

ISAIAH 8 vs 1

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Watch **Israel** and **Judah** – greatly blessed by God. **Israel** = **Ephraim** who received the promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, promised to become a commonwealth of nations, **Manasseh** promised to become a great nation; and **Judah** promised the law giver Messiah. Isaiah is prophesying around 750BC when the 10 northern tribes are carried away by the king of Assyria... to become the 10 Lost tribes of the **House of Israel**... carrying with them all the birthright promises of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; leaving the **House of Judah** and Benjamin... those known as the Jewish people... to be carried into their own Babylonian captivity 150 years later.



The Two Houses of **Israel**.

The Two Houses **ruled by God**

¹ Then the LORD said to me, Take a great scroll, and write in it with a man's pen concerning **Maher-shalal-hashbaz / in other words, literally: hurry to the spoils; plunder quickly.**

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

³ And I went to the prophetess; and she conceived and bare a son. Then the LORD said to me, Call his name **Maher-shalal-hashbaz.**

⁴ For before the child will have knowledge to cry, PAPA, MAMA / and that's pretty young; and not very old, right?

the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria, will be taken away to the king of Assyria / citizens of the northern 10 tribes of Israel thought to be secure and formidable; will be carried away.

⁵ The LORD spoke also to me again, saying,

⁶ Since these people rejected the waters of Shiloah that flow softly, and rejoice in Rezin and Remaliah's son / since they did not recognize and were not thankful for the LORD's soft touch... as He led them. Instead, they foolishly chose...the

ancient Babylonian Talmud says: Rezina, that is Peka; and one of them, the father or the son... was in treacherous alliance with the king of Assyria. Things don't change much, they rejoiced in pretenders in politics.

7 Now therefore, Watch, the LORD brings upon them the waters of the Euphrates, strong and many, and the king of Assyria, and all his splendor and he will overflow all its channels, and all its banks / God can use the predictable egos of the arrogant to accomplish His will; the armies of the king of Assyria will advance like a tsunami:

8 and he will pass through Judah; he will overflow and go over, he will reach even to the neck and the stretching out of its wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel / all the way to Jerusalem, the capital; Israel's neck was supposed to be connected to the head! **Oh God is with us!** Oh, really? Apparently, that was a favorite vain repetition--just an empty phrase, lip-service used by the rebellious, who had disengaged their brains, who departed from leaning on the living God; instead preferred their grand manmade traditions.

So somewhat tauntingly, we read...

9 Associate yourselves, O people; and you will be broken in pieces and listen up, all you far countries: gird yourselves / buckle up for battle, and you will be broken in pieces / here, the Lord says to His people... make your alliances with the world; turn from Me, and discover what they really think of you; as God disciplines His rebellious people, sending them through the nations... the Lord has a word for them; and the Lord, knowing people don't always listen; He will say it a second time just in case some did not hear.

gird yourselves, and you will be broken in pieces.

10 Take counsel together, and it will come to nothing / you stubborn hardheads, speak the word / speak what word? Well, their favorite insolent word: **Immanuel!** for God is with us / oh, really? **and it will not stand.**

11 For the LORD spoke thus to me with a strong hand and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, / Isaiah says, what the Lord next spoke, was like the firm hand of fatherly discipline... guiding His child,

12 Say not, A coalition, to all whom this people will say, A coalition / the Lord says to Isaiah: don't believe the news pundits or popular opinion polls;

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do **not** fear their fear, and do **not** dread it / that's the **WARNING!**

¹³ **For the LORD of hosts He is holy** / Sanctify = to set apart; to define for God's purposes. Jesus said, **Father, sanctify them in Thy word; Thy word is truth**. The LORD is set apart in us... when we get to know Him; and the best way to get to know Him is: **listen to His words...**



let Him be your fear,



let Him be your dread / the LORD of Hosts Himself! He ain't associating and in alliance with anyone. And this is a great promise. If He is who we fear most; If He is who we dread most... then who can oppress us down here?



¹⁴ **And He will be a sanctuary** / a place of safety -- that's the **PROMISE!**

He will be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence, to both the houses of Israel / to whom? **Both** In Hebrew: **shnayim**; it is the same word used describing: Noah's **two** by **two**...

Here, the LORD speaks promises to the **TWO Houses of Israel**. **Can you find the TWO Houses of Israel?**

1

There is **Ephraim's Israel** the younger son of Joseph – he was ½ Egyptian. And to him **were given all the promises of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**. None of the 10 north tribes were Jewish.

2

There is **Judah's Israel**. he is the father of the Jewish people of the 2 tribes in the south, Judah is the ancient father of the lineage of Jesus the Messiah.

He will be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence, to both the houses of Israel and a trap with a noose for a snare to the residents of Jerusalem.

¹⁵ **And many among them will stumble, and fall, and be broken,**



and be snared, and be taken / that's the **PROPHECY!** Now, with this prophecy complete, the LORD speaks to Isaiah, the prophet.

And you?!

¹⁶ **Bind up the testimony seal the law among My disciples** / bind the personal statements and the eyewitness evidence to yourself; do your part in staying connected; the

students of the Lord are not anarchists promoting violence; those who can hear, who are taught by the Lord; guard His law of love in your hearts.

17 I will wait upon the LORD, and I will look for Him who hides His face from the house of / rebellious Jacob. Isaiah responds to: the warning, and the promise, and the prophecy; Isaiah lets the LORD know he, too is listening:

Isaiah says, though both Houses... though all Israel turn away.

18 Look! I and the children whom the LORD has given me, are signs and wonders / in Hebrew: **ot**; describing why God created the stars; **signs** contain valuable information pointing a direction to travel; pay attention to the signs! The second word is: **mopet**; portents, awesome events; used sparingly in the OT. **Jeremiah, recalls the wonders at the exodus** from Egypt; and last by Joel, [describing wonders in the heavens](#)... prior to when the Gentiles come to an end.

signs and for wonders in Israel, from the LORD of hosts, who dwells in mount Zion / Isaiah and those following him; they are **ruled by God**; the **true ISRAEL** -- not only **in word**; but also **in deed**. From the Lord who dwells in the legendary City of David; where the flock of God gathers; His people are **signs and wonders** wherever the **House of Israel** went throughout the world; particularly to become the great commonwealth of nations and great nation at the end **pointing to His Testimony and His Law.**

Now, the Lord God continues, having paid attention to Isaiah's response...

19 when they say to you, consult those who have familiar spirits, mediums and spiritists who peep and mutter / strangers who say stuff like; I heard you say you will wait on the Lord, and look for Him. But you should check out those possessed with demons - who can impersonate familiar people, including relatives. You know, Uncle Fred or Aunt Wilma who were mostly bone-heads in life; suddenly, they are sheer geniuses in death?! What's that about? Or all those hocus pocus workers, who sound incredibly spiritual, if all you hear is only half of what they say!

Should not the people consult their God? and not the dead for the living? / consult demons and the dead, even dead saintly people for the living? **NO**, stupid asses!

20 To the Law and to the Testimony / to love the Lord GOD with your heart, mind, and spirit, your whole being; and as He loved us, love one another. Jesus is the Testimony of God. We are to know His personal statements. We are to follow Him; to learn from Him; what He said; He's the good Teacher.

if they speak **not according to this word** / God's word -- God's law, God's testimony... what the LORD God spoke. If they foolishly prefer listening to those who peep and mutter; even today;

it is because there is **no light in them.**

²¹ **And they will pass through life hard pressed and hungry and it will be when they hunger, they will be enraged, and curse their king and their God, **when they look upward**** / through life's trials and troubles... in difficulty; stumbling about. Matthew Henry says, Those who exit the way of God; enter the way of no good! They will not hunger for truth; nor for the word of God; but will aggravate God's wrath; they trifle with their God; and for these hard heads, things just go from bad to worse;

²² **and look to the earth and see only trouble and darkness, and distress will shadow them driven away into the dark.** / John Wesley says, having found no help from heaven... they turn their eyes downward, and nothing but despair presents itself; the absence of light will follow them; they will be without a ray of hope, as they are forcefully pushed; or shoved, into the dark.