

# ISAIAH

**1** The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

## **A rebellious nation**

**2** Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth!

For the LORD has spoken:

‘I reared children and brought them up,  
but they have rebelled against me.

**3** The ox knows its master,  
the donkey its owner’s manger,  
but Israel does not know,  
my people do not understand.’

**4** Woe to the sinful nation,  
a people whose guilt is great,  
a brood of evildoers,  
children given to corruption!  
They have forsaken the LORD;  
they have spurned the Holy One of Israel  
and turned their backs on him.

**5** Why should you be beaten any more?  
Why do you persist in rebellion?  
Your whole head is injured,  
your whole heart afflicted.

**6** From the sole of your foot to the top of  
your head  
there is no soundness –  
only wounds and bruises  
and open sores,  
not cleansed or bandaged  
or soothed with oil.

**7** Your country is desolate,  
your cities burned with fire;  
your fields are being stripped by  
foreigners  
right before you,  
laid waste as when overthrown by  
strangers.

**8** Daughter Zion is left  
like a shelter in a vineyard,  
like a hut in a cucumber field,  
like a city under siege.

**9** Unless the LORD Almighty  
had left us some survivors,  
we would have become like Sodom,  
we would have been like Gomorrah.

**10** Hear the word of the LORD,  
you rulers of Sodom;  
listen to the instruction of our God,  
you people of Gomorrah!

**11** ‘The multitude of your sacrifices –  
what are they to me?’ says the LORD.  
‘I have more than enough of burnt  
offerings,  
of rams and the fat of fattened  
animals;  
I have no pleasure  
in the blood of bulls and lambs and  
goats.

**12** When you come to appear before me,  
who has asked this of you,  
this trampling of my courts?

**13** Stop bringing meaningless offerings!  
Your incense is detestable to me.  
New Moons, Sabbaths and  
convocations –  
I cannot bear your worthless  
assemblies.

**14** Your New Moon feasts and your  
appointed festivals  
I hate with all my being.  
They have become a burden to me;  
I am weary of bearing them.

**15** When you spread out your hands in  
prayer,  
I hide my eyes from you;  
even when you offer many prayers,  
I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

**16** Wash and make yourselves clean.  
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;  
stop doing wrong.

**17** Learn to do right; seek justice.  
Defend the oppressed.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> 17 Or *justice. / Correct the oppressor*

Take up the cause of the fatherless;  
plead the case of the widow.

<sup>18</sup> 'Come now, let us settle the matter,'  
says the LORD.

'Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson,  
they shall be like wool.

<sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient,  
you will eat the good things of the  
land;

<sup>20</sup> but if you resist and rebel,  
you will be devoured by the sword.'  
For the mouth of the LORD  
has spoken.

<sup>21</sup> See how the faithful city  
has become a prostitute!  
She once was full of justice;  
righteousness used to dwell in her –  
but now murderers!

<sup>22</sup> Your silver has become dross,  
your choice wine is diluted with  
water.

<sup>23</sup> Your rulers are rebels,  
partners with thieves;  
they all love bribes  
and chase after gifts.  
They do not defend the cause of the  
fatherless;  
the widow's case does not come  
before them.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore the Lord, the LORD  
Almighty,  
the Mighty One of Israel, declares:  
'Ah! I will vent my wrath on my foes  
and avenge myself on my enemies.

<sup>25</sup> I will turn my hand against you;<sup>b</sup>  
I will thoroughly purge away your  
dross  
and remove all your impurities.

<sup>26</sup> I will restore your leaders as in days of  
old,  
your rulers as at the beginning.  
Afterwards you will be called  
the City of Righteousness,  
the Faithful City.'

<sup>b</sup> <sup>25</sup> That is, against Jerusalem

<sup>27</sup> Zion will be delivered with justice,  
her penitent ones with righteousness.

<sup>28</sup> But rebels and sinners will both be  
broken,  
and those who forsake the LORD will  
perish.

<sup>29</sup> 'You will be ashamed because of the  
sacred oaks  
in which you have delighted;  
you will be disgraced because of the  
gardens  
that you have chosen.

<sup>30</sup> You will be like an oak with fading  
leaves,  
like a garden without water.

<sup>31</sup> The mighty man will become tinder  
and his work a spark;  
both will burn together,  
with no one to quench the fire.'

### The mountain of the LORD

**2** This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw  
concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

<sup>2</sup> In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will  
be established  
as the highest of the mountains;  
it will be exalted above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many peoples will come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of  
the LORD,  
to the temple of the God of Jacob.  
He will teach us his ways,  
so that we may walk in his paths.'  
The law will go out from Zion,  
the word of the LORD from  
Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He will judge between the nations  
and will settle disputes for many  
peoples.  
They will beat their swords into  
ploughshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not take up sword against  
nation,  
nor will they train for war any more.

## ISAIAH 2:5

<sup>5</sup> Come, descendants of Jacob,  
let us walk in the light of the LORD.

**The day of the LORD**

<sup>6</sup> You, LORD, have abandoned your  
people,  
the descendants of Jacob.  
They are full of superstitions from the  
East;  
they practise divination like the  
Philistines  
and embrace pagan customs.

<sup>7</sup> Their land is full of silver and gold;  
there is no end to their treasures.  
Their land is full of horses;  
there is no end to the chariots.

<sup>8</sup> Their land is full of idols;  
they bow down to the work of their  
hands,  
to what their fingers have made.

<sup>9</sup> So people will be brought low  
and everyone humbled –  
do not forgive them.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Go into the rocks, hide in the ground  
from the fearful presence of the  
LORD  
and the splendour of his majesty!

<sup>11</sup> The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled  
and human pride brought low;  
the LORD alone will be exalted in that  
day.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD Almighty has a day in store  
for all the proud and lofty,  
for all that is exalted  
(and they will be humbled),

<sup>13</sup> for all the cedars of Lebanon, tall and  
lofty,

and all the oaks of Bashan,

<sup>14</sup> for all the towering mountains  
and all the high hills,

<sup>15</sup> for every lofty tower  
and every fortified wall,

<sup>16</sup> for every trading ship<sup>b</sup>  
and every stately vessel.

<sup>17</sup> The arrogance of man will be brought  
low  
and human pride humbled;

the LORD alone will be exalted in that  
day,

<sup>18</sup> and the idols will totally disappear.

<sup>19</sup> People will flee to caves in the rocks  
and to holes in the ground  
from the fearful presence of the LORD  
and the splendour of his majesty,  
when he rises to shake the earth.

<sup>20</sup> In that day people will throw away  
to the moles and bats  
their idols of silver and idols of gold,  
which they made to worship.

<sup>21</sup> They will flee to caverns in the rocks  
and to the overhanging crags  
from the fearful presence of the LORD  
and the splendour of his majesty,  
when he rises to shake the earth.

<sup>22</sup> Stop trusting in mere humans,  
who have but a breath in their  
nostrils.

Why hold them in esteem?

**Judgment on Jerusalem and Judah**

**3** See now, the Lord,  
the LORD Almighty,  
is about to take from Jerusalem and  
Judah  
both supply and support:  
all supplies of food and all supplies of  
water,

<sup>2</sup> the hero and the warrior,  
the judge and the prophet,  
the diviner and the elder,

<sup>3</sup> the captain of fifty and the man of rank,  
the counsellor, skilled craftsman and  
clever enchanter.

<sup>4</sup> 'I will make mere youths their officials;  
children will rule over them.'

<sup>5</sup> People will oppress each other –  
man against man, neighbour against  
neighbour.

The young will rise up against the old,  
the nobody against the honoured.

<sup>6</sup> A man will seize one of his brothers  
in his father's house, and say,  
'You have a cloak, you be our leader;  
take charge of this heap of ruins!'

<sup>a</sup>9 Or not raise them up

<sup>b</sup>16 Hebrew every ship of Tarshish

- 7 But in that day he will cry out,  
‘I have no remedy.  
I have no food or clothing in my house;  
do not make me the leader of the  
people.’
- 8 Jerusalem staggers,  
Judah is falling;  
their words and deeds are against the  
LORD,  
defying his glorious presence.
- 9 The look on their faces testifies against  
them;  
they parade their sin like Sodom;  
they do not hide it.  
Woe to them!  
They have brought disaster upon  
themselves.
- 10 Tell the righteous it will be well with  
them,  
for they will enjoy the fruit of their  
deeds.
- 11 Woe to the wicked!  
Disaster is upon them!  
They will be paid back  
for what their hands have done.
- 12 Youths oppress my people,  
women rule over them.  
My people, your guides lead you astray;  
they turn you on the path.
- 13 The LORD takes his place in court;  
he rises to judge the people.
- 14 The LORD enters into judgment  
against the elders and leaders of his  
people:  
‘It is you who have ruined my vineyard;  
the plunder from the poor is in your  
houses.
- 15 What do you mean by crushing my  
people  
and grinding the faces of the poor?’  
declares the Lord,  
the LORD Almighty.
- 16 The LORD says,  
‘The women of Zion are haughty,  
walking along with outstretched necks,  
flirting with their eyes,  
strutting along with swaying hips,

with ornaments jingling on their  
ankles.

- 17 Therefore the Lord will bring sores  
on the heads of the women of  
Zion;  
the LORD will make their scalps bald.’

18 In that day the Lord will snatch away  
their finery: the bangles and headbands  
and crescent necklaces, 19 the earrings and  
bracelets and veils, 20 the head-dresses and  
anklets and sashes, the perfume bottles  
and charms, 21 the signet rings and nose  
rings, 22 the fine robes and the capes and  
cloaks, the purses 23 and mirrors, and the  
linen garments and tiaras and shawls.

- 24 Instead of fragrance there will be a  
stench;  
instead of a sash, a rope;  
instead of well-dressed hair, baldness;  
instead of fine clothing, sackcloth;  
instead of beauty, branding.

25 Your men will fall by the sword,  
your warriors in battle.

- 26 The gates of Zion will lament and  
mourn;  
destitute, she will sit on the ground.

**4** 1 In that day seven women  
will take hold of one man  
and say, ‘We will eat our own food  
and provide our own clothes;  
only let us be called by your name.  
Take away our disgrace!’

### The Branch of the LORD

2 In that day the Branch of the LORD will  
be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit  
of the land will be the pride and glory of  
the survivors in Israel. 3 Those who are  
left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem,  
will be called holy, all who are recorded  
among the living in Jerusalem. 4 The Lord  
will wash away the filth of the women of  
Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from  
Jerusalem by a spirit<sup>a</sup> of judgment and a  
spirit<sup>a</sup> of fire. 5 Then the LORD will create  
over all of Mount Zion and over those who  
assemble there a cloud of smoke by day  
and a glow of flaming fire by night; over

<sup>a</sup> 4 Or the Spirit

everything the glory<sup>b</sup> will be a canopy. <sup>6</sup>It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding-place from the storm and rain.

### The song of the vineyard

- 5** I will sing for the one I love  
a song about his vineyard:  
my loved one had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.
- <sup>2</sup> He dug it up and cleared it of stones  
and planted it with the choicest  
vines.  
He built a watchtower in it  
and cut out a winepress as well.  
Then he looked for a crop of good  
grapes,  
but it yielded only bad fruit.
- <sup>3</sup> 'Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and  
people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.
- <sup>4</sup> What more could have been done for  
my vineyard  
than I have done for it?  
When I looked for good grapes,  
why did it yield only bad?
- <sup>5</sup> Now I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my  
vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge,  
and it will be destroyed;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it will be trampled.
- <sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland,  
neither pruned nor cultivated,  
and briars and thorns will grow  
there.  
I will command the clouds  
not to rain on it.'
- <sup>7</sup> The vineyard of the LORD Almighty  
is the nation of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are the vines he delighted in.  
And he looked for justice, but saw  
bloodshed;  
for righteousness, but heard cries of  
distress.

<sup>b 5</sup> Or over all the glory there

### Woes and judgments

- <sup>8</sup> Woe to you who add house to house  
and join field to field  
till no space is left  
and you live alone in the land.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD Almighty has declared in my  
hearing:  
'Surely the great houses will become  
desolate,  
the fine mansions left without  
occupants.
- <sup>10</sup> A ten-acre<sup>a</sup> vineyard will produce only a  
bath<sup>b</sup> of wine;  
a homer<sup>c</sup> of seed will yield only an  
ephah<sup>d</sup> of grain.'
- <sup>11</sup> Woe to those who rise early in the  
morning  
to run after their drinks,  
who stay up late at night  
till they are inflamed with wine.
- <sup>12</sup> They have harps and lyres at their  
banquets,  
pipes and tambourines and wine,  
but they have no regard for the deeds of  
the LORD,  
no respect for the work of his hands.
- <sup>13</sup> Therefore my people will go into exile  
for lack of understanding;  
those of high rank will die of hunger  
and the common people will be  
parched with thirst.
- <sup>14</sup> Therefore Death expands its jaws,  
opening wide its mouth;  
into it will descend their nobles and  
masses  
with all their brawlers and revellers.
- <sup>15</sup> So people will be brought low  
and everyone humbled,  
the eyes of the arrogant humbled.
- <sup>16</sup> But the LORD Almighty will be exalted  
by his justice,  
and the holy God will be proved holy  
by his righteous acts.
- <sup>17</sup> Then sheep will graze as in their own  
pasture;

<sup>a 10</sup> Or a vineyard of four hectares

<sup>b 10</sup> That is, about 22 litres

<sup>c 10</sup> That is, probably about 160 kilograms

<sup>d 10</sup> That is, probably about 16 kilograms

lambs will feed<sup>e</sup> among the ruins of  
the rich.

<sup>18</sup>Woe to those who draw sin along with  
cords of deceit,  
and wickedness as with cart ropes,

<sup>19</sup>to those who say, 'Let God hurry;  
let him hasten his work  
so that we may see it.

The plan of the Holy One of Israel –  
let it approach, let it come into view,  
so that we may know it.'

<sup>20</sup>Woe to those who call evil good  
and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter.

<sup>21</sup>Woe to those who are wise in their own  
eyes  
and clever in their own sight.

<sup>22</sup>Woe to those who are heroes at  
drinking wine  
and champions at mixing drinks,  
<sup>23</sup>who acquit the guilty for a bribe,  
but deny justice to the innocent.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up  
straw  
and as dry grass sinks down in the  
flames,  
so their roots will decay  
and their flowers blow away like dust;  
for they have rejected the law of the  
LORD Almighty  
and spurned the word of the Holy  
One of Israel.

<sup>25</sup>Therefore the LORD's anger burns  
against his people;  
his hand is raised and he strikes  
them down.  
The mountains shake,  
and the dead bodies are like refuse in  
the streets.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned  
away,  
his hand is still upraised.

<sup>e</sup>17 Septuagint; Hebrew /strangers will eat

<sup>26</sup>He lifts up a banner for the distant  
nations,  
he whistles for those at the ends of  
the earth.

Here they come,  
swiftly and speedily!

<sup>27</sup>Not one of them grows tired or  
stumbles,

not one slumbers or sleeps;  
not a belt is loosened at the waist,  
not a sandal strap is broken.

<sup>28</sup>Their arrows are sharp,  
all their bows are strung;  
their horses' hooves seem like flint,  
their chariot wheels like a whirlwind.

<sup>29</sup>Their roar is like that of the lion,  
they roar like young lions;  
they growl as they seize their prey  
and carry it off with no one to rescue.

<sup>30</sup>In that day they will roar over it  
like the roaring of the sea.  
And if one looks at the land,  
there is only darkness and distress;  
even the sun will be darkened by  
clouds.

### Isaiah's commission

**6** In the year that King Uzziah died, I  
saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated  
on a throne; and the train of his robe filled  
the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him were seraphim,  
each with six wings: with two wings they  
covered their faces, with two they covered  
their feet, and with two they were flying.  
<sup>3</sup>And they were calling to one another:

'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

<sup>4</sup>At the sound of their voices the door-  
posts and thresholds shook and the temple  
was filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I  
am a man of unclean lips, and I live among  
a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have  
seen the King, the LORD Almighty.'

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me  
with a live coal in his hand, which he had  
taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>With it  
he touched my mouth and said, 'See, this  
has touched your lips; your guilt is taken  
away and your sin atoned for.'

## ISAIAH 6:8

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'

And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'

<sup>9</sup>He said, 'Go and tell this people:

"Be ever hearing, but never understanding;  
be ever seeing, but never perceiving."  
<sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people calloused;  
make their ears dull  
and close their eyes.<sup>a</sup>

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts,  
and turn and be healed.'

<sup>11</sup>Then I said, 'For how long, Lord?'  
And he answered:

'Until the cities lie ruined  
and without inhabitant,  
until the houses are left deserted  
and the fields ruined and ravaged,  
<sup>12</sup>until the LORD has sent everyone far  
away  
and the land is utterly forsaken.  
<sup>13</sup>And though a tenth remains in the land,  
it will again be laid waste.  
But as the terebinth and oak  
leave stumps when they are cut  
down,  
so the holy seed will be the stump in  
the land.'

### The sign of Immanuel

**7** When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

<sup>2</sup>Now the house of David was told, 'Aram has allied itself with<sup>a</sup> Ephraim'; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

<sup>a</sup>9,10 Hebrew; Septuagint ' "You will be ever hearing, but never understanding; / you will be ever seeing, but never perceiving." / <sup>10</sup>This people's heart has become calloused; / they hardly hear with their ears, / and they have closed their eyes

<sup>a</sup>2 Or has set up camp in

<sup>3</sup>Then the LORD said to Isaiah, 'Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub,<sup>b</sup> to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field. <sup>4</sup>Say to him, "Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smouldering stubs of firewood – because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. <sup>5</sup>Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, <sup>6</sup>'Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.' <sup>7</sup>Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"It will not take place,  
it will not happen,  
<sup>8</sup>for the head of Aram is Damascus,  
and the head of Damascus is only  
Rezin.

Within sixty-five years  
Ephraim will be too shattered to be a  
people.

<sup>9</sup>The head of Ephraim is Samaria,  
and the head of Samaria is only  
Remaliah's son.

If you do not stand firm in your faith,  
you will not stand at all."

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>'Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.'

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.'

<sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you<sup>c</sup> a sign: the virgin<sup>d</sup> will conceive and give birth to a son, and<sup>e</sup> will call him Immanuel.<sup>f</sup> <sup>15</sup>He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, <sup>16</sup>for before the boy knows

<sup>b</sup>3 Shear-Jashub means a remnant will return.

<sup>c</sup>14 The Hebrew is plural.

<sup>d</sup>14 Or young woman

<sup>e</sup>14 Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls son, and he or son, and they

<sup>f</sup>14 Immanuel means God with us.

enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah – he will bring the king of Assyria.’

### Assyria, the LORD’s instrument

<sup>18</sup>In that day the LORD will whistle for flies from the Nile delta in Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria. <sup>19</sup>They will all come and settle in the steep ravines and in the crevices in the rocks, on all the thornbushes and at all the water holes. <sup>20</sup>In that day the LORD will use a razor hired from beyond the River Euphrates – the king of Assyria – to shave your heads and private parts, and to cut off your beards also. <sup>21</sup>In that day, a person will keep alive a young cow and two goats. <sup>22</sup>And because of the abundance of the milk they give, there will be curds to eat. All who remain in the land will eat curds and honey. <sup>23</sup>In that day, in every place where there were a thousand vines worth a thousand silver shekels,<sup>g</sup> there will be only briers and thorns. <sup>24</sup>Hunters will go there with bow and arrow, for the land will be covered with briers and thorns. <sup>25</sup>As for all the hills once cultivated by the hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briers and thorns; they will become places where cattle are turned loose and where sheep run.

### Isaiah and his children as signs

**8** The LORD said to me, ‘Take a large scroll and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.’<sup>a</sup> <sup>2</sup>So I called in Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jebekiah as reliable witnesses for me. <sup>3</sup>Then I made love to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the LORD said to me, ‘Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. <sup>4</sup>For before the boy knows how to say “My father” or “My mother”, the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria.’

<sup>g</sup> 23 That is, about 12 kilograms

<sup>a</sup> 1 Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz means *quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil*; also in verse 3.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD spoke to me again:

<sup>6</sup>‘Because this people has rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah and rejoices over Rezin and the son of Remaliah,

<sup>7</sup>therefore the Lord is about to bring against them the mighty floodwaters of the Euphrates –

the king of Assyria with all his pomp. It will overflow all its channels, run over all its banks

<sup>8</sup>and sweep on into Judah, swirling over it, passing through it and reaching up to the neck.

Its outspread wings will cover the breadth of your land, Immanuel!’<sup>b</sup>

<sup>9</sup>Raise the war cry,<sup>c</sup> you nations, and be shattered!

Listen, all you distant lands.

Prepare for battle, and be shattered!

Prepare for battle, and be shattered!

<sup>10</sup>Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted;

propose your plan, but it will not stand,

for God is with us.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>11</sup>This is what the LORD says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people:

<sup>12</sup>‘Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy;

do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it.

<sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>He will be a holy place;

for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.

<sup>b</sup> 8 Immanuel means *God with us*.

<sup>c</sup> 9 Or *Do your worst*

<sup>d</sup> 10 Hebrew *Immanuel*



## ISAIAH 8:15

And for the people of Jerusalem he  
will be  
a trap and a snare.  
15 Many of them will stumble;  
they will fall and be broken,  
they will be snared and captured.<sup>1</sup>

16 Bind up this testimony of warning  
and seal up God's instruction among  
my disciples.  
17 I will wait for the LORD,  
who is hiding his face from the  
descendants of Jacob.  
I will put my trust in him.

18 Here am I, and the children the LORD  
has given me. We are signs and symbols  
in Israel from the LORD Almighty, who  
dwells on Mount Zion.

**The darkness turns to light**

19 When someone tells you to consult  
mediums and spiritists, who whisper and  
mutter, should not a people enquire of  
their God? Why consult the dead on behalf  
of the living? 20 Consult God's instruction  
and the testimony of warning. If anyone  
does not speak according to this word,  
they have no light of dawn. 21 Distressed  
and hungry, they will roam through the  
land; when they are famished, they will  
become enraged and, looking upwards,  
will curse their king and their God. 22 Then  
they will look towards the earth and see  
only distress and darkness and fearful  
gloom, and they will be thrust into utter  
darkness.

**9**<sup>a</sup> Nevertheless, there will be no more  
gloom for those who were in dis-  
tress. In the past he humbled the land of  
Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in  
the future he will honour Galilee of the  
nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond  
the Jordan –

2 The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep  
darkness

<sup>a</sup> In Hebrew texts 9:1 is numbered 8:23, and 9:2-21 is  
numbered 9:1-20.

a light has dawned.  
3 You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.  
4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.  
5 Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.  
6 For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his  
shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
7 Of the greatness of his government and  
peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and for ever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

**The LORD's anger against Israel**

8 The Lord has sent a message against  
Jacob;  
it will fall on Israel.  
9 All the people will know it –  
Ephraim and the inhabitants of  
Samaria –  
who say with pride  
and arrogance of heart,  
10 'The bricks have fallen down,  
but we will rebuild with dressed  
stone;  
the fig trees have been felled,  
but we will replace them with  
cedars.'  
11 But the LORD has strengthened Rezin's  
foes against them  
and has spurred their enemies on.

<sup>12</sup> Arameans from the east and Philistines  
from the west  
have devoured Israel with open  
mouth.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned  
away,  
his hand is still upraised.

<sup>13</sup> But the people have not returned to  
him who struck them,  
nor have they sought the LORD  
Almighty.

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD will cut off from Israel both  
head and tail,  
both palm branch and reed in a  
single day;

<sup>15</sup> the elders and dignitaries are the head,  
the prophets who teach lies are the  
tail.

<sup>16</sup> Those who guide this people mislead  
them,  
and those who are guided are led  
astray.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord will take no pleasure  
in the young men,  
nor will he pity the fatherless and  
widows,  
for everyone is ungodly and wicked,  
every mouth speaks folly.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned  
away,  
his hand is still upraised.

<sup>18</sup> Surely wickedness burns like a fire;  
it consumes briars and thorns,  
it sets the forest thickets ablaze,  
so that it rolls upwards in a column  
of smoke.

<sup>19</sup> By the wrath of the LORD Almighty  
the land will be scorched  
and the people will be fuel for the fire;  
they will not spare one another.

<sup>20</sup> On the right they will devour,  
but still be hungry;  
on the left they will eat,  
but not be satisfied.  
Each will feed on the flesh of their own  
offspring:<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup> <sup>20</sup> Or arm

<sup>21</sup> Manasseh will feed on Ephraim, and  
Ephraim on Manasseh;  
together they will turn against  
Judah.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned  
away,  
his hand is still upraised.

**10** Woe to those who make unjust  
laws,  
to those who issue oppressive  
decrees,

<sup>2</sup> to deprive the poor of their rights  
and withhold justice from the  
oppressed of my people,  
making widows their prey  
and robbing the fatherless.

<sup>3</sup> What will you do on the day of  
reckoning,  
when disaster comes from afar?  
To whom will you run for help?  
Where will you leave your riches?

<sup>4</sup> Nothing will remain but to cringe  
among the captives  
or fall among the slain.

Yet for all this, his anger is not turned  
away,  
his hand is still upraised.

### God's judgment on Assyria

<sup>5</sup> "Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my  
anger,  
in whose hand is the club of my  
wrath!

<sup>6</sup> I send him against a godless nation,  
I dispatch him against a people who  
anger me,  
to seize loot and snatch plunder,  
and to trample them down like mud  
in the streets.

<sup>7</sup> But this is not what he intends,  
this is not what he has in mind;  
his purpose is to destroy,  
to put an end to many nations.

<sup>8</sup> "Are not my commanders all kings?" he  
says.

<sup>9</sup> "Has not Kalno fared like  
Carchemish?

Is not Hamath like Arpad,  
and Samaria like Damascus?