

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 14

Title: God Is With Who?

Scripture: Isaiah 8: 9, 10

Date: 11-30-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

The believer has always been the true minority in this world; always looked down upon; always mocked by a world prejudiced against the thrice holy God.

As we live in a day where it appears that the people of our nation and our nations leaders are in covenant agreement with one another to take a stand together...and to stand together for absolutely nothing but that which shall surely end in destruction, it is not hard to put ourselves in the shoes of the believer in Judah during the reign of king Ahaz. They watched as their king, along with the popular majority, looked away from God to a man. Those who yet trusted God were but a remnant.

It has always been this way and will always be this way as long as believers are in this present evil world. While the world delights in the kings and princes of the earth the believer delights in the King of kings. While the world finds great confidence in peace-talks among nations, the believer finds all our hope in Christ the Prince of peace. While this world glories in another gospel of how man can reform the immoralities of man, how man can create a greener earth and a great global community, the believer separates himself into Christ his Sanctuary awaiting the new heavens and the new earth created in the righteousness and true holiness of our King and Savior.

Yet, like that remnant of saints who was set on the LORD of hosts in Isaiah's day, believers find ourselves distracted daily by those who would have us to turn away from God so that we might join in the common cause of humanity. Therefore, ***we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed*** (2 Corinthians 4: 8, 9.) We are often brought to cry out with the Psalmist saying, ***Psalm 44: 22: Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter. 23: Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise, cast us not off for ever. 24: Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and forgettest our affliction and our oppression? 25: For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaveth unto the earth. 26: Arise for our help, and redeem us for thy mercies' sake.***

In the day of King Ahaz the Lord had indeed hid his face from Judah. Yet, Judah by God's sovereign choice was a land which belonged to Immanuel. In like manner, the church of God is, by God's sovereign choice, the land which belongs to Immanuel. This is the word of the Lord to his enemies, to those who trust him and to us as we face the same trials.

Isaiah 8: 9: Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. 10: Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

Proposal: NO ENEMY CAN TRIUMPH AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE IN IMMANUEL OUR SANCTUARY.

This last phrase, "for God *is* with us" is the reason given why none would prosper against Judah. The phrase, "God with us" is the meaning of the name "Immanuel." So it can be read this way, "Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand:" Why? Because...Immanuel.

I. WHO ARE THOSE WHOM THE LORD IS NOT WITH?

A. God is not with everybody without exception.

Isaiah could not say to the people of Judah, without exception, God is with you. No more than you or I can make the blanket statement, "God loves you" or that "Christ died for you."

The Lord had just promised that he was bringing the king of Assyria upon Israel, upon Syria and then upon Judah, not for their good, but for their utter destruction. They were those who feared men, rejoiced in the power of man, rather than fearing God and rejoicing in his power to save. So Isaiah is not telling all men, "God is with us."

1. God is not with those who join together with the people of this world--those who befriend this world.

Isaiah 8: 9: Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces

James 4:4: Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

2. God is not with those who clothe themselves.

Isaiah 8: 9:...and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces

- They clothed themselves
- They clothed themselves with carnal weapons
- They were resolute in their determination to gain the victory by their own hand

In the imagination of many, salvation is all in their hand, in what they do by their own flesh. Your obedience to God's law is not salvation--not righteousness, not sanctification--but Christ's obedience is the believer's righteousness. And it is through faith in Christ alone. Listen to scripture:

Romans 8: 17: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

1Corinthians 8: 8: But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

Hebrew 13: 9: Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Philippians 3:9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Romans 5:1: Therefore being justified, by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2: By Whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Isaiah 61:10: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

Phillippian 3:3: For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

3. God is not with those whose purpose and word is together with man, whose covenant is with man, who speak word's of how man wins the victory.

Isaiah 8: 10: Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand

- For one sinner to declare to another that he can enter into God's heavenly kingdom by his own strength is a covenant of man. It is what we saw typified by the covenant made between the two enemy kings who came up against Judah:

Isaiah 7:5: Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah, have taken evil counsel against thee, saying, 6: Let us go up against Judah, and vex it, and let us make a breach therein for us, and set a king in the midst of it, *even* the son of Tabeal: 7: Thus saith the Lord GOD, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass.

Psalms 2:1: Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, 3: Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4: He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5: Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6: Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

- It is God's covenant, God's Word that shall stand and is all the believer's salvation:

John 5:24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. **25:** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. **26:** For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; "The voice" of Christ is heard in his Gospel, this is the Word whereby God makes his everlasting covenant of grace in the heart, in spirit and in truth, within those who were once dead in trespasses and in sins. It comes not in word only, but in power, his Word works effectually in the heart, his Word is spirit and it is life, his Word is the power of God unto salvation.

2 Samuel 23:5: Although my house *be* not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although he make *it* not to grow.

II. WHO ARE THE 'US' WITH WHOM GOD IS WITH?

A. The 'Us' are those whom God put in Immanuel by his free sovereign prerogative, not based on anything in us. God is with us because God is with his Son.

1. They are the 'babes' of God to whom he has revealed Christ.

Matthew 11:25: At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. **26:** Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

2. The "us" are those for whom Christ prays:

John 17: 9: I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine...**24:** Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

3. The "us" are those for whom Christ died:

John 10: 14: I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. **15:** As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16:** And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

Ephesians 1: 1: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: **2:** Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ. **3:** Blessed *be* the God and Father of

our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8: Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9: Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him: 11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

4. Those of you whom God gifted with faith to trust him alone, in spite of the enmity which filled your natural heart, in spite of the fact you were spiritually dead in trespasses and in sins—God has revealed his Son in us, declaring to us, "Immanuel!" God is with us, we believe him; we take him at his word. He has promised that none can deliver us out of his hand because Immanuel—God is with us.

Romans 8: 28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31: What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? 32: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36: As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38: For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.