

Isaiah 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

Analysis

The threefold repetition (verse 9-10) hammers home the futility of opposing God's purposes. 'Take counsel together' represents human wisdom and planning; 'it shall come to nought' declares its certain failure. 'Speak the word' suggests confident decree-making; 'it shall not stand' pronounces its impotence. The climactic reason: 'for God is with us' (Immanuel). This encapsulates the Reformed doctrine of God's irresistible will—human plans cannot override divine purposes. The presence of Immanuel guarantees the security of God's people.

Historical Context

Demonstrated repeatedly in Judah's history: Assyria's plans failed (701 BC), Babylon's temporary success was overturned by Persian decree allowing return (539 BC), and ultimately, all opposition to Messiah's kingdom proves futile. The early church applied this principle when facing Roman persecution—God was with them, and the empire's attempts to destroy Christianity failed spectacularly. 'Immanuel' became a Christian battle cry.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How have you seen human plans fail when they oppose God's purposes in your own experience?
2. What comfort does 'God is with us' provide when facing opposition to your faith?
3. How should the certainty of God's victory shape our engagement with a hostile culture?

Interlinear Text

וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא
Take	counsel	and it shall	come to nought	speaking	the word
H5779	H6098		H6565	H1696	H1697
					H3808
וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא
and it shall not stand			for God		
H6965		H3588	H5973	H410	

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 3:37 (Parallel theme): Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

Romans 8:31 (References God): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Job 5:12 (Parallel theme): He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise.

Proverbs 21:30 (Parallel theme): There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

Psalms 46:11 (References God): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

2 Samuel 15:31 (Parallel theme): And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.

Isaiah 41:10 (References God): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalms 46:7 (References God): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Deuteronomy 20:1 (References God): When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

2 Chronicles 13:12 (References God): And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.