

# THE SCHISM

**Introduction:** In April 1854, a 31yo British naturalist named Alfred Russell Wallace, stepped ashore at Singapore Harbour to begin a grand adventure by exploring the flora and fauna of South East Asia. Indeed, Wallace is reported to have collected 83,000 beetles alone.

Wallace never set foot on the Australian continent, and yet within a decade, he would be responsible for identifying a line – a schism – that separates the Asian and Australian continents. This is known as the *Wallace Line*, which defines the Northern extent of native plant and animal life in our part of the world.

- A schism is something that separates:
  - A continent
  - A people group
  - A worldview
- The nation of Israel faced a widening schism
  - From outside people groups (nations)
  - From within – consulting mediums and spiritists (Isaiah 8:19)
- A promise was given that would affect all the peoples of the world.

**Isaiah 9:1-7** *Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—*

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.*

*For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.*

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*

## 1. Who is He?

- He comes as a baby
- He comes from Galilee
- He comes at a time of great turmoil.

**Isaiah 9:2** *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

- People will be walking in darkness
- He will bring light and understanding.

## 2. What does He Do?

**Isaiah 9:4** *For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.*

- Yoke can be a burden or oppression
- Jesus' yoke is different.

Matthew 11:29-30 *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

- He shatters bar and rod

**Isaiah 9:5** *Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.*

- Have you ever tried to fight your own battles? Win some, lose more.
- Don't go into battle in your own strength.

## 3. By Whose Authority?

**Isaiah 9:6** *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.*

- Starts with a child
- A child who has authority
  - A child who grows in wisdom in how to use that authority.
  - *"He will be called"* indicates these descriptions are what others will see.
- Descriptions:
  - Wonderful
  - Counsellor
  - Everlasting father
    - i.e. Jesus revealed what the Father was like

- Prince of peace.

#### 4. How will we Know?

**Isaiah 9:7** *He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*

- Pointing to some time in the future.

ILLUSTRATION: Nebuchadnezzar's vision.

**Daniel 2:35** *Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.*



- Mountain that fills the earth

**Daniel 2:41-44** *Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.*

*"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.*

- This son that Isaiah foretold, who was to come, came that very first Christmas.
- He came to mend the schism
  - Lift burdens
  - Break bondages
  - Fight battles we could not win
  - Bring peace among people and nations.
- The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.
  - Zeal of the Lord refers to God's passionate commitment to
    - His glory
    - His people
    - His purpose.