

Isaiah 8 : Assyria will Invade Immanuel's Land

1/19/2020

Both verse 18 and Amos 3:7, provide us with a spiritual key of understanding as to how God uses the lives of his servants to reveal truth to both current and future generations.

A. An Object Lesson of Prophecy

v 1 - 4

Maher-shalal-hashbaz is the prophet Isaiah's second son. His conception, birth, and name are given as a witness to Ahaz of the near-term application of the prophecy given to him in the last chapter (Isa 7: 8-9, 14-15).

- v 1 *Take...a roll and write* -The scriptures are written under the direction of Almighty God.
Maher-shalal-hashbaz = 'hasten the prey' or 'make speed to the spoil' (cf 10:6).
- v 2 *Uriah* = the Lord is my light; *Zechariah* = the Lord remembers;
Jeberechiah = the Lord blesses
These are the good names of faithful men; Pro 22:1 & Ecc 7:1
- v 3 *the prophetess* is Isaiah's new bride (7:14); she has a *child of promise* (~ Gal 4:23) who is forenamed by God.
- v 4 The Assyrians will invade *Damascus* (Syria) and *Samaria* (the northern kingdom) before the child can say "mommy and daddy".

B. The Reason for Judgment

v 5 - 8

- v 6 The reason for the impending Assyrian judgment is found in verse 6.
The waters of Shiloah ('sending forth') are a type of the word of God which *this people refuseth*.
Shiloah is a soft flowing, little spring in Judah that runs from Mt. Zion (Ps 2:6) to Mt. Moriah (Gen 22:2). This pictures the connection of God's throne of holiness, with it's provision of the still waters of redemption and peace (Ps 23:2).
The people foolishly *refused* God's offer and chose the arm of flesh (v 6 - end of verse).
So God allowed the *strong waters* (v 7) of the Assyrian army to flood into Syria, Israel and parts of Judah: a stern warning to the southern king Ahaz.

- v 8 *thy land, O Immanuel* - Israel belongs to Jesus; the Jews get it thru him.

C. God's Two Rebukes

v 9 - 22

The Lord specifically rebukes the people for two transgressions. The first is evil alliances (v 9-12); the second is divination (v 19-22).

v 9-10 *Associate yourselves...and ye shall be broken* - i.e. "Do not associate with the ungodly for they will destroy your testimony".

hx: Israel had formed a *confederacy* (v 12)

spir: The church has entered into an ecumenical movement

doct: The Jews will regrettably join the antichrist, Dan 2:43

Evil alliances are always confounded, even if they "attempt" to use God's word. God does not *associate* his presence with such works. God's Spirit and His presence remain only with those who are his *by faith* (Hab 2:4). The faithful remnant may always say with confidence : *God is with us* (v 10).

v 11-12 Isaiah is instructed to separate from his "brethren" in name, Rom 2:28-29.

v 13 Great counsel for believers : *Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself*, 1 Pet 3:15.

This is the basis of authentic biblical faith.

v 14-15 & 17 The *only wise God* (1 Tim 1:17) hides himself from the outwardly religious.

see also - Isa 45:15

v 16-17 *Bind up the testimony* = keep the word of God close to you and look for Jesus when you read the Bible, i.e. *wait upon the Lord* .

v 19-22 The chapter closes with wise advice: avoid any association with spiritism, for it results in spiritual hunger, confusion, cursing, dimness, darkness and despair.

In sum : The Lord rebukes all people for both engaging in evil alliances and participating in divination. Safety comes from neither the 'world of the flesh' nor from the spirit-world. In times of trouble, deliverance comes only from the God *of the spirits of all flesh*, Num 27:16.