

Isaiah 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

Analysis

Isaiah's family becomes living prophetic signs to Israel. 'The children whom the Lord hath given me' indicates divine gift and purpose. As 'signs and wonders,' they embody God's message: Shear-jashub ('a remnant shall return') and Maher-shalal-hash-baz ('speed the spoil') proclaim judgment and hope. The phrase 'from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion' grounds these signs in God's covenant presence among His people. This demonstrates how God uses ordinary family life for extraordinary prophetic purposes, making believers' lives visible testimonies to divine truth.

Historical Context

Isaiah's sons served as walking prophecies. Shear-jashub accompanied Isaiah to meet Ahaz (7:3), his name promising survival of a remnant. Maher-shalal-hash-baz's birth timed Damascus and Samaria's fall (8:1-4). These children were living reminders of God's word. Similarly, Hosea's children bore prophetic names (Hosea 1). This practice made prophecy tangible and unforgettable—every time Isaiah's sons were seen or named, God's message was proclaimed.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do our families and children serve as witnesses to God's work in our generation?
2. What does it mean to view our children as gifts from the Lord with potential for kingdom purposes?
3. In what ways do our lives serve as 'signs and wonders' pointing others to God's truth?

Interlinear Text

אֲנֹכִי יְהוָה	וְהִלָּדִים	אֵשֶׁר	נָתַן	לִי
H2009	H595	H834	H5414	H0
	Behold I and the children		hath given	
	H3206			
יְהוָה	לֵאמֹר	וּלְמוֹפֶת יָם	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל	מֵעַתָּה
H3068	H226	H4159	H3478	H5973
from the LORD	me are for signs	and for wonders	in Israel	
יְהוָה	צָבָא	הַשָּׁכֵן	בְּהָר	צִיּוֹן
H3068	H6635	H7931	H2022	H6726
from the LORD	of hosts	which dwelleth	in mount	Zion

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 8:3 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Luke 2:34 (References Israel): And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

Psalms 9:11 (References Lord): Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.

Psalms 71:7 (Parallel theme): I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge.

Isaiah 53:10 (References Lord): Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Psalms 22:30 (References Lord): A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

Zechariah 3:8 (Parallel theme): Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

Isaiah 12:6 (References Israel): Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Isaiah 7:16 (Parallel theme): For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

Isaiah 24:23 (References Lord): Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.