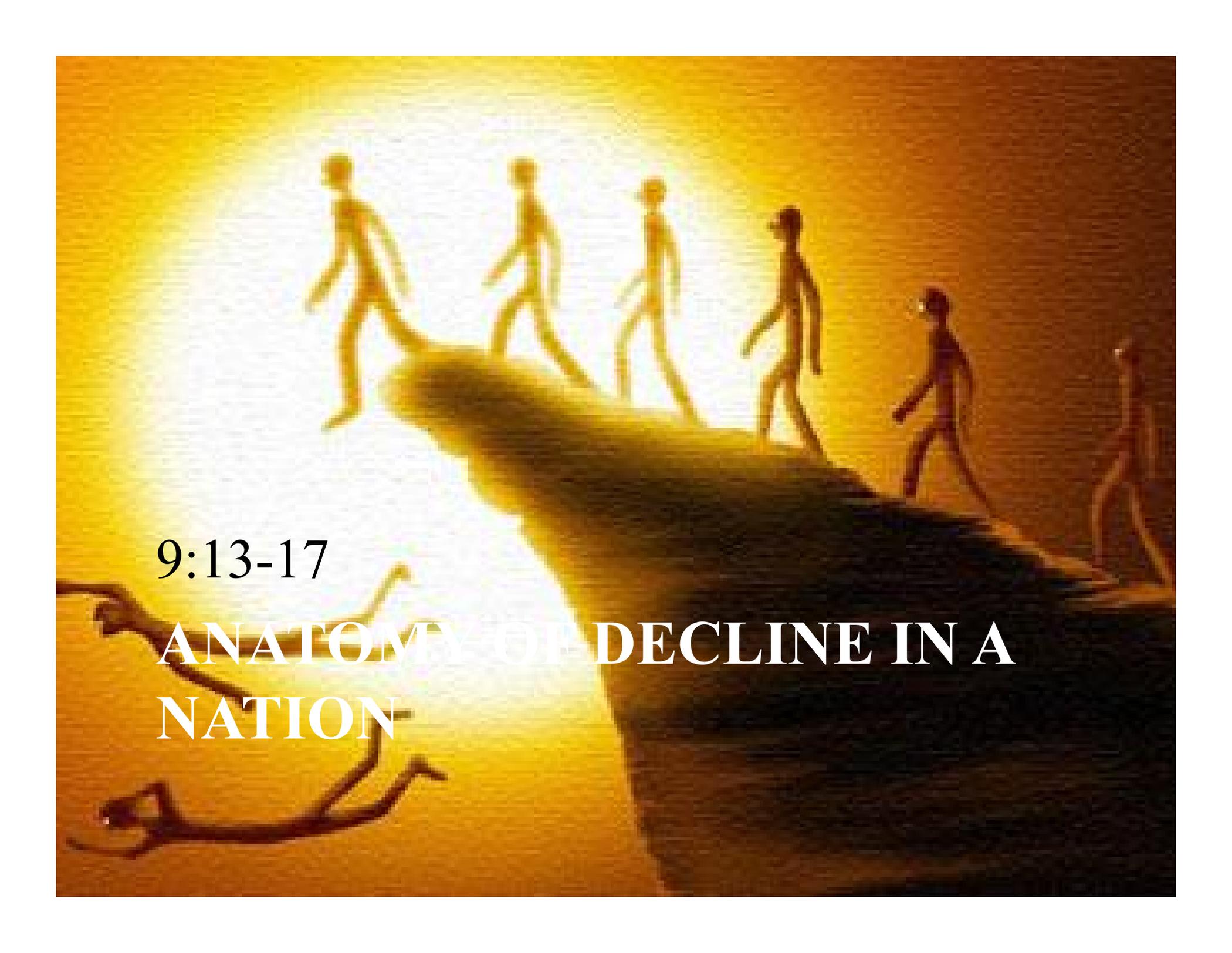
A: agent 1, YHWH

agent 2, Assyria

agent 2, Assyria

agent 1, YHWH

B: agent 2 Assyria does X (devours) to Y Israel

A conceptual image showing a hand holding a lit match. The flame is bright yellow and orange, and several silhouettes of people are walking across it from left to right. The background is dark, and the overall scene is lit by the glow of the match. The silhouettes of the people are dark against the bright light of the flame.

9:13-17

**ANATOMY OF DECLINE IN A  
NATION**

# 9:13-15: Indictment of Rulership

<sup>13</sup>Yet the people did not turn back unto the One who struck them!

Chiasm



And YHWH of the Armies, they did not seek!

<sup>14</sup>And so He cut off, YHWH, from Israel the head and the tail,

Chiasm



Both palm branch and bulrush in the same day.

<sup>15</sup>The elder and the man who carries face is the head,

And the prophet who teaches lies is the tail.

# 9:13-15 A Structure of Cascading Focus

13: Focus on YHWH

**14**And so He cut off, YHWH,



from Israel the head and the tail,

Both palm branch and bulrush in the same day.

15The elder and the man who carries face is the head;  
And the prophet who teaches lies is the tail.



# Focus

1. By the structure we see a focus on RULERSHIP.
  - v13: focus is YHWH
  - v14-15: focus is head and tail=palm branch and rush=bad leaders and lying prophets
2. Of course the people rebel against God when they are led to do so from every direction.
3. Application: When the tide of decline produces leaders who promote rebellion against God, it is time to lead in the other direction.
4. OPT OUT

# HOW TO OPT OUT: DANIEL 6



# The Consequence of the Cycle of Decay

**16** And so they were *like this*:

Those who led this people were causing them to err  
And those who were led were being confused.

**17** For this reason in their choice ones He did not take  
pleasure, the Lord (Master)

And *on* their orphans and their widows He did not take pity:  
For each of them was godless/profane and one who  
practiced evil

And every mouth spoke foolishness!

With all this, **it has not turned back, His anger**  
And still **His hand is stretched out**

# Cycle of Decay





9:18-21

**AN EXAMPLE OF DISCIPLINE  
IN ACTION**

# 9:18-19: Fire and Fuel

<sup>18</sup>For it burned like fire, wickedness;

Briars and thorns it ate

And it ignited the thickets of the forest

And they swirled, arising, *like* smoke.

← simile

Chiasm

← simile

<sup>19</sup>In the fury of YHWH of the Armies it was burned up,  
the land(!)

Chiasm

And it was, the people(!), as food for the fire

# Civil War

And each man toward his brother **would not have compassion**

<sup>20</sup> **And he devoured upon the right hand and still was hungry**

**And he ate upon the left hand and was not satisfied.**

Each man the flesh of his own arm **ate!**

image

<sup>21</sup> Manasseh to Ephraim,  
Ephraim to Manasseh;  
Together they upon Judah!

explanation

**With all this, **it has not turned back, His anger****

**And still His hand is stretched out**



10:1-4

**THEREFORE, JUDAH...**

# 10:1-2: Woe on Judah's Rulers

<sup>1</sup>Woe

To those who enact statutes of evil

rulers'  
decisions

And those whose constant decisions of harm they institute

<sup>2</sup>In order to guide away from right judgment the  
helpless

means

And

in order to steal justice from the oppressed of my  
people

In order that widows can be plundered

And orphans can be robbed

ends

# Questions and the Answer

<sup>3</sup>What will you do in the day of judgment  
and

when the destruction from the distance comes?

To whom will you run for help?

And where will you leave your wealth?

<sup>4</sup>*Nowhere*, only he will bend his knee in the place of the  
prisoner

and in the place of those who have been slain he will fall.

With all this, **it has not turned back**, His anger

And still His hand is stretched out