

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 16

Title: **Because He Waited**

Scripture: Isaiah 8: 18-19

Date: 12-14-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

**Isaiah 8: 11: For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying,...**

Be sure you get this or you can miss the instruction given. Everything from this point on is what the LORD spoke to Isaiah. Isaiah is merely repeating to us what the LORD said to him. Everything from this point on is the word of the LORD, not the word of Isaiah. This is the LORD speaking. If you really want to hear this personally then simply listen to this as the LORD speaking to you. But be sure you bear in mind, this is the LORD of hosts speaking.

**Isaiah 8: 12: Say ye not, A confederacy, to all *them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. 13: Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. 14: And he shall be for a sanctuary;***

As we saw last time, Christ is the Sanctuary in whom the believer finds refuge like that of the 6 cities appointed by God as cities of refuge for the manslayer in Israel. Christ is the Holy Sanctuary in whom the believer worships and communes with God like that holy sanctuary in the tabernacle in the wilderness. Christ is the Sanctuary wherein God's elect have always dwelled by his sovereign grace, and he is the Sanctuary in whom the believer dwells by the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit. Christ the Sanctuary was the one in whom the LORD separated and protected his people when the overflowing scourge of destruction passed through the land. The entire passage speaks of the LORD as being the only separation between his chosen remnant and utter destruction.

Noah was protected from God's wrath when he rained down destruction upon sinners in judgment for one reason: because Noah obeyed God and got in the Ark. **Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; 14: And he shall be for a sanctuary.** All the firstborn of Israel were spared on the night when God passed through Egypt for one reason: because those in Israel obeyed God and got in the house under the blood of the lamb. **Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary.**

The LORD of heaven and earth speaks to you and to me in the plainest terms possible. Destruction is coming. This world has refused the waters of Shiloah, the fountain of living waters, therefore the LORD bringeth upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, and his wrath shall be poured out. But for you who own the LORD of hosts to be your only refuge, to you a refuge he shall be. Now drop down to verse 16.

**Isaiah 8: 16: Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.**

Whose testimony is it? It is the word of the LORD. What can he gain from sinful wretches like you and I? He is not a man that he should lie. He says to us, "Lock away my promise in your heart. Mark it down. Etch it in stone. Inscribe my testimony and never forget it." "Believe me!" the LORD says.

His word is so sure and certain that he calls it a law. He instructs Isaiah to declare nothing else to his disciples, to declare this one word so emphatically, so dogmatically, so unapologetically, till it is sealed among his disciples. What word is that? It is the Testimony of the LORD.

This world is full of tricksters looking to make a quick buck. We have grown accustomed to knowing when something sounds too good to be true. We ask questions. We read the fine print. We research the credibility of all those involved. And we love testimonials--witnesses--who can assure us that we are not being defrauded.

The LORD gives this next word as a testimony so you know why it is certain that he shall be for a Sanctuary to those who put their trust in him. This is how you can be sure. Remember, this is still the LORD speaking.

**Isaiah 8: 17: And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him. 18: Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me *are* for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.**

The reason I keep emphasizing that this is the LORD speaking is because at this point, it is easy to get a bit confused. We understand it is the LORD speaking when we hear him say, "Sanctify the LORD of hosts and he shall be for a sanctuary." We can grasp it is the LORD of hosts speaking when we hear the command for us to, "Bind up the testimony." But then we come to this place and we hear the LORD of hosts say, "I will wait upon the LORD?" and "Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me?" These sound like the words of a man!

These are the words of a man. This is the testimony of the LORD of hosts declaring why you can be certain that he shall be for a sanctuary to you who look to him alone. It is because the LORD of hosts joined himself with the humanity of the children he purposed to save. The word of his promise is sure because everything which he requires of his children he did for his children. So all that remains for his children to do is rest in him and he shall be for a sanctuary.

None of God's elect could ever serve God in the perfection of faithfulness which holy God demands. None but one! There was a Man chosen by God from before the foundation of the world. A Man chosen by God to do for God and for his brethren what not one could do for themselves. God called that Man from eternity. God called that Man from his mother's womb. God called that Man, **Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.**

**Isaiah 49: 1: Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.**

**Listen to his testimony...**

**Isaiah 8: 17: And I will wait upon the LORD...**

You and I have a hard time waiting for anything. We sin if we get held up at a traffic light for no more than one minute. But listen to how he waited.

**Isaiah 8: 17: And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.**

There is more to this that I can even begin to enter into.

Be sure you understand that the Sanctuary for believers *is* a Man. He is a Man who is in every way just like you and I, sin being the one exception. He walked where you walk, was touched with the same feelings as you are touched with--he hungered, thirsted, grew weary, felt sorrow, felt pain, knew what it was to be deserted by those he loved. In fact, he was touched with the feelings with which we are touched with in a far greater manner than you and I are. Yet, in perfect fidelity Jesus Christ waited upon the LORD his entire life.

**Illustration:** You know how badly it hurts you when one of your children is injured and suffers. If you could take away the pain immediately you would.

Our Savior beheld the suffering due to the sin of his people as he walked this earth, yet he waited on the LORD 33 1/2 years until the hour appointed.

It had to be so. He had to be tempted like every man he came to save. He had to be taught of God like every man he came to save (his mental capacity grew just like those he calls his brethren.) He had to experience obedience as the Son of Man. He had to experience the weakness of the flesh and look to God alone for wisdom and strength just like every man he came to save. He had to be a witness--a martyr--to lay down his life to declare the name of God and sing praises to God in the midst of the church just like the children whom he came save.

"Our Lord partook of everything that belongs to man's nature, sin only excepted. As a man he was born an infant. As a man he grew from infancy to boyhood. As a man he yearly increased in bodily strength and mental power, during his passage from boyhood to full age. Of all the sinless conditions of man's body, its first feebleness, its after growth, its regular

progress to maturity, he was in the fullest sense partaker. We must rest satisfied with knowing this. To pry beyond is useless.”-- J.C. Ryle.

The difference is, in order to declare God just and the Justifier, and in order to be the complete Savior and High Priest of his brethren, the Man Christ Jesus had to do these things without sin, in perfect, righteous, obedience to God from the heart. And he did. But there is more to his righteous, faithful obedience than his obedience as he walked this earth. Please, please listen.

**Isaiah 8: 17: And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.**

God chose to declare his righteousness through the faithfulness of Christ Jesus (Ro 3.) God set him forth to be propitiation--a seat of mercy--where he would meet with his children.

That meant that Christ Jesus not only agreed to be the faithful servant of God by obeying the precepts of the law as the Representative of his people while he walked this earth, but it also meant that he must be the faithful servant of God and Representative of his people as he endured the eternal wrath of God in their place on the cross as he suffered as their Substitute.

Listen carefully and try to let this sink in until all you can do is rest and rejoice in it: In order for God to remain just, God in righteous judgment had to turn his face from our Substitute because Christ Jesus was made sin for us. Yet at the same time, in order for God to be the Justifier, Christ Jesus could never turn away his face from his God, not even in the midst of judgment.

Bind this to your heart as the most precious pearl, the rarest of all jewels, the unsearchable riches of Christ. God manifest his righteousness through the faithfulness of Christ. The Man Christ Jesus faithfully depended upon God to strengthen him and he went to Calvary's cross. There God hid his face from his elect, the house of Jacob, when he hid his face in righteous eternal judgment from his own Son, Christ Jesus our Savior. Yet, even when God turned his face from him in judgment, he cried out, “My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me.” The righteousness manifest in that phrase is that God justly forsook our Substitute, but it is also, in the Faithful One who yet cried out, “MY God!”

**Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God. They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away. How did he restore that which he took not away? **Isaiah 8: 17: And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.****

Now, do you want a testimonial that he shall be for a Sanctuary?

**Isaiah 8: 18: Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me *are* for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.**

- Behold, Christ Jesus
- Behold, Christ Jesus and the children whom the LORD gave him
- Christ and his people are the signs and wonders given from the LORD of hosts

Why is Christ Jesus a sign and a wonder? Because he is now dwelling in Mount Zion--at the right hand of the Father on high.

**Psalm 18: 6: In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears....19: He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me. 20: The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. 21: For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. 22: For all his judgments *were* before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.**

Why are his children signs and wonders? Because they dwell there with him.

**Ephesians 2: 4: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6: And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

The LORD of host is for a sanctuary for those who put their trust in him because he satisfied his own justice and justified his people himself and is risen--the Man the LORD our Redeemer.

**Isaiah 54: 7: For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. 8: In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. 9: For this *is as* the waters of Noah unto me: for *as* I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. 10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.**

**Isaiah 49: 15: Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. 16: Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me.**

The sign and wonder of all wonders are those he brings to behold him as he is who believe on him:

- Though their sins were as scarlet now they are white as snow; they were red like crimson now they are like wool.
- His children were dead in trespasses and in sins; now they have life eternal
- His children were spiritually blind and spiritually deaf; now by his power and grace they worship God in spirit and in truth.
- His children were lost and going astray; now by his gracious hand they are returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls.

**ARE YOU ONE OF HIS SIGNS AND WONDERS? ARE YOU ONE OF HIS WITNESSES?**

**Illustration:** Human beings. What did you do to become a human being? Is there anything you have to do to be a human? Likewise, we are "witnesses being--we *be* witnesses." What Christ has done for us and in us testifies of him without us doing one thing. A witness is a trophy he holds up to declare his amazing grace. **Isaiah 43: 8: Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears. 9: Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, *It is truth.* 10: Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11: I, *even I, am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour. 12: I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when *there was* no strange god among you: therefore ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I *am* God.**

Can I show you for sure that this whole passage is teaching us that we are sanctified because our Sanctifier became one with us? Turn to Hebrews 2: 10-18. You see the meaning of this word Sanctuary is the much same as Sanctification. Because Christ is our Sanctification he is our Sanctuary; he is our Sanctuary because he is our Sanctifieth us into himself. In his life: he witnessed to us, he trusted God Authoring and Finishing faith, and in glory now he says, Behold I and the children whom the Lord hath given me--we, in him as he is, are the signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD in Zion.

**Application: Sanctify the LORD of hosts--**I find nothing which causes me to see the LORD in the most splendid Light and higher than all than when I behold the great condescension he made to save his people. Most sinners will not bow to him, and will not submit to their brethren because they are too great to do so; yet to save his people, he who is God, made himself of no reputation, took the form of a servant, and became obedient even to the death of the cross. He made his people perfectly righteous and gave them faith to look nowhere else. Would you see the LORD of hosts as he is? He said, "Behold I." Would you see his amazing grace? He said, "Behold the children God hath given me." Do you see how amazingly righteous, loving, gracious, the LORD of hosts is! Such love never even enters the mind of sinners.

**Let him be your fear and your dread**--if you consider that he spared not his own Son but delivered him up that he might remain just and yet justify the people he chose to save, when you behold Christ who faithfully endured the wrath of God for God and his brethren, do you think the LORD will stand for anyone to glory in the strength of their own hand. If there is one we should fear it is him! He has every right to destroy those who will not submit to him.

**And he shall be for a Sanctuary for you**--After the great love that we have seen which he has for his children do you think he will allow any to even attempt to take you away from him! As you are enduring our light afflictions, when someone asks you, "Why are you waiting so patiently?" Tell them, "Because he waited." **"I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from Jacob, and I will look for him."**