

# Isaiah 8:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying,

## Analysis

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The phrase 'with a strong hand' indicates powerful, irresistible divine instruction. God doesn't merely suggest but compels Isaiah not to walk in the people's way. This represents the effectual call and sanctifying work of the Spirit, setting believers apart from worldly conformity. The 'way of this people' refers to their fearful unbelief and political maneuvering. God's 'strong hand' illustrates the Reformed doctrine of irresistible grace—God doesn't merely invite but effectually draws His chosen servants to obedience.

## Historical Context

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During the Syro-Ephraimite crisis, most of Judah succumbed to panic, seeking alliances with Assyria or sympathizing with the northern coalition. God powerfully instructed Isaiah to reject both paths, maintaining prophetic integrity. This 'strong hand' of instruction enabled Isaiah to stand alone against national consensus, demonstrating that God empowers those He calls to prophetic ministry, regardless of popular opposition.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's 'strong hand' guide and separate you from cultural conformity?
2. What does this verse teach about the cost of prophetic ministry and standing against popular opinion?
3. In what areas is God calling you to reject 'the way of this people' in your generation?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	כֹה	לֵאמֹר:	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	בְּחֹזֶקַת	יָד
H3588	H3541	saying H559	For the LORD H3068	H413	thus to me with a strong H2393	hand H3027
וַיִּסֶּר־נִי	מֶלֶךְ כֶּת	בְּדֶרֶךְ	הָעָם	הַזֶּה	לֵאמֹר:	
and instructed H3256	H1980	in the way H1870	of this people H5971	H2088	saying H559	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 3:14** (References Lord): So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.