

## Isaiah 8:11-9:2

“To the Teaching and to the Testimonies”

1

## Isaiah 8:11-9:2

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: <sup>12</sup> “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. <sup>13</sup> But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. <sup>14</sup> And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup> And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.”

2

## Isaiah 8:11-9:2

<sup>16</sup> Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples. <sup>17</sup> I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. <sup>18</sup> Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion. <sup>19</sup> And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? <sup>20</sup> To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

3

## Isaiah 8:11-9:2

<sup>21</sup> They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. <sup>22</sup> And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

4

## Isaiah 8:11-9:2

<sup>9</sup>. But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

5

## Historical Context

- Around 735bc when Israel and Judah were separate Kingdoms.
- Judah had a wicked King (Ahaz) and Judah itself was also turning toward wickedness.
- It was a time of war and devastation.

6

## Historical Context: Ahaz

---

### 2 Chronicles 28:1-4

And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as his father David had done, <sup>2</sup> but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He even made metal images for the Baals, <sup>3</sup> and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree...

7

## Two Types of Responses

---

**Chaos is in the land gives rise to two vastly different responses:**

1. *The first response is the calloused rejection of God (Ahaz and the Unbelieving Judeans)*
2. *The second response is the fear of the Lord and trust in His Word and Promises in spite of the circumstances (Isaiah and the Remnant)*

**External circumstances reveal what is in the heart and what we trust in .**

8

## First Response: Calloused Rejection of God

---

**Ahaz and the faithless people of Judah are like the shrub in the desert that only bears thorns.**

- **Isaiah 7:2** "When the house of David was told, 'Syria is in league with Ephraim,' the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind."
- Ahaz and the people of Judah reject the promise and Word of God
- The Judeans reject God and His Word and go after the "mediums and necromancers" (Isaiah 8:19)
- Outcome: Distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish (Isaiah 8:21-22)

9

## Second Response: Trust in God's Word

---

- The Response of Isaiah and the Remnant (Isaiah 8:16)
- *The difference between the righteous and the wicked is not the circumstances of their lives, but their responses to those circumstances.*
- Command (v.13): "The Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread."
- Response (v.17): "I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him."

10

## Second Response: Trust in God's Word

---

What does it look like to wait for him?

- "Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples." (v.16)
- "To the teaching and to the testimonies." (v.20)

*The reason this Word is so powerful is that it points us to the Dawn, Jesus Christ Himself. The testimonies lead us by the hand to Jesus.*

11