

Driven to Darkness

Isaiah Chapter Eight

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~ As we continue in our Spiritual Safari, I remain motivated and determined, yet somewhat anxious. I am concerned because, alarmingly, few Christians are concerned with availing themselves of these safari reports; each an epistle that the Lord Jesus Christ has prepared Personally for them from His Word by His Holy Spirit. Well, it's discouraging, but no deterrent. God Himself is responsible for safari distribution. See, I already know there aren't many genuinely saved, born again children of God in the church who are interested in the things of Christ; because God told me so — in His Word. I discovered a *LONG* time ago we have countless slews of self-professing believers; but most are not capable of accepting the truth of the Word of God in its entirety. When the subject turns to eschatology taught properly, correctly and completely, the number dwindles even lower to, oh, let's say, about thirty-six out of five thousand — and that's a very real, scientific, and legitimate number — and likely ultra-conservative; although I realize there are ghost readers who cannot be accounted for. But, either way, our expedition through the entire Word of God continues in this report with the prophet Isaiah, asking the same question he asked: *"who hath believed our report?"*

In our last report, we learned about these two sons of Isaiah, Shear-Jashub and Maher-shalal-hash-baz; and, if you have not read our previous safari report, I suggest you go back and do so now. The invasion of Immanuel's land by Assyria was predicted before either child was even weaned; and their names have a very special correlation to those future events — future from the time which we are studying, that is. Today, this series of prophecies, that runs from chapter seven through chapter twelve, and which all concern the reign of King Ahaz — a very Godless, bad and evil king — have been wholly fulfilled. We simply must keep this historical background in a proper perspective as we traverse this section of Scripture....

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.

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

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.

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.

5 The LORD spake also unto me again, saying,

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

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:

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.

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.

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

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,

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; 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.

15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

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, Shear-Jashub and Maher-shalal-hash-baz, whom the LORD hath given me, are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

~ God is against those who are against us, friends. That's always been a great comfort for me; because there are a whole bunch of people who claim they are Christians, but secretly despise and oppose Andrew C. Hunt – I can assure you of that. Paul asked, "... if God be for us who can be against us?" God was trying to reach this Godless king, Ahaz, who was ruling His people; and God communicated through His prophet Isaiah! Isaiah was to take a large tablet to write on, and hang it in a public place — like a billboard — for the entire nation — indeed, the entire world, to see. It was all written with a feeble man's stylus, too, by the way. Isaiah wrote his message so that the most humble person in the kingdom could see it, and read it, and understand the strange compound words Isaiah was naming his children — as commanded directly by the Lord. Now, if you do not find that utterly amazing, then I have no earthly idea what you might find amazing — probably only that which is not amazing at all — but I digress.

Uriah means, "*Jehovah is my light.*" Zechariah means "*Jehovah remembers*" - and Jerebiah means "*Jehovah will bless.*" So, the purpose of God is to be our light as He remembers us; and the offspring of Isaiah is the blessing of God who will never forget His people! Every aspect of everything that Isaiah did had a message for the children of Israel and the people of God. You might call Isaiah a picture parable. Jesus used this method all the time, of course. It's very effective; because it literally amazes me how some people will sit in front of the idiot box we call television and stare mindlessly at images that, under normal circumstances, in real life, they wouldn't waste five seconds with. Well, the Lord knows the inclinations of mankind; and Isaiah has a very potent, very harsh, extremely stern, and almost antagonistic message to get through to Israel on behalf of God. This is the way Isaiah does it; and he was completely successful.

The defense God gave Ahaz in the southern kingdom of Judah against the allied northern kingdom of Israel and Assyria was not due to any brilliant military strategies or superior weaponry, friends; it was due exclusively to His sovereign grace. Moreover, the waters of Shiloah in verse six are made in contrast to the waters of the strong rivers in verse seven; which is, apparently, the Euphrates river – because that's where Assyria was located. Well, the waters of Shiloah are softly flowing and gently rippling springs; but the waters of the Euphrates are a strong moving tide. Shiloah represents the grace of God; and the Euphrates speaks of judgment – and that's the message God is presenting. God permitted Assyria to cover the entire land, but never to overtake Jerusalem. Shakespeare said, "*... tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything.*"

Friends, if you have the blood-tipped ear of spiritual discernment, then you should be hearing something sweeter than beautiful music as the stream of the Word of God flows down between Mount Zion and Mount Mariah in this Spiritual Safari; because, even with as harsh as I can be, it's all a message of grace. The *ONLY* problem is that some are able to receive neither Isaiah's message – nor my messages. From the mount where Abraham would have offered Isaac to Golgotha, where they crucified Christ, all things speak of the grace of God. God spared Abraham's son, but He didn't spare His Own only begotten Son.

Then, in verse nine, God gives His warning to the nations that make an attempt on His people. God tells them they will never succeed in a plan against His plan and purpose for His children on this earth. So, to those of you who do not particularly care for my style of teaching, or my method of interacting around this forum on which I teach, my retort will be boastful: the problem is not with the Word of God, and the problem is not with me – the problem is most definitely with *Y-O-U*; however, if you are the one with that problem, then you likely don't read these reports – so, let's just move along.

Judah was in fear of the alliance Israel had made with Assyria; which, amazingly, was an alliance made in fear by Israel! In verse twelve, God tells Judah not to fear. Making said alliance ultimately caused the northern ten tribes of Israel to go into captivity — in Assyria. It was the beginning of calamity for the land itself — that they experience to this day. God tells us to fear Him and Him alone, and to look to Him and Him alone. God will be our salvation or He will be a stone of stumbling to us, friends. Let me tell you dear readers this: I have learned that when you fear God, you will never fear any man under *ANY* circumstances. Paul said, *"... we preach Christ crucified; to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greek it is foolishness."* Jesus said, *"he who falls on the Rock of Salvation shall be broken but on he whom the Rock falls shall be ground to powder."* We have two options: receive Christ as salvation; or reject Him and be judged. We sanctify the Lord of Hosts in our hearts in this Spiritual Safari, my beloved – and that's all we do.

We have simple, puerile thinking about God today; and the stench makes Him sick – make no mistake about that. There is a complete lack of reverence for the Lord Jesus Christ – even as self-professing believers incessantly spout irrelevant Bible verses and utterly disconnected passages in an attempt to validate their own religious philosophies. I see it *ALL* the time. Most people actually ridicule the things which are sacred to God – and then they wonder why sound doctrine ridicules them in return. Friends, I have a commission directly from God to do what I do; irrespective of whether or not you believe it, agree with it, understand it, accept it, like it –

or not. Sanctify the Lord Jesus Christ in your heart today by lifting Him up in His Holy Temple. That's my message....

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?

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.

~ God forbids His people from dabbling in Baal worship. All false religion uses isolated pieces and fractured parts of the Bible to form a religious theory. When people turn from God, they always go for that type of thing. Their religion is abnormal and unhealthy. There is a great turning to the occult today; and it is always done in the name of Jesus — but in the name of a Jesus that does not exist — because they don't know the Christ Jesus in Holy Writ. They espouse to be acutely aware of spiritual matters, and their main religious philosophy is called "*Historical-Spiritual*" theology; although there are other theologies of false doctrine. They're all over the place; and it ranges from the church of Satan, to Seventh Day Adventists, to the prosperity and social gospels.

Many are worshiping the devil without a clue; and all the while, they are self-professing believers claiming to be super-duper saints. They speak of being sinless, casting out demons, speaking in tongues, healing, laying on of hands, keeping the Torah, observing the Sabbath — and all manner of self-righteous foolishness. They never get around to glorifying our Savior. I say to you right now: leave those things alone; because, while the attraction of religion grows daily by leaps and bounds, God has given us a warning through Isaiah against it — in the last two verses. Those things lead to disobedience, spiritualism, dimness, darkness, and despair; and they will take you captive every time. I am teaching the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ according to Scripture — and — that's it. If you want something else, you are in the wrong place. May God have mercy on your soul....

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.

22 And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness ~

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