

# Holy Trinity Bible Study - Isaiah Lesson #8c

Primary Sources:

Webb - [The Message of Isaiah](#), Barry G. Webb

Motyer – [The Prophecy of ISAIAH](#), J. Alec Motyer

## **Isaiah 8:17 – 9:7**

<sup>9</sup> Be broken, you peoples, and be shattered;  
give ear, all you far countries;  
strap on your armor and be shattered;  
strap on your armor and be shattered.

<sup>10</sup> Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing;  
speak a word, but it will not stand,  
for God is with us.

## **Fear God, Wait for the Lord**

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: <sup>12</sup> “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. <sup>13</sup> But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. <sup>14</sup> And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup> And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.”

<sup>16</sup> Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples. <sup>17</sup> I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. <sup>18</sup> Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion. <sup>19</sup> And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? <sup>20</sup> To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. <sup>21</sup> They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. <sup>22</sup> And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

**Reading:** [The Message of Isaiah pages 66-68](#)

## **Review outlines by Moyer**

“There are people within the people (E1, E2 bracketed by D1, D2), marked off by their deep reverence for the holy Lord (E1) and his holy presence among them (E2; on ‘sanctuary’, see below), and by their hearing and treasuring of his word (C1, C2). In the conflict of the nations, they are secure (A1, B1) and in the collapse of the nation they hold on to what God has spoken

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(A2, B2). They are not, apparently, immune or cloistered when calamity befalls the people of which they are members but, unlike the hopelessness of the rest, they have a sure word to hold on to.”

### **Questions to Consider**

#### **1. Who is Isaiah addressing in 8:9-22?**

He is addressing the faithful remnant.

“The name Immanuel here points forwards as well as back. It reminds us that in the midst of this land and people which are now descending into darkness, there is emerging a community of faithful believers. The land is their inheritance (8) and God is with them (10). So, despite the worsening situation, there is hope.

*Webb - The Message of Isaiah, Barry G. Webb, Page 65*

“‘A remnant shall return’ no longer means simply that there will always be survivors to continue the nation on earth but that there is a distinction between the secularized, politicized professing people of God and those, within that people, who turn to him in repentance and faith, who look to his word and obey it.”

*Motyer – The Prophecy of ISAIAH, J. Alec Motyer, Page 92*

#### **2. Why the urgency in Isaiah’s message?**

To warn and reassure the faithful about not falling into the schemes of the world so that they would not stumble.

“The reference to the strong hand of the LORD resting on Isaiah in verse 11 suggests the great importance of this oracle for the believing remnant. They have chosen rightly, but they must never cease to be vigilant. The alternative will always be there as a temptation.”

“Those who have rejected the clear message he has brought from God will turn in their lostness to the occult, and in so doing plunge themselves into ever deeper darkness and ruin (19, 21–22). Isaiah therefore sees the urgency of committing his teaching to his disciples. They will need it to turn to as the darkness closes about them (20), and they will preserve it for a future generation who may be more willing to hear (16).”

*Webb - The Message of Isaiah, Barry G. Webb, Page 66-67*

#### **3. What is the basis of Isaiah’s hope? (v17)**

His hope is based on his faith in God.

“if Isaiah has hope in this dark moment (and he does), it is not grounded finally in the disciples but in the LORD (17). Even the disciples may fail to live up to the expectations Isaiah has of them, but the LORD himself will never let him down.”

*Webb - The Message of Isaiah, Barry G. Webb, Page 67*

## Psalms 2:1-6

2 Why do the nations rage<sup>1</sup>  
and the peoples plot in vain?  
2 The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,  
3 "Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us."  
4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.  
5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,  
6 "As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill."

### **4. What lines is Isaiah drawing in verses 8:9-22?**

"There has been a marked sharpening of the demarcation between the faithful and unfaithful within the visible community of God's people, between those who respond to the word of God with obedient faith and those who do not, between the true and the false. This will happen more and more as the book runs its course until it becomes a major strand of its message.

*Webb - The Message of Isaiah, Barry G. Webb, Page 67*

### **5. What is the conspiracy that God is referring to in verse 12a? <sup>12</sup> "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy..."**

It is not specified. The word translated conspiracy in this passage means internal treason according to Motyer.

"The 'conspiracy' we do know about is that of the northern powers plotting to invade and terminate the Davidic monarchy. But since this actually was a conspiracy why should Isaiah and his group be instructed not to call it so? The reference could be to the 'alliance' (a possible meaning of the word) which Ahaz was negotiating with Assyria."

*Motyer - The Prophecy of ISAIAH, J. Alec Motyer, Page 94*

### **6. How was God calling the faithful to respond?**

"called to hold aloof from popular clamor for the supposed safety of political alliance and worldly armed strength.

*Motyer - The Prophecy of ISAIAH, J. Alec Motyer, Page 95*

### **7. What do the people of Judah fear and how does that differ from what God is calling the faithful to fear?**

The nation is in fear of the northern threat but the faithful are called only to fear God.

"it is not particularly important to know what the world fears; the important thing is

that the world should know what the believer fears, namely, the Lord. In the midst of a fearful people, Isaiah and his disciples are not fearless, but their fear is differently directed.

Motyer – *The Prophecy of ISAIAH*, J. Alec Motyer, Page 95

**8. In verse 14, what is the sanctuary that God offers believers?**

“Sanctuary is not a place of asylum but ‘a holy place’ (miqdāš), a place where God dwells in all his holiness. The sanctuary is the coming of the Lord to dwell among his people but, as in the tabernacle and in the temple, coming in all the reality of his holy presence

Motyer – *The Prophecy of ISAIAH*, J. Alec Motyer, Page 95

**Exodus 40:34**

<sup>34</sup> Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

**1 Kings 8:10**

<sup>6</sup> Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. <sup>7</sup> For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. <sup>8</sup> And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

*For this week, think about these passages. Specifically, the nature of the sanctuary offered in them by God in the light of the meaning of Sanctuary offered in Exodus 40:34 and 1 Kings 8:6-10. What do they refer to and what takes place there?*

**9. What is the nature of the sanctuary offered? (14-15)**

**10. What is the warning for us in these passages?**