**Isaiah**

*In Whom Are You Trusting?*

*Isaiah 8*

God’s First Billboard (v 1-4)

* Maher-shalal-hash-baz "swift is booty, speedy is prey"
  + Symbolic name given by Isaiah by the Lord’s direction to Isaiah’s son; prophetic indication that Damascus and Samaria were soon to be plundered by the king of Assyria

Two Choices – God or Man (v 5-10)

* Bad association/alliances will bring destruction
  + Education Looks Impressive
    - Credentials that gain you respect; open doors of opportunity
    - Character should be the credential; important that church leadership gets this right
  + Beauty Looks Impressive
    - Inward more important
    - Don’t idolize Hollywood with its façade of beauty and fame; man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart
      * 1 ¶ My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons. 2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; 3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: 4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? (James 2:1-4)
  + Wealth Looks Impressive
    - Especially as you near retirement
    - Dependency on the Lord is key;
  + Authority and Power Look Impressive
    - Ask Nebuchadnezzar how that can work out
    - Servant heart is the key
* Shiloah
  + Shiloah was the stream from the Gihon spring into Jerusalem. Though Jerusalem occupied one of the most impregnable sites of the ancient world, its source of water was outside the city walls and the supply ran over ground in conduits into the city. To live in Jerusalem, therefore, required faith that the Lord would stand by his promises that this was the city he had chosen and which he would defend.
    - Hezekiah built the 1,800 foot underground tunnel to keep the Assyrians from controlling the water supply.

Do Not Fear Man – Trust God (v 11-18)

* Potential explanation from verse 12
  + Vine: The people were accusing God’s prophet of being involved in a conspiracy against his own people because his message was not what they wanted to hear = my preference Vine: The reference here is not to the alliance between Pekah and Rezin. Isaiah and his associates were being accused of a conspiracy against Ahaz and Judah under him, because of the prophet’s denunciation of the alliance with Assyria. This kind of calumny was what prophets had to endure whenever they opposed an appeal by God’s people for the help of Gentile aid (Amos 7:10).
    - Young: Throughout the history of the church, those who have sought to call the church back to her God-given mission and away from her man-made “programs” have been treated as troublemakers.
  + 2) More general reference:
    - Oswalt: it is not necessary that the reference is to a specific conspiracy. Rather, the prophet may be talking about a general approach to the explanation of events, especially unpleasant and trying events. How easy it is, when situations go against us, to become paranoid and react accordingly. Isaiah challenges his people to reject paranoia and see God’s hand in the events of their tie. To refuse to do so is to become more and more fearful, more and more unstable, for it means that our lives are ultimately in the hands of unknown powers, too devious for us to know or control. This in turn leads us toward the occult in an effort to gain control over these unknown anddevious powers.
* Stumbling Stone
  + Beall
    - Both Paul and Peter use v. 14 to refer to those who reject Christ:
      * Paul combines this verse with Isa 28:16 in Rom 9:32-33 to indicate that Israel stumbled over accepting Christ
        + 32 Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; 33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (Romans 9:32-33)
    - Peter writes that Christ is a precious stone to those who believe, but a stone of stumbling and rock of offense to those who are disobedient
      * 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. (1 Peter 2:6-8)
* Verses 17-18: Look for the return of Christ
  + 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (Heb 10:24-25)
  + Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (Matt 24:42)
  + And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. (1 John 2:28)
  + He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (Rev 22:20)

Turn to God’s Word – Not the Occult, “Mother Earth” or Anything But God (v 19-22)