

Calamity and Hope

Text: Isaiah 8:1-8

Date: 9-6-20 Outdoor Service @ 10:30 am

Chapter 8 opens with the introduction of Isaiah's second son. His first son, Shear-jashub, meant a *remnant will return* and was indicative of the future promise of restoration. Isaiah and his son met Ahaz to reassure him that he didn't have to fear the Israel-Syria alliance because God would send a Redeemer. Now Isaiah speaks to the nation with a second sign through his second son. Whereas Isaiah had shown that Immanuel would come through the house of David, he will now tell us that a few faithful people will come out of the wicked nation. It is through Immanuel and the faithful remnant that God will accomplish His will and purposes. Darkness will truly be translated into light!

I. The sign of impending disaster (Isa. 8:1-4).

Truly the prophecy came to fulfillment: for the booty and spoil of Israel and Syria was carried away by Assyria. But this was just the beginning for the nation as a whole, for Judah was about to also be invaded by Assyria. When Judah saw what happened to Damascus and Samaria, they should have turned back to God as Isaiah had clearly told them to do. Yet, it appears that Uriah, one of the witnesses, instead obeyed Ahaz's orders and built an idol patterned after one in Damascus. This was after Assyria had defeated Syria. What shame and folly to rub idol worship in the face of God.

II. The warning to Judah of impending calamity (Isa. 8:5-8).

Two reasons then are given to show the certainty of the coming judgment on Judah: rejection of the Lord and rejoicing in defeat of the northern kingdom. If Ahaz had only trusted in God, the outcome would have been so much different. Thus, the Lord will act!

Instead of the gentle waters of the Lord's protection, Isaiah announces that the Lord will bring the mighty flood waters of the Assyrian army. Instead of fear and respect for God, the nation trusted in the opposition only to have them overrun them.

III. Hope of Immanuel (Is. 8:8).

Isaiah invoked the name attached to the sign that he had given to King Ahaz in 7:14. Why?

- This land that Assyria would not be able to conquer would be the land that Immanuel would be born into (Mic. 5:2), the land in which He would bring great light (Isa. 9:2; Matt. 4:16), the land that Immanuel will set His future kingdom upon (Isa. 9:6-7; chapt. 11; 61:3), and the land in which Christ came to save His people from their sins. This is not Assyria's land. This is not the enemies of God's land. This is not the Muslim's land. This is Immanuel's land!
- Isaiah's cry is for Immanuel to come and save His people from this impending judgment.
- Isaiah cries for Immanuel as he looks to Him who is to come as though He were already on the earth. That is faith!
- This land will never be completely destroyed for God had promised the birth of Immanuel and through Him the preservation of Jerusalem and Zion.
- Isaiah believed in the promised word of God.

Isaiah trusted God even though he never saw the complete fulfillment of God's promise. Yet Isaiah clearly saw the glory of Christ in chapter 6. He also saw the glory of the Redeemer (John 12:41). **The vision of God in the temple combined with the promise of the sign of Immanuel transformed Isaiah into a man of faith. The name Immanuel assured the listeners that God had not forgotten His covenant people nor the promises and that He would be with them.**

Therefore, I conclude that what Isaiah saw in the vision that came to him (1:1) was the glory of the Messiah; he saw the Word of God as spoke by the Holy Spirit. When Isaiah witnessed the downfall of Judah and the house of David as a political system, the prophet spoke repeatedly of the hope that would be secured through Immanuel, the Branch, the Light in the darkness, the Servant who would be virgin-born.

While these promises were at the time for the nation of Judah, we find in Gen. 12:2-3 that through this nation all the world families would be blessed. God has not forgotten the church and the believers here today. We rest in the truth that God will keep His Word because He kept it when Immanuel came to this earth in the Gospel accounts.

Just as God fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah's second son in front of all people to clearly see; so God would be faithful to fulfill the prophetic sign of Isa. 7:14. "Seeing that Maher-shalal-hash-baz had been born in accordance with the prophecy, they could be sure that in His own good time God would fulfill the promise concerning the virgin, and that she would bear a son" (Young 304).

How does Isaiah 8:1-8 apply to me?

1. Just as God fulfilled clearly biblical prophecy in Isaiah, just as God fulfilled the clear prophecy of Immanuel, so God will be faithful to fulfill prophecy in the future.
2. God is clearly with those who faithfully trust in His word.
3. God's judgment does not impede His promises to His people.

What does this passage reveal about the character and nature of God?

1. God is faithful in the dealings with His people. He is faithful to keep His word. He is faithful to fulfill His prophecies.
2. God's promise of the birth of Immanuel shows that neither the land nor the city will be completely destroyed. The God who has promised the birth of Immanuel is the same God who will preserve and protect the land in which He was born and Zion to which He will return (Isa. 59:20).
3. No nation can stop God's plan.

What are some "call to action" truths from Isaiah 8:1-8?

1. Just as Isaiah and the small remnant trusted that God was with them and that Immanuel would come, so we should place our total confidence in God during these increasingly wicked days.
2. Live in light of: "If God be for us, who can be against us?"
3. The word Immanuel assured the remnant that God had not forgotten His covenant. We should believe in the names of God and rest in the promises attached to them.