

Theme: When facing difficult times, we are called to build on the firm foundation of God's Word, not looking to other sources for strength.

I. Intro – Review of Isaiah's Prophecy

- A. Isaiah made grave prophecy in chapter 7
- B. He reiterates in 8:1-10
- C. Major points of the prophecy
 - 1. Child will be born as a sign
 - 2. Impending doom from Assyria
 - 3. God will deliver His people through Immanuel

II. Responding to Difficult Times

- A. Do not follow the world around us (v11-12)
 - 1. Do not follow the way of this people (v11)
 - 2. Do not call conspiracy what they call (v12)
 - 3. Do not fear what they fear (v12)
- B. Fear God rather than circumstances
 - 1. We must regard God as holy - transcendent
 - 2. We must fear this awesome God
 - 3. God a sanctuary for those who fear Him
 - 4. Note Peter uses this section in 1 Pet 3:14-16
- C. A faithless response - stumble (vv14-15; 1 Pet 2:6-8)

III. God's Word - A Foundation for Difficult Times

- A. The call to God's Word (v16-17)
 - 1. Bind & seal testimony & Torah - God's Word
 - 2. Among the disciples - Isaiah's and/or God's
 - 3. Wait on the Lord, trust in Him through Word
 - 4. Word builds our faith and trust (Rom 10:17)
 - 5. Helps us see God is to be feared - not others
- B. The call of the world - go to other things (v19)
 - 1. Consult spiritist and mediums (v18)
 - 2. Still some who do this today - Nancy Reagan
 - 3. Note Isaiah's mocking question - dead/living
 - 4. Real issue - looking somewhere besides God
 - 5. Trying to control circumstances rather than know God
 - 6. Other sources today
 - a. Society - technology; spend out of trouble; medicate
 - b. Church - consumer driven marketing
- C. Acid test - does it line up with God's Word (v20)
 - 1. Law and testimony are touchstone
 - 2. To abandon these is to lose all - no dawn
 - 3. A famine for God's Word - Amos 8:11-12
 - 4. Result - no relief anywhere (v21-22)

5. Result - curse God (v21)

IV. Applying the Word

A. Are we worldly - following the way of this people?

1. Are our attitudes, words, fears same as others?
2. Do people see us filled with hope - or dread?
3. The example of Y2K - paranoid Christians
4. Don't give in to paranoid culture, eschatology

B. Are we building on the Word?

1. Do we see the Word is our anchor - not other things?
2. Do I let Word shape me - or 'this people'?
3. This is why Church must clearly teach Word
4. Do we consistently soak in Word - personal, corporate?

C. Response: How Firm A Foundation - Note vs 2

The Firm Foundation of God's Word

Isaiah 8:11-22

1 Peter 3:13-22

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How Firm A Foundation

Acts 20:32

14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:14-16

For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

1 Peter 2:6-8

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land-- not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. 12 Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.

Amos 8:11-12