

A STUDY OF ISAIAH

The People Walking in Darkness

Lesson 7 · Isaiah 8:1-9:7

Name _____ Date _____

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness.

Isaiah 9:2

WHERE WE'RE GOING TODAY

- 1. Speeding to the plunder · 8:1-10
- 2. Fear only Him · 8:11-15
- 3. Go to God's instruction · 8:16-22
- 4. A child born for us · 9:1-7
- 5. Looking to Christ · Matt 4:12-17

WHERE WE ARE

About _____ BC. Ahaz has turned down God's offer of a _____ and sent the temple's silver and gold to _____ of Assyria. Rezin of _____ and Pekah of _____ are still a threat, and Jerusalem is full of fear and _____. Assyria's armies are already moving west toward Israel and Aram.

The question this passage answers: when the darkness comes, where will you look for _____?

1 SPEEDING TO THE PLUNDER (8:1-10)

Then the Lord said to me, "Take a large piece of parchment and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-shalal-hash-baz."

Isaiah 8:1

It was large and _____, written in plain letters anyone could read. The CSB's footnote translates the name _____ to the Plunder, _____ to the Spoil.

TWO WITNESSES (8:2)

Witness	Who he was	Read it in
Uriah the priest	Later builds Ahaz a copy of a pagan _____ the king saw in _____	2 Kings 16:10-11
Zechariah	Most likely Ahaz's _____	2 Kings 18:2

Neither man was Isaiah's _____. When the name came true, nobody at court could say Isaiah had written it _____.

Then the placard becomes a _____. Isaiah's wife, *the _____*, gives birth to a son, 8:3. *Before the boy knows how to call 'Father,' or 'Mother,' the wealth of _____ and the spoils of _____ will be carried off to the king of Assyria,* 8:4. A child says "Daddy" somewhere around his first _____.

HOW FAST IT CAME TRUE

Year	What Tiglath-pileser did
734 BC	Marched down the _____
733 BC	Stripped _____ from Israel, 2 Kings 15:29
732 BC	Took _____

The boy's name had come _____. The next oracle is harder news for Judah.

TWO WATERS (8:6–8)

The water	Where it came from	What it stands for
<i>The slowly flowing water of Shiloah</i>	The _____ spring, where Solomon was anointed king	God's quiet promise to _____'s house
<i>The mighty rushing water of the Euphrates</i>	The great river to the east	<i>The king of _____ and all his glory</i>

Commentators divide over who *these people* are: the _____ kingdom, which had walked away from David's line, or _____, which refused the quiet water by sending for Assyria. Either way the trickle was _____.

The flood pours into Judah, *reaching up to the _____*, 8:8. In 701 BC Sennacherib captured *all the fortified cities of Judah*, 36:1, but he couldn't take _____.

I *Its flooded banks will fill your entire land, Immanuel!*

Isaiah 8:8

The land belongs to the child of 7:_____. A Hebrew writer speaks of "your land" that way about a _____ or about _____, and almost never about anyone else. In Hebrew, *God is with us* in 8:10 is the name itself, _____.

2 FEAR ONLY HIM (8:11-15)

God speaks to Isaiah *with great* _____, 8:11. The commands that follow are _____; the prophet and the few who believe him are being set _____ from the crowd.

Do not call everything a conspiracy that these people say is a conspiracy. Do not fear what they fear; do not be terrified.

Isaiah 8:12

Jerusalem was full of _____, and Isaiah himself was probably the subject of one. A prophet who tells the king not to trust his allies sounds a lot like a _____.

WHERE TO PUT YOUR FEAR (8:12-13)

Do not	Instead
Call everything a _____	Regard only the Lord of Armies as _____
Fear what they _____	Only _____ should be feared
Be terrified	Only he should be held in _____

Isaiah learned that in the _____ room, 6:3.

He will be a sanctuary; but for the two houses of Israel, he will be a stone to stumble over and a rock to trip over, and a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Isaiah 8:14

ONE GOD, TWO OUTCOMES (8:14-15)

For those who fear Him	For everyone else
A _____, the word for the tabernacle and temple	A _____ to stumble over and a _____ to trip over
God Himself becomes their _____	A _____ and a snare

God is the same God in both halves of the verse. The difference is how you treat His _____.

3 GO TO GOD'S INSTRUCTION (8:16-22)

Bind up the _____. *Seal up the* _____ *among my disciples*, 8:16. The nation has stopped listening, just as 6:_____ said it would. So the word is sealed like a valuable document and entrusted to a small circle of _____.

I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob. I will wait for him.

Isaiah 8:17

Hiding the face is the opposite of the priestly _____, *may the Lord make his face shine on you*, Numbers 6:25. Isaiah doesn't pretend God's face is shining, and he keeps _____ for Him.

THREE NAMES, ONE MESSAGE (8:18)

Name	Meaning
Isaiah	"The Lord _____"
Shear-jashub	"A remnant will _____"
Maher-shalal-hash-baz	The _____ is coming fast

Every time someone in Jerusalem called one of them by name, they heard the _____ again.

When they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the spiritists who chirp and mutter," shouldn't a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?

Isaiah 8:19

A medium claimed to call up the _____, as the woman at _____ did for Saul, 1 Samuel 28:7–8. Isaiah mocks the whole business; the spirits *chirp and mutter* like _____. Ahaz himself had sacrificed to the gods of _____ and built altars on every street _____ in Jerusalem, 2 Chronicles 28:23–24.

Go to God's instruction and testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, there will be no dawn for them.

Isaiah 8:20

A voice that contradicts what God has said has no _____ in it, however _____ it sounds.

The chapter ends where that road ends. They look up and find nothing; they look down and see *only distress*, _____, and the *gloom of affliction*, 8:21–22. Ahaz wouldn't look up for a _____, and now his people look up and find nothing.

4 A CHILD BORN FOR US (9:1–7)

Chapter 9 picks up right where chapter 8 left off.

Nevertheless, the gloom of the distressed land will not be like that of the former times when he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali. But in the future he will bring honor to the way of the sea, to the land east of the Jordan, and to Galilee of the nations.

Isaiah 9:1

In the Hebrew Bible, this verse is the _____ line of chapter 8. Its words for *gloom* and *distress* are the same words that ended 8:_____. Isaiah means the two should be read _____.

Zebulun and Naphtali, the tribes around the Sea of _____, were the _____ part of the promised land to fall to Assyria, 2 Kings 15:29. It sat on the border, open to foreign traffic, which is why Isaiah calls it *Galilee of the* _____. God promises _____ to the very region that fell first.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness.

Isaiah 9:2

Isaiah writes it as though it had already _____, because he's certain God will do it.

THREE REASONS FOR JOY, EACH BEGINNING "FOR" (9:4–6)

Verse	The reason
9:4	God shatters the oppressor's _____, <i>just as you did on the day of</i> _____
9:5	The boots and bloody uniforms of war are thrown into the _____
9:6	A _____ <i>will be born for us, a son will be given to us</i>

Gideon's three _____ won a battle only God could have won, Judges 7:2–7, with men from _____ and _____ in his army, Judges 6:35.

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

THE FOUR NAMES (9:6)

Name	What it tells you
Wonderful Counselor	Ahaz took bad _____ and followed it. <i>Wonderful</i> in the Old Testament nearly always describes what _____ does.
Mighty God	Isaiah gives the same title to the Lord Himself in 10:_____.

Name	What it tells you
Eternal Father	He cares for His people the way a _____ does, and He never _____.
Prince of Peace	He brings the peace of 2:_____.

Some soften *Mighty God* to "godlike _____." The Child is born, so He's _____. His name is *Mighty* _____.

He will reign on the throne of _____ and over his kingdom ... from now on and _____, 9:7. No son of Ahaz fits that, _____ included. This is the promise to David, your _____ will be established forever, 2 Samuel 7:16.

The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this, 9:7. Ahaz's plan depended on a _____ to Assyria; this one depends on the Lord's own _____.

5 LOOKING TO CHRIST

Seven _____ later, a preacher from Nazareth went to live in _____ by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, Matthew 4:13.

The people who live in darkness have seen a great light, and for those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.

Matthew 4:16

From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come _____," 4:17. The light dawned first in the region Assyria had stripped _____.

THE APOSTLES FIND ISAIAH 8 IN JESUS

Isaiah	New Testament	What it says
8:17–18	Hebrews 2:13	Jesus says, <i>Here I am with the _____ God gave me</i>
8:14	1 Peter 2:8	Jesus is a _____ to stumble over, and a rock to trip over
8:12–13	1 Peter 3:14–15	<i>In your hearts regard _____ the Lord as holy</i>

Isaiah was told to regard the Lord of Armies as holy. Peter says that Lord is _____.

6 APPLYING THE TEXT

Put a check by the one you most need to work on this week.

- ☐ **Don't let the crowd set your fears.** Jerusalem panicked over every rumor; your news feed does it faster. When the noise rises this week, ask whether you've spent more time with the rumor or with the Holy One.
- ☐ **The same God is a sanctuary or a stone.** You'll either find shelter in Him or trip over Him, and the difference is whether you treat Him as holy. Jerusalem had the temple and still stumbled.
- ☐ **Take every voice to the word.** A horoscope "just for fun," a teacher who's popular, a feeling that morning. *If they do not speak according to this word, there will be no dawn for them.* Hold it up to Scripture.
- ☐ **Wait for the Lord when His face is hidden.** Isaiah didn't fill the silence with something else. Keep reading, keep praying, and stay close to other believers. How long have you been willing to wait?

7 FOR DISCUSSION

1. What did the name *Maher-shalal-hash-baz* mean? Why do you think God had Isaiah write it in public, before witnesses, before the boy was even born?

2. Compare *the slowly flowing water of Shiloah* in 8:6 with *the mighty rushing water of the Euphrates* in 8:7. What does each stand for, and what does the contrast say about the choice Judah made?

3. How can the same God be *a sanctuary* to some and *a stone to stumble over* to others (8:14)? Read 1 Peter 2:6–8. How does Peter apply Isaiah's words?

4. Isaiah 8:21–22 ends with people looking up and looking down and finding only darkness. Why does turning away from God's word end there? How does 9:1 answer it?

5. When you face a hard decision, how much of what you do before deciding involves an open Bible? What do you consult first?

6. Is there something you're afraid of mostly because everyone around you is afraid of it? What would it look like this week to regard the Lord alone as holy and fear Him instead?

NEXT WEEK

Lesson 8 · The Axe and the Hand That Swings It · Isaiah 9:8–10:34

The northern kingdom refuses to learn from its losses, and a refrain tolls through four stanzas of judgment: *his hand is still raised to strike*. Then God turns to Assyria, *the rod of my anger*, and the empire that flooded Judah starts boasting that it did it all alone. Isaiah answers with a question every proud power should hear: *Does an ax exalt itself above the one who chops with it?*

Your assignment: read Isaiah 9:8–10:34. Underline every place the refrain *his anger has not turned away, and his hand is still raised to strike* appears, and count them.

NOTES