

Faithful In the Storm

Isaiah 8:11-18

- I. A warning for then, and for now (Isaiah 8:1).
 - A. "Do not call conspiracy what they call conspiracy..."
 1. How do we define right and wrong?
 - (a) God's values and cultural values often conflict.
 2. Context: God had promised to protect his covenant people.
 - (a) They were commanded not to make alliances.
 - (b) They were not to make covenants with pagan peoples.
 - (c) When threatened by enemies, who would they trust?
 - (d) Would they trust in God, or would they trust in Egypt?
 3. The prophets said, "Do not go to Egypt. Trust in the Lord."
 - (a) Some saw that as conspiracy against Judah.
 - (b) Actually, it was faithfulness to God.
 - (c) This is one reason why the prophets were persecuted.
 - B. "Do not fear what they fear."
 1. "Do not fear Assyria. Fear God (Isaiah 8:13). Trust in him.
- II. A sanctuary is a consecrated place, a place of refuge and protection.
 - A. God is a sanctuary for those who trust in him (Isaiah 8:14)
 1. But for Israel and Judah (who are not trusting in him) ...
 - (a) He will be a stone that causes them to stumble.
 - (b) A rock that makes them fall, a trap and a snare.
 2. Why? Because relationship with God requires trust.
 - (a) Obedience to God sometimes seems irrational to world.
 - (b) "Assyria is scary! What do you mean don't get help from Egypt?"
- III. Isaiah is prophesying about Jesus, the stone over which people will stumble.
 - A. He is the precious cornerstone (I Peter 2:4-6).
 1. A cornerstone is precious because it is cut precisely.
 - (a) Jesus was perfected through suffering (cut, chiseled).
 - (b) We are perfected through suffering, through trials.
 - (c) Sometimes trials make people stumble.
 - B. People would stumble over God's cornerstone (I Peter 2:7-8)
 1. The builders (religious leaders) would reject the cornerstone.
 2. God's chosen are those who trust the cornerstone.
 - (a) Those who align their lives with his through "trust and obey."
 3. We wait (Isaiah 8:17). We are a sign from the Lord (Is.8:18)
 - C. Application: (I Peter 2:1-3)
 1. "Like newborn babies, crave the pure spiritual milk (the Word) so that by it you may grow up in your salvation..."
 2. Motivation: "now that you've tasted that the Lord is good!"