**June 25, 2020**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**LET GOD BE YOUR FEAR**

**Isaiah 8:1-22**

***Isaiah 8:1 "Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a great roll, and write in it with a man's pen concerning Maher-shalal-hash-baz."***

In the previous chapter, the sign of the virgin having a child, would be their Messiah.

***Isaiah 7:14***

***14Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.***

We now see that the warnings Isaiah had given these people had not been heeded to the extent God wanted them to. God tells Isaiah to take a tablet and write the warning on the tablet with a natural pen that can be read with natural eyes. A similar message was given to Habakkuk.

***Habakkuk 2***

***1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.***

***2And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.***

***3For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.***

The symbolic message was just 4 words. The words being connected just shows that one will immediately follow the other. The meaning of Maher-shalal-hash-baz means, plunder speeds, and spoil hastens. Not only was this a sign to be posted and read, but Isaiah named his son this. This sign being posted was a sign to all the people, and not just to the king. Isaiah giving this name to his son was sign that his life and ministry were one.

***Isaiah 8:2 "And I took unto me faithful witnesses to record, Uriah the priest, and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah."***

Uriah was a priest who was not separated from the king. We will find in later chapters, that Ahaz had great influence on Uriah. It appears that at this writing he was respected as a true witness. The priesthood was to be Godly men, who were in direct contact with God and could not be controlled by the king. Uriah was not a strong priest He was a puppet priest who was heavily influenced be a wicked king to do things contrary to the will of God (2 Kings 16:1-16). The name "Zechariah" means Jehovah remembers. Twenty-eight men of the Old Testament were so named. This particular Zechariah seems to have been just an ordinary man of this time in extraordinary circumstances. The name "Jeberechiah" means Jehovah blesses. Again, God is using names and sons as signs of His salvation.

***Isaiah 8:3 "And I went unto the prophetess; and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the LORD to me, Call his name Maher-shalal-hash-baz."***

Continuing with salvation symbolism Isaiah’s unnamed wife is called a prophetess. All wives of prophets are not prophetesses. The office of prophetess is a call from God, and not a station in life received because of marriage to a prophet. Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Deborah (Judges 4:4), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14, 2 Chronicles 34:22), Noadiah (Nehemiah 6:14), Isaiah’s wife (Isaiah 8:3), and Anna (Luke 2:36) are all women called prophetess and used mightily by God in the prophetic ministry in various ways. The call to be a prophet, or prophetess, is an individual calling with salvation significance. The fact that a woman is married to a prophet does not make her a prophetess. The opposite is also fact. A man married to a prophetess does not make him a prophet. Isaiah’s unnamed wife is called a prophetess because she prophetically bare a son who name was a prophetic sign to Israel. Isaiah's son was named the same as the wording of the sign that Isaiah had posted.

***Isaiah 8:4 "For before the child shall have knowledge to cry, My father, and my mother, the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria shall be taken away before the king of Assyria."***

Isaiah is speaking of the swiftness with which this prophecy will come. Many children can speak mother and father by the time they are a year old.

***Isaiah 8:5 "The LORD spake also unto me again, saying,"***

***Isaiah 8:6 "Forasmuch as this people refuseth the waters of Shiloah that go softly, and rejoice in Rezin and Remaliah's son;"***

***Isaiah 8:7 "Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, [even] the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks:"***

We see from this, that God spoke to Isaiah more than once. People are many times spoken of as waters. This is the case hear. This is speaking of the armies that come. Shiloah sometimes means Jesus. To refuse the waters of Shiloah, would be to refuse to worship God who gave the water. Rezin was the king of Damascus at the time Pekah was king of Israel, and the same time of Jotham and Ahaz in Judah. Pekah was the son of Remaliah. This water coming up over the land is the flood of the Assyrian army. There could have been a natural flood that accompanied this, as well.

***Isaiah 8:8 "And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach [even] to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel."***

The word that gives this away as being an army and not a literal flood is "he". We will see this army continue on, until it is in Judah. They will be up to their neck with this army. There will be a remnant left, however. They do not go beyond the neck and totally destroy them. It does not speak of this army covering their head. "O Immanuel" is a cry similar to "come quickly Lord Jesus". "Immanuel" means God with us. It is as if he is saying, O God be with us.

***Isaiah 8:9 "Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces."***

If they resist, they would be fighting against the wishes of God. The army may be the Assyrians, but God allows this to happen to them, because of their idolatry.

***Isaiah 8:10 "Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God [is] with us."***

Plans made against God and His people will never work. The Assyrians will be the sufferers in the end. These people the Assyrians are attacking are God's people. This could not happen, had God not allowed it. The victory for Assyria is short-lived.

***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,"***

This is the LORD speaking to Isaiah. Isaiah was in the hand of the LORD. Isaiah was not an idolater. He was separated from the sins of this people. He was speaking all of this representing God. He was speaking as an ambassador for God with God's message to this people. God was his protection. It was as if he were hidden in the hand of the LORD.

***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."***

Isaiah was to say, "do not make a deal with these Assyrians". Isaiah is calling for the few who would, to stand up for God and be counted. He reminded them, their strength is in the LORD, and they should not fear what these worldly people could do to them.

***Isaiah 8:13 "Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and [let] him [be] your fear, and [let] him [be] your dread."***

"Sanctify" in the verse above means to separate the LORD and worship only Him. Fear God only. The fear, or reverence, of God is the beginning of wisdom. They were not to fear the Assyrians. This is a call to worship and fear only the LORD.

***Isaiah 8:14 "And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem."***

Those, who fear and reverence the LORD, will be hid in Him. He will be their safe haven. He will protect them from all harm. Those, who do not, will stumble and fall. The same Rock {Jesus Christ} which saves the believers is a stone of stumbling to those who do not believe. He is their downfall. He is saying that those of the house of Israel, or of Judah, who do not continue in faith in the LORD will fall. This message can be to the many Christians today who do not remain with the Lord. Jerusalem would fall then. Zion {the church of the Lord Jesus Christ} will fall now, if we do not fear and reverence the Lord and walk daily in His ways.

***Isaiah 8:15 "And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken."***

This is just a warning to those who are not hid in the LORD. It was impossible then, and it is impossible now, to live victorious lives, unless we find our sanctuary in the Lord.

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

A "disciple" is someone who has disciplined themselves to follow a particular teaching. In this instance, Isaiah is speaking of those who have disciplined themselves to walk with him. These are a dedicated few, who still loved and reverenced the LORD. They were of one mind with Isaiah. God wants them to protect the testimony. They are to bind it up to keep it safe.

***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."***

Isaiah was willing to stand firm and wait as long as was necessary. Isaiah is saying, that the house of Jacob had displeased the LORD, so the LORD would no longer look with favor upon them.

***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."***

We know that the names that were given to Isaiah's children were actually living messages to these people. This could be the signs spoken of here. Mount Zion is speaking spiritually of the church, but it, also, speaks of God's holy hill in Jerusalem.

***Isaiah 8:19 "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?"***

We know that king Saul had made the terrible mistake of seeking information from those with familiar spirits. We should learn a lesson from that, not to ever seek for answers from wizards and those who have familiar spirits. Those who do these things are dead and dying. They minister death to those who come to them. Jesus Christ ministers life. Isaiah was saying, God is life. Do not choose death over life.

***Isaiah 8:20 "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them."***

The law and the testimony is the Word of God. The Word of God is Light. There is no darkness where the true Word is. Those who do not live by the Word of God are filled with darkness and death.

***John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."***

***John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God."***

***John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."***

***John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men."***

***John 1:5 "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."***

The Word and the Light are the same One {Jesus Christ, as we know Him}.

***Isaiah 8:21 "And they shall pass through it, hardly bestead and hungry: and it shall come to pass, that when they shall be hungry, they shall fret themselves, and curse their king and their God, and look upward."***

This is speaking of those who walk through life in darkness. They curse their own life, because they are not filled with the Light which brings life, and hope. When these people are hungry, they have no one to go to, since they have rejected God.

***Isaiah 8:22 "And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and [they shall be] driven to darkness."***

Darkness brings eternal death, and no hope while you are alive.

***John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."***

***John 12:35 "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. In verse 1, we know that God told Isaiah to write on the great roll with what?
2. What was the message on the roll?
3. What did it mean?
4. What type of priest was he?
5. What does "Zechariah" mean?
6. Who is verse 3 calling a prophetess?
7. Was her name this because she was a prophet's wife?
8. What did she name her son?
9. When will this prophecy come to pass?
10. What country will be the aggressor?
11. What was the waters of the river that the Lord would bring upon them?
12. What does "Immanuel" mean?
13. What are the people saying, when they say, "O Immanuel"?
14. If they resist, they will be fighting against the wishes of \_\_\_\_.
15. What is God really saying to them in verse 12?
16. What does "sanctify", in verse 13, mean?
17. What is "fear in verse 13?
18. What one word covers what the Lord is to those who put their trust in Him?
19. What is He to those who will not believe?
20. What is a "disciple"?
21. What had happened to the house of Jacob?
22. What are the signs spoken of in verse 18?
23. Why should you not seek information from a wizard?
24. Who had made that mistake and paid dearly for his mistake?
25. What is the law and the testimony?