

Isaiah 8:11-13
March 18, 2018

Open with Prayer

HOOK:

Q: If someone came up to you, put their hand on your shoulder or forearm and made eye contact with you, what do you think you'd be feeling? What would you be sensing? [Let people engage]

If you were with us last week, the Lord spoke to Isaiah using figures of speech to convey the consequences His people will face for not putting their trust in Him. Isaiah gave three comparisons of what the people of God could have had if their trust were in Him versus who they chose. Moreover, the picture Isaiah began painting for them spoke of their future judgment when Assyria would conquer Syria, then invade both the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom, and when eventually Babylon would take Judah into exile.

Transition: Now that the Lord has conveyed His judgment of what is to come, we continue our study in Chapter 8 in which we see the Lord addressing Isaiah specifically. I want us to continue to consider that All of us CAN be inspired to maintain a strong faith in God BY remembering the ATTRIBUTES of God that we see in today's study. No matter how hard our circumstances can get, these ATTRIBUTES will remind us of why placing our faith in God is the only way to go! Let's tackle v.11-13.

BOOK (NIV 1984):

V.11:

- The LORD spoke to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people (His people, but many in both Israel and Judah refused to believe He would keep His promise). He said:

V.12:

- "Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it.

V.13:

- The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread,

LOOK:

As we draw near to God, let's remember His attributes. Let's be reminded to remember WHO HE IS such that our faith would be unwavering. Our trust and faith should be in Him alone.

Close in Prayer

Commentaries for Today's Lesson:

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Comforted* (p. 35). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

They chose a snare instead of a sanctuary (Isa. 8:11–13). God warned Isaiah not to follow the majority and support the popular pro-Assyrian party. Even though his stand was looked upon as treason, Isaiah opposed all foreign alliances and urged the people to put their faith in the Lord (7:9; 28:16; 30:15). The Jewish political leaders were asking, “Is it popular? Is it safe?” But the prophet was asking, “Is it right? Is it the will of God?”

When you fear the Lord, you don't need to fear people or circumstances. Peter referred to this passage when he wrote, “But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. ‘Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.’ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord” (1 Peter 3:14–15, NIV). Isaiah compared the Lord to a sanctuary, a rock that is a refuge for believers but a snare to those who rebel. The image of Messiah as a rock is found again in 28:16 (and see 1 Peter 2:4–7 and Rom. 9:33). “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1).

Martin, J. A. (1985). *Isaiah*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1051). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

8:11–13. The Lord had promised to be with His people (v. 10), but many in both Israel and Judah refused to believe He would keep His promise. **The LORD** warned Isaiah **not to** be like many of those **people** (v. 11). Again Isaiah emphasized that the people of Judah should not be afraid of the Aram-Israel alliance or of the Assyrian threat looming on the horizon (v. 12). Rather they were to be afraid of **the LORD Almighty. He is the One** they should **fear** and **dread** (v. 13; cf. **fear** and **dread** in v. 12 and see the comments on “fear” in Deut. 4:10).